President's Letter

WAAC mid-year board meeting
The board had a rousing meeting in Los Angeles on April 14. The upshot of that gathering is that WAAC remains intellectually engaged, in sound fiscal shape, and firmly committed to making the 2017 annual meeting in Salt Lake City a fantastic event. WAAC’s board remains the most wonderfully collaborative group of professionals with whom I have ever worked. The meeting was infused with good humor, and the ongoing dialogue behind the scenes remains an amazingly invigorating experience. If you’ve not previously had the pleasure, I strongly encourage you to consider standing for election and serving on the board—you will not be disappointed.

Call for papers!
This the second call for papers for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Please contact one of our members-at-large—Seth Irwin, Jennifer McGlinchey Sexton, Samantha Springer, Christina O’Connell, or anyone on the board—if you’d like to present a paper at the Salt Lake City meeting. September is still a comfortable way off, and sharing the results of your work—including treatment outcomes, technical research, or progress in the trenches—gives back to the profession and helps advance our ability to preserve cultural patrimony.

Papers already proposed for the 2017 annual meeting include: 1) treatment of an Anthony Van Dyke painting of Saint Sebastian; 2) seismic considerations for the architecture and mounts in a natural history museum; 3) hydroxyl generation to eliminate disaster-related odors; 4) treatment of 19th-century photographic crayon enlargements; 5) the application of dry ice misting to clean historic and cultural property (with a live demonstration); and, 6) the conservation treatment of a pair of 19th-century celestial and terrestrial globes.

The 2017 annual meeting—25-28 September
Accommodations in Salt Lake City will be affordable and convenient. The weather should be pleasant. An effective light rail system will transport you from the Salt Lake International Airport to the University Guest House where double-occupancy rooms can be reserved for $109 per night. (The number of rooms is limited, so early registration is recommended. Please call the Guest House at 888-416-4075 and let them know you are with WAAC when you register.)

The pre-conference visit to Brigham Young University’s rare book collection (Monday 25 September) boasts both numerous manuscript books and at least 450 European books printed before 1501. This is hands-down the most phenomenal rare book collection between Chicago, Austin, and Los Angeles. The day will encompass the history of bookmaking from manuscript scrolls to the height of chromolithographic printing. The pre-conference is free, but limited due to space to the first 25 registrants.

The conference proper (Tuesday-Thursday 26-28 September) will be hosted by the University of Utah’s Marriott Library which is walking distance from the University Guest House. The reception—sponsored by Belfor USA—will be held in the Natural History Museum of Utah and includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum’s facilities built, in part, with support from a Save America’s Treasures grant. Set at the edge of campus in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains—the museum holds a stunning collection of objects from 3,800 archaeological sites including artifacts from some of North America’s most significant dry cave sites and a breathtaking collection of dinosaurs. The museum will be open late to ensure you have a chance to see the remarkable exhibits at a leisurely pace.

And then there’s, Utah . . .
The great thing about Salt Lake City, is that it is so close to Utah! Please plan to take some time to see some of the state’s unique sights. Utah’s five (5) national.
parks are less mobbed after Labor Day offering remarkable natural vistas without the crowds. Highlights include sunrise in Arches, sunset at Island in the Sky in Canyonlands, Capitol Reef below the Milky Way, Bryce Canyon’s orange hoodoos, and the towering canyons of Zion National Park. Barrier Canyon Style painted pictographs occur almost exclusively in southeastern Utah and date back 1500 to 4000 years. On the northeastern shore of Great Salt Lake, sculptor Robert Smithson’s magnum opus earthwork, the Spiral Jetty, is accessible from Salt Lake City. And, if there is interest, we can request a tour of the Price Museum of Speed, a private museum of vintage early race cars including the hand-built 1938 Mormon Meteor III that set 26 land speed records on Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats.

You should be planning your visit to family-friendly Salt Lake City this fall—this is one meeting you won’t want to miss.

With warmest regards,
Randy

New Early Bird Registration !!!

Regular Members:
Early bird -- $105 until July 14th
Regular -- $125 July 15th - September 8th
Late -- $145 - September 9th

Students
Early bird -- $65 until July 14th
Regular -- $85 July 15th - September 8th
Late -- $105 - September 9th

Rooms can now be reserved at the University Guest House double-occupancy for $109 per night. Call the Guest House (888) 416-4075 and let them know you are with WAAC.

Regional News

Alaska

Helen Alten and staff at the Haines Sheldon Museum have nearly completed an inventory of the three-dimensional collections, creating a list of poor storage, damage, and alterations that have occurred. The collection is in much better shape than staff expected. Next summer the museum will be offering an internship to conservation students to address some of the stored collection needs. Grants from the Alaska State Historical Records Advisory Board and Museums Alaska’s Collections Management Fund are paying for a journeyman archivist, Jessie Hopper, and an intern, Regi Johannos, to process and create finding aids for large archival collections that have been awaiting processing for years.

Helen is working with Juneau engineer Jim Rehfeldt to significantly improve the environmental systems in the museum while simultaneously lowering the museum’s carbon footprint. Funded by NEH-PAG, Rehfeldt’s report should be a blueprint for the museum to seek additional funding for implementation of the plan. Another grant, from the Alaska Historical Commission, is paying for creation of a sesquicentennial exhibit that focuses on 1850-1885 in the area that eventually became Haines. For the first time, the museum is requesting loans from museums outside of Alaska, trying to bring items back to the region that left nearly 100 years ago.