

NCPTT NOTES

National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

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THE NATIONAL TRUST

For over a century, the National Trust has been working to preserve the United Kingdom's historic heritage

There is much to be learned from the practice of historic preservation outside the United States. Given its long commitment to historic preservation, the National Trust in the United Kingdom possesses a wealth of information which has immediate benefit to the preservation and conservation community in the United States. In the following article *Dr. Nigel Seeley, Chief Surveyor, National Trust (UK), has kindly reviewed the history of this prestigious institution.*

The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty (commonly known in the United Kingdom as the National Trust) was founded in 1895 to acquire and preserve important landscapes and historic buildings for public access and enjoyment. It was formalized by an Act of Parliament of 1907 which, among other matters, provided a mechanism to make the Trust's properties inalienable, which effectively protects them from sale or purchase, including compulsory purchase by a national or local authority, without the specific consent of Parliament. The National Trust now owns some 590,555 acres of land, 207 major historic houses, 162 gardens, 25 industrial monuments, 51

religious buildings, most of which are open to the public and about 20,000 smaller buildings in agricultural or other use. The remit of the National Trust covers England, Wales, Northern Ireland; there is an entirely separate National Trust-for Scotland.

Because of the Trust's wide geographical spread, the scope of the collections in its 200 or so properties open to the public is difficult to appreciate easily, but at an estimated four million items they are comparable in scale to those of many major national museums and are considerably more varied, comprising as they do works of art, furnishings, historical objects of many kinds, libraries, and social history material, to say nothing of the decorative features and fixtures and fittings of the buildings themselves.

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NCPTT NOTES

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Comments and items of interest for the next newsletter should be sent to the editor of the upcoming NCPTT Notes, Mary Striegel.

From the Editor

The publication of this edition of *Notes* marks the appearance of a new format for NCPTT's newsletter, designed to enhance the newsletter's content and readability.

As a special feature, this edition includes an engaging article on the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty in the United Kingdom which describes its overall approach and philosophy to the care and preservation of historic houses, their contents and landscapes.

NCPTT's research program presents the first in a series of reviews of research projects supported by NCPTT's Preservation Technology and Training Grants program, beginning with the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation's study entitled "Testing the

energy performance of wood windows in cold climates," conducted on behalf of the State of Vermont's Division of Historic Preservation.

NCPTT's Materials Research Program highlights the work of Dr. Victor Missotti, geochemist with the USGS, who is presently

integrating the work of the NAPAP/Materials Research Program into a coherent model for the deterioration of calcareous stone.

NCPTT's information management program continues its regular series of columns on the Internet, highlighting electronic journals.

Paula Cook joins NCPTT staff

NCPTT announces the appointment of a new Training Associate, Paula Cook. Paula holds a Master of Science in historic preservation from the University of Oregon's School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Paula worked most recently with the National Trust for Historic Preservation at Shadows-on-the-Teche in New Iberia, Louisiana, where she developed educational

and interpretive programs for the historic site.

Paula brings to NCPTT a strong background in heritage education. She will assist Frances Gale with training opportunities including Preservation Weekends, Preservation Leadership Training, and other heritage education projects. Paula is a welcome addition and NCPTT is pleased to have her on board.

Announcing 1997 Preservation Technology and Training Grants

NCPTT is presently accepting proposals for 1997 Preservation Technology and Training Grants. Through the PTTGrants program, NCPTT supports work in archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. The 1997 PTTGrants will be awarded competitively and are subject to funding availability. The deadline for submitting proposals is **December 20, 1996.**

The complete 1997 PTT Grants announcement — including the request for proposals and instructions on how to prepare and submit applications — is available exclusively via NCPTT's fax-on-demand computer at 318/357-3214. The announcement also is available on NCPTT's gopher site (gopher://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov) and NCPTT's World-Wide Web (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/ncptt/>).

