

FOREWORD

This, the sixth volume of the *Postprints* published by the Objects Speciality Group (OSG) of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, contains seven of the eleven papers presented at the 1999 OSG session in St. Louis, MO, and one paper from the 1998 session in Washington, D.C. The 1999 papers are printed in the order in which they were presented.

The theme of the 1999 OSG session was "On the Back Burner But Not Half-Baked". In my first call for papers I noted that objects conservators often have projects that end up on the back burner because other concerns take priority. Such projects include scientific technical analyses at various stages of completion, investigations into new treatments or materials, and large scale or long-term projects. There are also projects which are completed but for which there was no time to prepare them for publication. The intent of the session was to promote publication by providing a stimulus for members to write up those back-burnered projects into which went so much work and passion. I hoped that in this way some of the vast amount of information we know is "out there" would be shared with others in the field and that presentations of unfinished projects might spark interest in others who have suggestions, be able to collaborate, or begin corollary work.

The OSG *Postprints* were not published in 1998 as it was hoped that presenters would submit their papers for publication in a planned special issue of the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* (Spring 1999, Vol. 39, No. 1) devoted to the general theme of the meeting: "Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery". Several papers from the 1998 OSG session are included in that issue, but not all were submitted. We invited all authors who presented at the 1998 session in Washington, D.C. to include their papers in this volume. One paper was submitted, Constance Stromberg's "after the Fire at the Church of La Compañía de Jesús".

Of the papers from the 1999 session which are not included here, at least one, Stephen Koob's "The Toxicity of Benzotriazole: Myth and Reality", will be submitted to *Studies in Conservation*, as the paper which began the controversy was published in that journal.

I hope that this publication will serve both as a useful reference and as a departure point for further discussion with individual authors and others in the field. The papers contained herein were edited minimally, but they were not peer-reviewed and authors are encouraged to submit their papers to juried publications such as the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation*. Authors retain all rights of reproduction of the text and images.

I would especially like to acknowledge Virginia Greene, who has been heroically editing the OSG *Postprints* since 1995, for her dedication, hard work, and sharp wit.

Emily Kaplan
OSG Chair, August 2000