

## Appendix B: Professional Organizations and Societies

### A. ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

Organizations and societies are involved in various aspects of museum work. This section provides a list of the major organizations and societies in the United States that provide professional guidance to individuals and institutions in the various functions of museum and archival work:

1. American Association of Museums  
1575 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/289-9132

<http://www.aam-us.org/>

The American Association of Museums (AAM), founded in 1906, addresses the concerns of the country's museum community as a whole and represents art and natural history museums, zoos, botanical gardens, arboretums, planetariums, science and technology centers, nature centers, children's museums, and historic museums, sites and societies. Members include museum directors, curators, registrars, educators, marketing and development directors, public relations personnel, and others. The AAM's Accreditation Program has long been a leader in establishing professional standards for museums and museum professionals. Publications include a bi-monthly journal, *Museum News*, and a monthly newsletter *Aviso*. The AAM Bookstore stocks publications that address such topics as collections management, museum ethics, conservation, marketing, and fund raising. The association holds annual national and regional meetings. Write or call the association for information on membership, publications available through its bookstore, and other programs of the association.

2. American Association for State and Local History  
1717 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37203-2991  
615/320-3203

<http://www.aaslh.org/>

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), founded in 1940, is a national non-profit organization that serves agencies and people who work to preserve and interpret history, including historical societies, museums, historic sites, parks, libraries, archives, historic preservation organizations, and schools and colleges. In recent years this association has been instrumental in organizing the forum on "A Common

Agenda for History Museums." Publications include a bimonthly magazine, *History News* and a monthly newsletter, *History News Dispatch*. The association's extensive sales program provides publications and educational materials (e.g., books, technical leaflets, reports, slide-tape, and video programs) on the documentation, preservation and interpretation of history, including the care and conservation of museum objects. The association sponsors seminars, workshops, and an annual meeting. Write or call the association for information on membership, publications available through the sales program, and other programs of the association.

3. Society of American Archivists  
6527 S. Wells St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312/922-0140

<http://www.archivists.org/>

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), founded in 1936, promotes the preservation and use of records materials (e.g., manuscripts, films, maps, photographs, sound recordings, and machine readable records). This society provides a wide range of educational workshops, maintains an active publications program, and promotes cooperation, growth, and development in the archival field. Publications include a quarterly journal, *American Archivist*, and a bimonthly newsletter, *Archival Issues*. The SAA's publication program offers basic manuals on the arrangement, description, access, conservation and care, and exhibition of archival collections. The society sponsors an annual meeting. Write to or call the society for membership information, a catalog of sales publications, and other programs of the society.

4. Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections  
SPNHC Treasurer  
P. O. Box 797  
Washington, DC 20044-0797  
212/769-5864

<http://www.spnhc.org/>

The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), founded in 1985, represents the interests of natural history collections and the people associated with the management and care of these collections. Membership includes individuals within the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, zoology and others interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections. Publications

include a journal, *Collection Forum*, and a newsletter, *SPNHC Newsletter*. The journal, published twice a year, provides up-to-date technical and documentary information on the care of natural history collections. The society conducts annual meetings that include formal presentations, and workshops. Write to or call the society's treasurer, or visit the SPNHC website for information on membership.

5. American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works  
1717 K Street, NW  
Suite 301  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/452-9545

<http://aic.stanford.edu/>

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), founded in 1972, addresses the concerns of the conservation profession. Members include conservators who practice in all of the material specialties (e.g. paintings, books and paper, textiles, wood, photographic materials, and objects of leather, ceramic, glass, and stone), and conservation scientists. Librarians, archivists, and curators may also be members. This organization has adopted and published "A Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice" for the conservation profession in the United States. Refer to Appendix C. Publications include a biannual journal, *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* and a bimonthly newsletter, *AIC Newsletter*. The newsletter includes information from the various specialties, health and safety updates, preventive conservation information, and a list of conferences, courses, and seminars. The association sponsors an annual meeting including a pre-meeting workshop. The association also maintains an annual directory of its membership. Write to or call the association for membership information.

6. Heritage Preservation  
1012 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20005  
202/233-0800

<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/>

Heritage Preservation helps museums, libraries, and individuals with the best preservation advice from professional conservators through a series of Caring books. The Conservation Assessment Program helps small and mid-sized museums get the advice of professional conservators for their collections and historic buildings. The Heritage Health Index survey is the

first attempt to paint a national picture of the state of collections in all kinds of institutions – museums, libraries, archives, historical societies, and scientific organizations.