Louisiana SOS! coordinator continues work

In the past year, Sarah Luster has completed the statewide Louisiana SOS! survey — and will continue with NCPTT as a Center Associate. Sarah will expand on her SOS! work in developing a regional conference on outdoor sculpture conservation planned for 1997. Sarah also will work with NCPTT in developing an exhibit for the public space of NCPTT's new headquarters, on the theme of preservation and conservation technology.

The National Trust

(continued from page 1)

The National Trust faces conservation problems not commonly met with in museums and galleries.

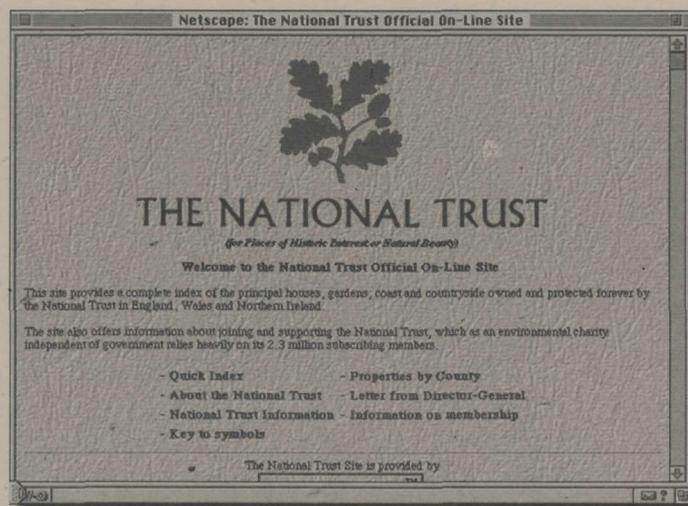
These problems are in part due to the requirement to house most of the collections in historic buildings which have not been modified or modernized and which are often in mixed use, and are in part the result of displaying items in context rather than segregated by type or material as occurs in many museums. These factors have implications both for preventive conservation, namely the display of varied collections in a common environment, and for remedial conservation where the appearance of a conserved object must not be such as to render it out of key with other objects or the decorative scheme of a room or building. The ability to display works of art and historic objects in their original context is one of the National Trust's great strengths, but it exerts a profound influence on the Trust's approach to conservation. Such an approach requires that each object is assessed and treated on its own merits, and with reference to the decoration and contents of the room in which it belongs, and does not allow the creation of different microclimates for objects of different materials.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the interiors of National Trust houses is that the contents are displayed *in situ*, usually

in the way in which they were seen and used when the houses were occupied by their last owner-families, and not behind glass in normal museum fashion. Some objects are, of course, seen in glass cases where, for example, porcelain or curios were originally so displayed, and the Trust has several small museums which form an integral part of the properties concerned.

The reason that objects in historic houses are frequently still in good condition is not just one of chance, but reflects the well-developed housekeeping practices of former times. The owners of great country houses were well aware of the adverse effects of light, damp and insect pests, and treatises on good housekeeping by writers such as Suzannah Whatman certainly go back to the eighteenth century. Curtains and shutters were closed when rooms were not in use to limit fading of textiles and watercolors, fires were kept lit in winter to counteract high humidity and condensation, and cleaning regimes were strict, limiting opportunities for mold and insect attack. Fine furniture was fitted with textile case covers which were normally only removed when special guests were expected. Thus, some of the great houses are still in fine condition today, and many more were so until the beginning of this century.

Much of the deterioration and damage which we now see took place not over the whole period of the objects' existence, but rather just between the beginning of the First World War, when



The National Trust's World-Wide Web site:
<http://www.ukindex.co.uk/nationaltrust/>

the small armies of domestic staff in these houses were greatly diminished and routine care slipped, and the time of the acquisition and repair of the houses by the National Trust. We thus have a legacy of outstanding conservation work that needs to be done, as well as a duty to minimize or prevent future deterioration so far as this is possible. The Trust has, therefore, a twofold approach to conservation — on the one hand preventive, and on the other remedial. Both are equally important, and both are implemented side by side.

