

FOREWARD

The impetus for the symposium for which these abstracts have been prepared sprang from my personal fascination with gilded metal. My experience working in a museum with material from eastern and western cultures from ancient times to the early twentieth century challenged me to learn about the variety of techniques, finishes, and conservation problems gilded metals present. As I became aware of the complexities of what at the outset had seemed to be a fairly straightforward technology, I became intrigued by the cultural and aesthetic implications of choices made in enhancing the surface of an object with gold. When I began to voice my interest in this subject, I was heartened by the enthusiasm of others. Thus, the idea of a symposium on gilded metal was born.

As you will see from the list of international speakers and the breadth of topics covered in these abstracts, the symposium is intended to stimulate an exchange of ideas and discussion amongst the attendees. In order to provide a lasting and reliable record of the information and ideas presented, it is my intention to publish, after peer review, the papers presented during the symposium in as timely a fashion as possible.

I would like to thank wholeheartedly my colleagues who without hesitation joined me to form the planning committee for this symposium: Arthur Beale, Paul Jett, David Scott, and Thomas Taylor, Jr. Their assistance and support has made this symposium a reality. I must also thank the AIC Objects Specialty Group which threw its support and funds behind me when the symposium was only in its embryonic stage. In addition, the following co-sponsors have helped make the symposium a success: AIC Architecture Specialty Group, National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property, National Association of Corrosion Engineers International, and the Association for Applied Preservation Technology International. I am also grateful to Lisa Lazar, my secretary, without whom I could not have produced these abstracts. And finally, I would like to thank the AIC Board and office staff for their support and hard work in bringing the symposium and this publication to fruition.

Terry Drayman-Weisser
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Gilded Metal Surfaces Symposium Planning Committee:

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Arthur Beale, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Paul Jett, Freer/Sackler Galleries
David Scott, Getty Conservation Institute
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