7. Regional and State Museum Conferences and Associations

There are several regional museum organizations that are under the auspices of the American Association of Museums. These conferences include the New England Museum Association, the Mid-Atlantic Museum Association, Southeastern Museums Conference, the Midwest Museums Conference, the Mountain-Plains Museums Association, and the Western Regional Conference. These regional associations sponsor annual workshops and meetings for their membership. Write to or call the American Association of Museums for a current list of addresses for these regional associations.

8. Regional Conservation Guilds and Associations

There are several regional conservation associations located throughout the country. These groups usually hold monthly meetings that address special topics in conservation including museum environment and other preventive conservation issues. Write to or call the American Institute for Conservation for a current list of the names and addresses of these regional associations.

**B. MUSEUM JOURNALS AND TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS**

This section provides information on journals and technical publications that may be pertinent to museum property.

1. *Alliance Gazette*

<http://www.nscalliance.org/index.asp>

This newsletter, printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October, and December) is available by subscription from the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSC). The newsletter contains articles on systematic natural history collections, as well as brief notes on funding sources, meetings and conferences, and book reviews. For information on subscribing to this newsletter, write or call:

Natural Science Collections Alliance  
1725 K Street, NW, Suite 601  
Washington, DC 20006-1401  
202/835-9050

2. *Curator: The Museum Journal*

<http://www.altamirapress.com/RLA/Journals/Curator/>

Written by museum professionals for museum professionals, *Curator: The Museum Journal* provides a forum for exploration and debate of the latest issues, practices, and policies in museum administration, research, exhibition development, visitor studies, conservation, education, collection management and other subjects of current concern to the community. Each issue presents a range of expert voices. Articles are peer-reviewed and held to the highest standards of timeliness and rigor. Forums, reviews and commentaries relay news and opinions from writers with an insider's perspective. Issues are frequently organized around topics of great urgency for the field. Professional conversations cover the globe: from the emergence of museums in China to the trials of export licenses in Great Britain. Join in the discussions and know what your peers are saying about the vital issues facing museums.

Subscription inquiries, orders, and claims should be directed to:  
AltaMira Press Journal Subscription Department  
4501 Forbes Blvd, Suite 200  
Lanham, MD 20706  
800/ 273-2223

3. *Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI/ICC) Notes and Newsletter*

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) publishes a series of technical notes on museum collections care topics (e.g., the museum environment; disaster management; equipment; and techniques of caring for specific types of objects, including paintings, leather, skin, ethnographic materials, textiles, and photographic materials). A complete set of these technical notes can be obtained from the institute by writing to the address below. The Institute's *Bulletin* is also available upon request. For information on obtaining the notes and the newsletter, write to:

Canadian Conservation Institute  
1030 Innes Road  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0M5  
613/998-3721 or 866-998-3721

4. U.S. National Park Service (NPS) Publications

The National Park Service publishes several publications that provide guidance on a variety of curatorial topics.

For information on obtaining the publications, contact:  
National Park Service  
Museum Management Program  
1849 C Street, NW, Room NC230  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
202/343-2000

<http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications/index.htm>

The NPS *Museum Handbook*, Part I, Museum Collections, Part II, Museum Records, and Part III, Use of Collections, is available online at the URL above.

National Park Service *Conserve O Grams* are brief, technical leaflets distributed periodically to provide curatorial staff with up-to-date, detailed instruction on museum collection preservation activities needed to perform routine collections care. Plans are to make the series available by subscription. They are available online.

### C. FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

The unit's cooperating association may apply for Federal funding for a museum property project on behalf of a unit. In addition to these national resources, units' cooperating associations are encouraged to explore state and local funding organizations that may offer programs of support. Units should contact the organizations listed below for further information on the types of grants that are available:

1. Institute of Museum and Library Services  
1800 M Street NW, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-5802  
202/653-4657

<http://www.imls.gov/>

2. National Endowment for the Arts  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506  
202/682-5400

<http://www.nea.gov/>

3. National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20506  
202/634-1121

<http://www.neh.gov/>

4. The Getty Grant Program

The J. Paul Getty Trust provides grants to institutions for the conservation of art collections, including surveys to determine the condition and conservation needs of such collections. Units with art collections may apply directly to the Trust for such grants. Write to the following address for information on this funding program:

The Getty Grant Program  
1200 Getty Center Drive  
Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90049-1685  
310/440-7320

<http://www.getty.edu/grants/conservation/>

5. Other foundations.

For a list of other foundations that provide grants to museums consult The Foundation Directory, published by the Foundation Center located in New York City. For a copy of this directory, contact the following address:

Foundation Center  
79 Fifth Avenue/16<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003-3076  
212/ 620-4230

The Foundation Directory is available by subscription online at

<http://fconline.fdncenter.org>

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