



UKIYO-E: ART OF THE FLOATING WORLD



Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Japanese publishers mass-produced woodblock prints and sold them inexpensively to the working class. These prints depicted contemporary urban scenes and ordinary life and appealed to the interests and tastes of ordinary Japanese people. Despite their mass production, these prints possess extraordinary beauty and complexity, and made a lasting impact on the works of Western artists, most notably the paintings of 19th century French Impressionists. These Japanese woodblock prints, called Ukiyo-e, represent some of the most remarkable printed images known to civilization. Experts prize these Japanese prints for another reason: they are the world's first images printed in full color.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is home to one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints in the world. In a multi-year

project, the museum's Curator of Japanese and Korean Art, Matthew Welch, enlisted MACC's Senior Paper Conservator, Elizabeth Buschor to provide conservation treatments on a selected 60 prints. Each conservation treatment was painstaking and involved many steps. Elizabeth carefully cleaned away grime and soil, reduced or eliminated stains, removed acidic backings, and repaired wormholes—all damages that occurred to the prints prior to entering the museum's collection.

The newly restored prints will be shown in a special exhibition opening in Tokyo this October and will be featured in a bilingual catalogue funded by the Freeman Foundation.

After conservation



FALL 2007 IN THIS ISSUE:

Japanese Woodblock
Print Restoration

A NIGHT IN STUDIO
Celebration

Diana Clise Joins as
Paper Conservator

Medicine Vials
Safety and Disposal
Issues

Funding Opportunities

Board of Directors

Financial Statement

DIANNA CLISE JOINS MACC AS PAPER CONSERVATOR

The Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) is proud to announce the addition of Dianna Clise, as an Associate Paper Conservator beginning in October. Ms. Clise will work with Elizabeth Buschor, Senior Paper Conservator in the newly expanded Paper Laboratory of MACC. Ms. Clise earned her Masters in Art Conservation graduate degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and interned at the Tate Britain in London, England. She has an undergraduate degree with honors from Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, along with additional internship experience at the



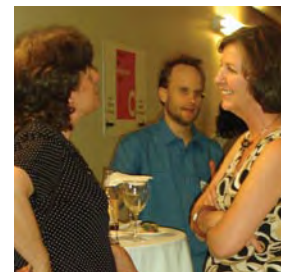
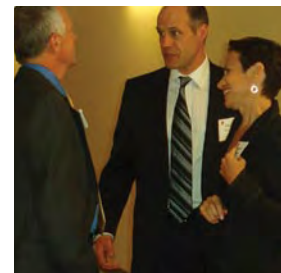
National Gallery of Canada. Ms. Clise was also a conservation technician at the Etherington Conservation Center in Greensboro, North Carolina before pursuing her Masters program.

MACC HOLDS 'NIGHT IN STUDIO'

Last May, MACC held an open house to celebrate their new and expanded facility as well as the final installations of new laboratory equipment. A NIGHT IN STUDIO welcomed many community supporters, regional museum professionals and Board members to visit with the MACC staff, share refreshments and explore the facility.



Each of the four MACC laboratories (Textile, Paper, Objects and Paintings) was in itself a tour as conservators showed visitors numerous projects in mid-treatment and explained the methods and diagnostic work being done. Also featured was MACC's Preservation Services department which assists institutions with general collections care and risk prevention needs throughout the Upper Midwest. "We hope to offer more and more chances for people to see conservation treatments and to learn about the whole field of conservation", said Executive Director, Colin Turner. Generous contributions from two local businesses, The Wine Shop and Carbon Creative, along with a generous contribution from the Target Foundation helped make this a successful evening.



MACC is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees made up of both Member institutions and Community representatives. This is our 30th year of providing high quality services to this region.

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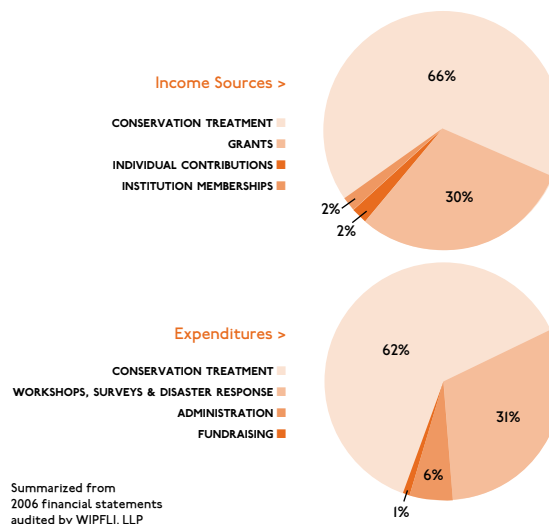
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MEDICINAL VIALS: SAFETY AND DISPOSAL ISSUES

Introduction

The history of medicine and curative substances is long and varied and can be traced back to the most ancient civilizations. The study of historic medicines gives current medical researchers a better understanding of how certain pharmaceuticals developed and the exhibition of these materials can give the public an understanding of the difficult and arduous evolution to modern medical care. It is important for museums and historical societies to maintain and preserve their medicinal vials not only for aesthetic reasons, but also for their educational value.

Safety

When working with historic pharmaceutical collections, it is important to know safe handling techniques. If there is any question as to what substance might be within a medicinal vial, contact your local hospital, pharmacy and/or health and safety officer for more information. If you are ever unsure of whether the substance is potentially harmful, it is always advisable to be on the cautious side. Wear protective latex or nitrile gloves (never cotton or fabric) at all times when handling medicinal vials because even the outside of the container may be contaminated from its contents or other vials and containers. Generally, follow these steps in preventing exposure: wear protective clothing and eye protection; minimize exposure; beware

of hazards the container itself may pose; transport containers safely in boxes or glass baking dishes with at least 3" tall sides; do not eat, drink or smoke while handling historic pharmaceutical objects; and finally, do not handle any historic medicines if pregnant or in any state of compromised health or vulnerability. Any protective clothing should be washed separately to prevent cross-contamination with other clothing, especially children's.