Preventive conservation is in one respect a continuation and enhancement of the good housekeeping practices traditionally employed in great houses, to which has been added a much more scientific approach to the control of factors such as light and humidity which are major contributors to deterioration. The Trust has been a pioneer in this field,

and has embodied its experience in a new *Manual of Housekeeping*, first published in 1984 and now in its third edition. As a sequel to this, a training video called *Keeping House*, which demonstrates a number of preventive conservation techniques, has also been produced for training purposes and is available in both PAL and NTSC versions.

The Trust also has developed methods of controlling the environment in historic buildings which are both effective in themselves and beneficial to these sensitive structures, while impinging as little as possible on the appearance of rooms. This strategy, which works well in the moist and temperate climate of the United Kingdom, relies largely on the use of the buildings' heating systems, controlled for relative humidity rather than temperature, in place of the more conventional dehumidification, or air-

conditioning with all its implications for the fabric of the building.

The main purpose of remedial conservation is to correct damage to objects which poses a threat to their future permanence, or which is unsightly. Restoration is only indulged in to the extent that it is both necessary and appropriate, and only where the evidence to do so clearly exists. For the reasons given previously, it would be inappropriate to restore all items to the same uniform level, and objects are therefore looked at as part of an assemblage and not in isolation.

Unlike most large museums, the National Trust does not, with one notable exception, employ conservators for the practical aspects of the repair and restoration of the objects in its collections. The sheer quantity and range of the collections would require a small army of conservators in many different disciplines, and the changing demands of the work would make such a system both inflexible and costly. Instead, conservation is tackled from a number of different angles. In order to ensure that appropriate methods are used, or are developed where necessary, there is a small group of specialist Conservation Advisers whose role it is to set and maintain standards, determine national priorities, and to monitor the collections. In addition, there are Regional Conservators in most of the Trust's sixteen Regions who have day-to-day responsibility for the care of the collections, monitoring

NCPTT welcomes Jérôme Francou: 1996 Hunt Fellow

Jérôme Francou is the 1996 recipient of the Richard Morris Hunt Fellowship, awarded annually towards enhancing preservation practice through international exchange. The Fellowship is co-sponsored by the American Architectural Foundation, the philanthropic and educational extension of the American Institute of Architects, and Friends of Vieilles Maisons Françaises, a membership organization with offices in New York and Paris that seeks to develop preservation understanding and skills and supports preservation projects internationally. Since 1990, Richard Morris Hunt Fellows are selected, in alternating years, from promising preservation architects in the US or France for a minimum six-month preservation practice intensive. The Fellowship is named for Richard Morris Hunt, the first US architect to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris.

Nearing the conclusion of his US visit, Jérôme has arrived at NCPTT for the months of October and November.

Jérôme is an architect in private preservation practice in Lyon. Jérôme has an undergraduate degree from the Ecole d'Architecture de Lyon and a graduate degree from the Centre d'Etudes Supérieur d'Histoire et de Conservation des Monuments Anciens in Paris, and has worked in France and Cambodia. During the Fellowship, Jérôme has worked in all of the major US cities with architectural firms and organizations prominent in preservation and architectural conservation. Jérôme's work in Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish will focus on 18th and early 19th century Creole buildings and sites — especially the technical aspects of masonry conservation at African House at Melrose Plantation, and preliminary survey of an Isle Brevelle National Register district.

the environment and training house staff in preventive conservation methods.

A high proportion of the remedial conservation required for items in the collections is contracted out to external conservators, both in other institutions and in the private sector. This gives the Trust an unrivaled choice of conservators, and makes it possible to match work to those best qualified to carry it out without having to maintain a large permanent staff in a climate of fluctuating workload.

