

FOREWORD

This is the 9th volume of *Postprints* published by the Objects Specialty Group (OSG). It includes a selection of papers originally presented at the OSG Session, June 10, 2001 as part of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) Annual Meeting in Miami, FL. The day was divided into morning and afternoon sessions that focused on two diverse themes of wide interest to objects conservators.

The theme for the morning session- *Considerations of Surface and Aesthetics in the Treatment of Outdoor Sculpture and Monuments*- was designed to provide a venue for the presentation of current hands-on practices in the conservation of outdoor sculpture. Papers included treatment case studies that discussed the original aesthetics, and/or the thought processes that informed the aesthetic choices made during treatment; as well as the evaluation of materials or techniques used for cleaning, patination, coating, and painting. There was also a lunchtime discussion after the session that was informative and dynamic. Despite a historic awareness of their changing condition, and their long history of conservation intervention; there remains a body of diverse practices and opinions regarding the treatment of outdoor sculpture, with many avenues for future thought and study. Four papers from this session appear in this volume. Tara J. Shedlosky, Kimberly M. Stanek and Gordon Bierwagen present an overview of a survey on current practices in outdoor bronze conservation, with recommendations for future research. Two papers by Paul S. Storch and W. T. Chase describe the treatment protocols and re-evaluation of past treatments. Finally, Michael Belman presents three case studies in which ethical considerations strongly influenced the decision-making process. It is unfortunate that so few papers from this session made it to press; we hope that the other presenters will find the time to shape their research and ideas into a publication for another venue.

The theme for the afternoon session - *The Conservator as Connoisseur, Scholar, Detective* - was designed to illustrate the ways that conservators make important contributions to the body of information available towards the study of art objects; augmenting the disciplines of art history, archaeology, material culture and/or museum studies. These contributions can be developed through careful looking (conservation connoisseurship), technical study and/or treatment. Happily nearly all of the presenters from this session contributed - six papers in total. In two papers, Jane Bassett and Laramie Hickey-Friedman demonstrate that a careful cataloguing of condition and technological features provides critical evidence towards establishing provenance and authenticity. Paul Benson and Robert S. Gilmore discuss acoustical microscopy, a new and potentially useful examination technique for documenting hallmarks on gold and silver; because it images the deformation of the metal by below the surface left by tooling, this technique may also aid the study of archaeological metals that were formed and decorated with coldworking techniques. Stephen P. Koob illustrates the way that treatment, careful examination and conservation connoisseurship contribute synergistically towards both the successful treatment and correct interpretation of archaeological glass fragments. In their papers, John Hix and Samantha

Alderson contribute to our knowledge of the materials and technologies of ceramic production for two different and important cultural centers.

This volume also contains two papers originally presented at the Research and Technical Studies (RATS) Session, June 8, 2001 at the AIC meeting in Miami, FL. John Hix and Michele Derrick organized the session and Virginia Greene solicited the papers for inclusion in this volume. Laramie Hickey-Friedman presents a review of the correct techniques and interpretation of ultra-violet light examination. Steven Weintraub provides an overview of the types and proper usage of silica gel.

On behalf of the OSG, I thank everyone that participated in the session. To Virginia Greene, I extend deep and heartfelt thanks for her enduring and excellent work as the *Postprints* editor. She has assumed this responsibility since 1995, and the written body of knowledge that has resulted is a testament to her exemplary professionalism. All of the presenters at the two OSG sessions made valuable contributions. Collectively, they showed a great range of problems and subject matter; demonstrating the considerable research, thought and problem solving that goes hand in hand with our profession. However, those that contributed to this volume have made an indelible contribution. Publication is a permanent way to share our hard-earned knowledge and insights. Publication is vital to the continued development of our profession-- especially now, as it is the common thread linking our goals of public outreach, certification and professional development.

Pat Griffin, OSG Chair 2002-2003