

Appendix C: Professional Organizations and Societies

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APPENDIX C: PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES

G. Overview

There are several organizations and societies that are involved in various aspects of museum work. This appendix provides a list of the major organizations and societies that provide professional guidance to individuals and institutions in the functions of museum and archival work.

H. National Museum Organizations

- ***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 (refer to Appendix B) 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 an annual meeting. Write, call, or visit the AAM Website for information on membership, publications, and other programs.

American Association of Museums
1575 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

Tel: (202) 289-1818
<<http://www.aam-us.org>>

- ***The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)*** 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. The association has adopted and published the "AASLH Statement of Professional Ethics." Publications include a quarterly magazine, *History News*, and a monthly newsletter, *Dispatch*. The association's sales program provides publications and educational materials (e.g., books, technical leaflets, reports, 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, call, or visit the AASLH Website for information on membership, publications, and other programs.

American Association for State
and Local History
1717 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Tel: (615) 320-3203
<<http://www.aaslh.org>>

- ***The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)*** 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 the “AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice” for the conservation profession in the United States (refer to Appendix D). Publications include the *Journal of the American Institute for Conservation* (published three times a year) and the bimonthly newsletter, *AIC News*. 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 publishes an annual directory of its membership. Write, call, or visit the association’s Website for membership or other information.

American Institute for Conservation
of Historic and Artistic Works
1717 K Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 452-9545
<<http://aic.stanford.edu>>

- ***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 organization provides a wide range of educational workshops, maintains an active publications program, and promotes cooperation, growth, and development in the archival field. The society has adopted and published “A Code of Ethics for Archivists with Commentary.” Publications include a semi-annual journal, *American Archivist*, and a bimonthly newsletter, *Archival Outlook*. 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, call, or visit the SAA

Website for information on membership, publications, and other programs.

Society of American Archivists
527 South Wells Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607

Tel: (312) 922-0140
<<http://www.archivists.org>>

- ***The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC)*** represents the interests of natural history collections and the people associated with the management and care of these collections. Membership includes individuals from the fields of anthropology, botany, geology, paleontology, and zoology and others interested in the development and preservation of natural history collections. Publications include a journal, *Collection Forum*, a newsletter, *SPNHC Newsletter*, and the “Guidelines for Care of Natural History Collections.” 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, call, or visit the SPNHC Website for membership information.

Society for the Preservation
of Natural History Collections
PO Box 797
Washington, DC 20044

Tel: (202) 786-2426
<<http://www.spnhc.org>>

I. Regional Museum Conferences and Associations

- Association of Midwest Museums
PO Box 11940
St. Louis, MO 63112

Tel: (314) 454-3110
<<http://www.midwestmuseums.org>>
- Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums
PO Box 27151
Baltimore, MD 21230

Tel: (410) 223-1194
<<http://www.midatlanticmuseums.org>>

- Mountain Plains Museum Association
PO Box 8321
Durango, CO 81301

Tel: (970) 259-7866
<<http://www.frontier.net/~mpma/mpmainindex.htm>>
- New England Museum Association
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129

Tel: (617) 242-2283
<<http://www.nemanet.org>>
- Southeastern Museums Conference
PO Box 3494
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Tel: (225) 383-5042
<<http://www.semcdirect.net>>
- Western Museums Association
PO Box 13314
Suite 578
Oakland, CA 94661

Tel: (510) 428-1380
<<http://www.westmuse.org>>

For a list of other regional, state, national, and international museum organizations, contact the American Association of Museums (AAM), or visit the AAM Website at <<http://www.aam-us.org>>.

J. 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. Contact the regional/SO curator or write to or call the American Institute for Conservation for a current list of the names and addresses of these regional associations.

K. Museum Journals and Technical Publications

- ***ASC Newsletter***

This bimonthly publication is available by subscription from the Association of Systematics Collections (ASC). 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:

Association for Systematics Collections
1725 K Street, NW
Suite 601
Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 835-9050
<<http://www.ascoll.org>>

- ***Curator: The Museum Journal***

This journal, published quarterly by the California Academy of Sciences and Altamira Press, is available by annual subscription. *Curator* provides timely articles on philosophical issues concerning the museum profession, documentation, and care of museum collections, and specific articles on solving storage and exhibit problems. For subscription information write to:

Curator: The Museum Journal
15200 NBN Way
Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214

Tel: (717) 794-3800 ext. 3154

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

The Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) publishes a series of technical notes, *CCI Notes* (similar to NPS Conserve O Grams), 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, photographic materials). In addition to *CCI Notes*, the institute also publishes the semiannual *CCI Newsletter*, periodic *Technical Bulletins*, books, and other publications. For additional information contact CCI at:

Canadian Conservation Institute
1030 Innes Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5
Canada

Tel: (613) 998-3721
<<http://www.cci-icc.gc.ca>>

L. Funding Organizations

In addition to National Park Service funding programs, parks can apply for other funding to support museum programs. The park's cooperating association may apply for federal funding for a museum collections project on behalf of a park. Parks may also apply to foundations, charitable organizations, and other outside organizations for museum funding. Consult with the regional/SO curator.

Parks can contact the following organizations for further information on the types of grants available:

Federal Programs

- Institute of Museum and Library Services
Office of Museum Services
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 609
Washington, DC 20506

Tel: (202) 606-8536
<<http://www.imls.gov>>

- National Endowment for the Arts
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506

Tel: (202) 682-5400
<<http://www.nea.gov>>

- National Endowment for the Humanities
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20506

Tel: (202) 606-8400
<<http://www.neh.gov>>

Non-Governmental Programs

- ***The Foundation Directory***, published by the Foundation Center, lists foundations that provide grants to museums. For a copy of this directory, write to the following address:

The Foundation Center
79 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10003

Tel: (212) 620-4230
<<http://www.fdncenter.org>>