Conservation extends to components of the buildings themselves, which often have important decorative schemes and fixtures and fittings, such as painted and gilded interiors, stained glass, and ornamental plasterwork. In the conservation of historic buildings emphasis is given to the use of traditional materials and techniques, not for purist reasons but because these generally give the best results and are compatible with the other components of the buildings' structure. From

time to time this requires the relearning of lost skills, with a benefit to owners of historic buildings as a whole.

There is an ongoing training program for staff at all levels, and research is undertaken, usually in collaboration with appropriate academic institutions, to solve problems or develop techniques for which there is currently nothing satisfactory available.

The National Trust Manual of Housekeeping is available from Penguin Books.

Testing the energy performance of wood windows in cold climates

During rehabilitation of historic buildings, the question of how to treat the windows is inevitably raised. The desire to retain the historic character of the windows and the actual historic material of which the windows are made is seen as competing with the desire to improve energy performance and decrease long term window maintenance costs. Replacement of window sash, the use of windows inserted inside existing jambs or whole window replacement is often advocated in the name of energy efficiency. Other approaches to improve the energy efficiency of historic windows retain all or part of the existing sash and balance system and typically include exterior triple-track storm window rehabilitation or replacement. Some building renovations only include storm window repair or replacement and prime window maintenance. To date there is little data quantifying the impact on annual heating costs of these varied upgrade options or comparing estimated first year energy savings to installed costs. A recent study was undertaken to test the assumption that historic windows can be retained and upgraded to approach the thermal efficiency of replacement sash or window inserts.

First-year heating energy costs associated with windows before and after upgrades were used to assess energy improvements. Energy costs resulting from thermal losses associated with a window are due to

the decision to rehabilitate or replace a window generally should be made on the basis of considerations other than energy cost savings

both non-infiltrative and infiltrative losses. Non-infiltrative thermal losses are due to radiation through the glazing, conduction through the window materials and convection of the air layer next to the window materials. These losses were modeled using WINDOW 4.1, a computer program simulating window thermal performance.

Infiltrative thermal losses through a window arise from air moving around the sash and jamb as well as through any cracks or gaps associated with the window. These losses were investigated by testing 151 windows in northern and central Vermont during 1995 and 1996. Of the 151 windows tested, 64 were in original condition and 87 were of various upgrades. The windows were characterized using standard fan pressurization techniques to obtain the effective leakage area and sash air leakage rate. Data obtained from tests conducted on the 64 windows in original condition was used to model the energy performance of tight and loose fitting windows as well as "typical" windows prior to up-grade. The estimated annual energy costs of these windows were used to estimate first year energy cost savings for the various upgrade types.

Costs of window upgrades were determined primarily by interviewing developers of affordable housing in Vermont.

The study found that the savings of annual heating costs were similar for a wide range of window upgrade options and installation costs. If properly installed, virtually all upgrade options studied produced savings in a similar range. In general, savings were small, and significantly less than the cost of installing the upgrade, particularly when the energy performance of the existing window was similar to a typical or tight fitting window.



Preparing exterior windows for fan pressurization test.

Given the above, the decision to rehabilitate or replace a window generally should be made on the basis of considerations other than energy cost savings. It should be noted that this decision is not clear cut. Some upgrades that retain the original sash make major sash modifications while some replacement upgrades mimic historic windows effectively. There is a continuum between replacing and rehabilitating windows where the developer must find a solution appropriate to the particular context while considering non-energy issues such as maintenance, ease of operation, historic character, and lead abatement.

This article summarizes a report to the State of Vermont, Division for Historic Preservation, by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. The project was supported by the 1994 PTTGrant program. Copies of the report may be obtained from Mark Gilberg, Research Coordinator, NCPTT.

Researching the deterioration of stone: NAPAP/NPS materials research findings

Early in 1996 the Materials Research Program asked Dr. Victor Mossotti, geochemist with the United States Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California, to undertake the ambitious project of evaluating and integrating the findings of all projects of the 15-year NAPAP/NPS Materials Research Program into a coherent model to explain the deterioration of calcareous stone by air pollution. This past work included studies at field sites, laboratories and actual buildings.