A general guideline on handling historic pharmaceutical collections can be obtained from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/mussheetcaresafety.pdf).

When working with historic medicines, it is a common misperception that medicine and other chemicals get less potent with age, but unfortunately that is not the case. Never assume that the substance within old vials is now inert. The active ingredients of drugs or chemicals, originally very potent, may have become even more potent over time. Drugs, medicinal ointments, and other preparations in pharmaceutical collections may contain toxic materials and/or controlled substances (for example narcotics). The federal Controlled Substances Act of 1970 regulates these types of materials. The Department of Justice is the executive agency in charge of its enforcement.





State governments also regulate certain drugs not controlled at the federal level. Watch for bottles containing: acids and other corrosive liquids (nitric acid), fuels (kerosene) and solvents (paint thinners). These chemicals are hazardous and pose a fire threat. Often old chemicals contain labels such as oil of vitriol (sulfuric acid) and aqua fortis (nitric acid). If there is a specific substance in question, contact a local pharmacist, hospital or state agency for information on its toxicity.

It is important to refer to local and federal laws regarding specific chemical restrictions. If the collection contains objects that pose

a potential health or safety hazard, the findings must be reported to your institution's administration.

A step by step process for organizing and assessing any dangers in your collection is available from MACC.

Contact our Preservation Services department at 612-870-3128 or info@preserveart.org if your collection has historic pharmaceuticals.



MACC CONSERVATOR PRESENTS IN AMSTERDAM

Nicole Grabow, MACC's Associate Objects Conservator, was invited to present at the ICOM-CC (International Council of Museums - Committee for Conservation) Metal Working Group in Amsterdam, Netherlands in September 2007. The Metal Working Group of ICOM-CC is a scholarly association concerned with issues specific to metals conservation and the scientific research of metals. Ms. Grabow's

paper, *Effectiveness of Organic Coatings on Silver Exposed to Hydrogen Sulfide*, was a part of the session on Protection of Metal Artifacts. Ms. Grabow worked in conjunction with staff at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute for over 3 years on this research project. The Metal Working Group's proceedings are one of the only peer-reviewed journals in the conservation field.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

**MUSEUMS FOR AMERICA GRANTS
INSTITUTION FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
SERVICES**

\$5,000–\$150,000 in matching funds to be used towards high priority activities that advance the museum's mission and strategic goals. Can be used toward planning activities or programs, purchase of equipment or supplies, or to upgrade or integrate new technologies.

CONTACT

Institute for Museum and Library Services
Office of Museum Services
1800 M Street NW 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
202-653-4641
sshwartzman@imls.gov
www.imls.gov

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

**CHALLENGE GRANTS
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Three to one matching funds to be used to augment or establish endowments that support humanities activities. These can be used toward preservation and / or conservation programs.

CONTACT

Office of Challenge Grants
National Endowment for the Humanities
Rm 420
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8309
challenge@neh.gov
www.neh.gov

NOVEMBER 1, 2007

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

\$25,000 to \$100,000 in outright funds, matching funds, or a combination of the two to support collaborative research by a team of two or more scholars or research coordinated by an individual scholar which significantly added to the understanding of the humanities. This includes research that enhances the understanding of the sciences, social sciences, and technology.

CONTACT

Division of Research Programs
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8200
collaborative@neh.gov
www.neh.gov

MEMBERS!

Contact MACC to receive help with funding your next conservation project.

We can:

Suggest conservation funding sources

Answer grant related questions

Assist with preparation of budgets and narratives

Review draft grant proposals

And more!

Please note, applications sent via the U.S. postal service to locations within Washington DC will be irradiated. This will mean substantial delays in mail delivery. Irradiation can cause damage to photographs and magnetic media. Locations within Washington, DC are requesting that application materials be sent via Fed Ex or UPS

DECEMBER 1, 2007

**CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
INSTITUTION FOR MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
SERVICES**

ADMINISTERED BY HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Approximately \$5,000 to \$8,500 towards a two-day site visit by a conservation professional to perform the assessment and up to three days to write the report. For museums located in historic structures, the grant supports a two-day site visit by a preservation architect or an architectural conservator, and up to three days to write the report.

CONTACT

Heritage Preservation
1012 - 14th Street, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20005
202-233-0800
cap@heritagepreservation.org
www.heritagepreservation.org

DECEMBER 1, 2007

**MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS**

Accepted museums will assess and identify strengths and weaknesses and create plans for the future through this program. Categories of assessment are: Institutional, Collections Management, Public Dimension and Governance. Program is free to accepted applicants with budgets under \$125,000. For other applicants a small match is required.

CONTACT

Museum Assessment Program
American Association of Museums
1575 Eye St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
202-289-9118
map@aam-us.org
www.aam-us.org

MAY 15, 2008

**PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR
SMALLER INSTITUTIONS
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES**

Up to \$5,000 in outright funds toward a two-day on site general assessment survey. Applicants may also apply to these grants for consultation, purchase of storage furniture, purchase of environmental monitoring equipment, or education and training.

CONTACT

Division of Preservation and Access
Room 411
National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506
202-606-8570
preservation@neh.gov
www.neh.gov



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PRESERVATION SERVICES SUBSIDIZED SURVEY AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS FOR 2008

Institutions, keep an eye on your mailbox in November 2007 to receive informational materials on MACC's Subsidized Survey and Mentorship Programs.

Applications for these programs will be due early in January 2008. For preliminary information please see the www.preserveart.org website for program descriptions.