

## *Program Chair's Foreword*

---

I am pleased to present the Postprints of the Object Specialty Group (OSG) program at the AIC 44th Annual Meeting and CAC-ACCR 42nd Annual Conference: *Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation*. This was a joint conference held in Montreal, Canada, from May 29 to June 3, 2016. The authors have embodied the highest caliber work, both in their conference presentations and in Postprint submissions. My fellow OSG officers, Group Chair Sarah Barack and Assistant Program Chair Tony Sigel, as well as Carol Dignard, our CAC-ACCR colleague, assisted in the challenging selection of papers for the OSG program. Chairs Christine Shaette of the Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG) and Leslie Friedman of the Architectural Specialty Group (ASG) provided critical help in bringing the specialty groups together for two joint sessions this year.

The theme of the 2016 meeting focused on preparing for disasters and confronting the unexpected in conservation. Efforts were made to adhere to this conference theme in the selection of papers for the OSG and joint programs. Other submissions, however, were evaluated on their own merit, relevance to the OSG membership, and to the field in general. The great range and diversity of our profession was thus captured in the resulting papers.

In this volume, you will find papers that focus on objects' condition, methods of manufacture, inherent vice, treatments and tips, current scientific research and analysis, and materials identification. Objects featured range in size and complexity from the monumental to the miniscule, from the Decorative and Fine Arts to Archaeological and First Nations collections, and from the local to the remote or areas of conflict.

This year's OSG session had an ambitious program that featured more papers than usual because of a "lightning round session" that allowed four 15-minute papers instead of two 30-minute presentations. Papers in the OSG session were chosen to appeal to as many people as possible, with the hope of offering something for everyone. The session opened with a focus on techniques of manufacture, followed with a series of presentations focusing on treatment and scientific research.

In the second session, OSG teamed up with ASG to create a joint session on site-based works. The third session was a joint program with WAG, featuring papers on a variety of objects from the monumental to the miniature. This session concluded with two papers presenting the latest research on Southeast Asian and Far East Asian lacquers. A tips session was included in the program again this year due to its popularity among members for its topical relevance and ability to provide quick tips and tricks to assist the conservator in everyday practice.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Emily Hamilton and Kari Dodson, OSG Postprint Editors, for their tireless efforts in overseeing all aspects of the creation of this volume and without whom the Postprints would simply not be possible. Thank you to our peer reviewers as well—the anonymous and unsung heroes who toil behind the scenes.

*Laura Lipcsei, OSG Program Chair*