The deterioration of stone may be evidenced in many ways, including discoloration, surface loss due to erosion, powdering, "sugaring", pitting, incrustations of gypsum, and development of cracks or fissures, among others. Discoloration is usually indicative of soiling caused by particles of dirt or atmospheric pollution clinging to the surface. Surface erosion, including powdering and pitting, may be caused by the loss of adhesion between individual grains that make up the stone and subsequent abrasion by wind or rain. Incrustations of gypsum result from chemical interactions of calcareous stone with sulfur containing pollutants such as sulfur dioxide or acid rain. The gypsum crust usually forms in areas of deeply carved stone which are protected from rain run-off.

Thus far, Mossotti's work has focused on the premise that the processes that drive stone deterioration result from different types of interactions on the stone surface. Some interactions occur at the micro-scale, while others are affected by the macro properties of the surface. From the work completed this year, both in the field and in review of the NAPAP/NPS research reports, Mossotti has discovered that such interactions are dominated by a relatively small set of internal variables reflecting the state of the stone. The schematic in Figure 1 represents the key elements of an integrated model of the dominant agent-delivery and stone alteration processes controlling stone. These

elements include the processes that determine the future state of the stone, and the variables that influence such processes and reflect the state of the stone at a given point in time.

As shown in Figure 1, Mossotti's model describes three types of processes that lead to the deterioration of the stone. These include primary deposition processes, secondary mobilization processes, and processes that cause physical and chemical changes in the stone. Primary deposition, shown in Panel I, is the way that dirt and pollutants are introduced to the surface of the stone. Once pollutants are present on the surface, they can react with the stone surface or they can be mobilized, usually by water, and redeposited elsewhere on the surface. Processes which redeposit the pollutants are known as secondary mobilization processes, shown in Panel II. Implicit in the connections between Panels I and II is the notion that the primary deposition processes feed the

secondary mobilization processes. Processes that change the physical or chemical nature of the stone are called physiochemical metamorphic processes and are represented in Panel III. Chemical changes usually occur through chemical reactions. Physical changes arise through processes like erosion or abrasion.

Boxes A, B, and C represent the collection of variables which drive the processes represented in Panels I, II, and III. There are three main types of variables: (Box A) those that describe the conditions to which the stone is exposed in an outdoor environment, (Box B) those that describe the physical condition of the stone, and (Box C) those that define the chemistry of the stone. The variables represented in Box A include such things as the ambient SO₂ concentration, the meteorological and geotechnical conditions to which the system is subjected, the rain, daily moisture, and rising damp

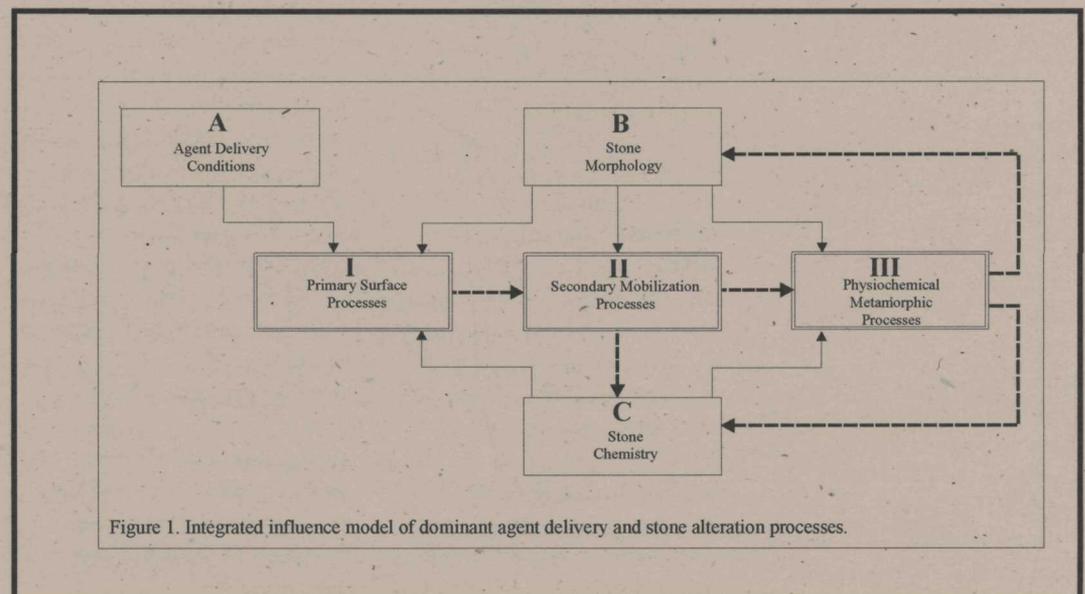


Figure 1. Integrated influence model of dominant agent delivery and stone alteration processes.

delivery patterns, and the level of airborne soot and particulate material. Variables that represent the physical state of the stone are found in Box B, and include morphology, orientation of the surface, sub-surface fracturing, degree of grain consolidation, etc. Box C includes variables that represent the chemical state of the stone. These include elemental composition, crystalline structure, etc..

As Figure 1 indicates, the stone variables and the deterioration processes are intricately interrelated. For example, a physiochemical change may affect the stone morphology, and a change in stone morphology subsequently affects the physiochemical processes. This is called a feedback loop.

Similar feedback loops can be seen throughout the diagram. A critical feature controlling the operation of this system represented in Figure 1 is the multiplicity of feedback loops in the system. The importance of this feature to the operation of the system can not be over estimated. If the feedback loops are negative, the state of the system tends to adapt to changes in the input variables and to maintain a stable output; if the feedback loops are positive, the state of the system tends to move toward a particular limit which is imposed by a set of physical constants; an extreme example of such a limit would be the mechanical failure of the stone.

There are two additional properties of the system which are not apparent in Figure 1: The system dynamics are

iterative, and the system has a long memory. In iterative systems with memory, the inputs at any given time are influenced by the cumulative outputs over an extended period in the past. Such systems, which run continuously, are exceedingly sensitive to initial conditions, and such systems tend to be attracted to extreme limit-

Preservation Training and Technology Board 1996 Autumn meeting held in Natchitoches

Natchitoches was the setting for the Autumn 1996 meeting of the Preservation Technology and Training Board. The Board is chaired by Dr. Elizabeth Lyon, with Robert Melnick as vice-chair. PTTBoard members attending included Dr. Neville Agnew, Nicholas Gianopoulos, Dr. Alferdteen Harrison, Dr. James K. Huhta, Dr. W. James Judge, F. Blair Reeves and Dr. Carolyn Rose. PTTBoard Member E. Blaine Cliver represents the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the National Park Service. Dr. Randall Webb, President of Northwestern State University of Louisiana represents NSU to the PTTBoard.

Chief matters before the PTTBoard were NCPTT's work in fiscal year 1996 and NCPTT's plan for programs and activities in fiscal-year 1997 — including the 1997 PTTGrants program —, refinement of NCPTT's five-year strategic plan, and implementation of the strategic plan. The highlight event for the PTTBoard meeting was a public lecture on November 3 by Dr. James Marston Fitch, Director of Historic Preservation with Beyer Blinder Belle Architects and Planners in New York. Dr. Fitch's remarks focused on "The Battle for the Past: Preservation versus Historicism, Postmodernism and the Theme Park" — a deep reflection on the authentic versus the facsimile as one of the primary dialectics of the preservation movement

in the US. At the conclusion of his lecture, Dr. Fitch admitted that prior to his visit Natchitoches was completely unknown to him, but he also admitted that he was "favorably astonished" to see a town so attentive to its past. Having Dr. Fitch as speaker for the NCPTT's second annual Natchitoches public lecture was a privilege and a pleasure.

Dr. Fitch's presentation was videotaped, and copies of the tape will be available by contacting NCPTT.

states (The notion of a limit-state, sometimes called emergent criticality, is codified in the theory of disordered systems, popularly known as chaos theory).

This model may provide us with a thorough understanding of how calcareous stone deteriorates. If the model is validated through

comparisons of data, then it can be used to develop new conservation treatments that slow or interrupt the feedback loops found in the system. This could lead to better preservation of cultural resources of calcareous stone exposed to outdoor conditions.

—Mary F. Striegel

Internet offers many electronic journals of preservation interest

This article continues a regular series of columns on the Internet. Electronic journals are featured in this issue. If you have suggestions for Internet-related topics that you would like to see discussed in this column or if you have a question about matters addressed here, please contact NCPTT via e-mail or regular mail.

Electronic journals are defined here as publications, usually aimed at the professional preservation community, which are available via the Internet. Many traditional journals maintain Web pages that provide tables of content, abstracts of articles, and the means to subscribe. However, unless the full content of the issue is available, the term "electronic journal" as used here does not apply. Some groups provide electronic versions of paper-based journals, thereby making the journal available in two formats. Others maintain only the electronic version with no publication on paper.

Issues to be resolved in the world of electronic publishing are many. Only a few of the questions being discussed can be mentioned here. For example, if there is a paper version of the journal, will providing an electronic format free via the Internet cause the loss of

subscriptions? If membership in an organization is required to receive a journal, will the membership rolls decrease? Can electronic journals attain the quality of traditional journals and will the peer review process assist in that goal? How will unresolved electronic copyright issues impact electronic journals? And finally, what is the impact on traditional publishing if electronic publishing expands?

Even with these unresolved issues, electronic publishing on the Internet is expanding rapidly. In fact, there is a Web site (<http://gort.ucsd.edu/newjour/>) and an electronic discussion list (NewJour) devoted exclusively to publicizing new electronic journals on the Internet. There are also many discussion groups and Web sites that focus on the issues involved in electronic publishing. The primary advantages to publishing electronically are the speed at which journals can be created and made available, lower costs compared to traditional publishing, and the ability to provide active links to references cited in articles. Of course, links are only applicable where electronic versions of the references exist, but those are becoming increasingly available. One major

disadvantage is that not all of the targeted audience will possess the technology necessary to access the journal. While these issues continue to be discussed, electronic journals such as those described here continue to appear.



SAA Bulletin
<http://alishaw.ssf.ucsb.edu/gopher://alishaw.ucsb.edu/11/saa>

The SAA Bulletin is published in paper form five times a year by the Society for American Archaeology and is mailed to members. The Bulletin also is available in electronic form on the Internet to members and non-members alike. The electronic version originally was accessible only via gopher. Today the journal is maintained on both a gopher site and a World Wide Web site. At the World Wide Web address, back issues are available in either PDF format or World Wide Web format and all issues are searchable by keyword.

Internet Archaeology
<http://intarch.ac.uk/>

Internet Archaeology is published by the Internet Archaeology consortium

which consists of the British Academy, The Council for British Archaeology and the Universities of Durham, Glasgow, Oxford, Southampton and York. It is part of the Electronic Libraries project which aims to "increase awareness and acceptance of electronic publication within the academic world whilst at the same time exploring the possibilities of the new medium." The journal does not publish electronic versions of papers in print but rather solicits articles exclusively for publication via the Internet and is interested in publishing "enhanced or extended editions of printed papers and monographs." Access to the journal is free for the time being, but registration is required.



assemblage
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/~assem/>

Assemblage is produced by graduate students at the Research School of Archaeology and Archaeological Sciences at the University of Sheffield. It is also known as "The Sheffield Graduate Journal of Archaeology," and is "a journal first and foremost for graduate students, intended to provide writers with experience in the process of publishing aca-

demic work..." and "...present readers with stimulating material to consider and debate..." However, the editors do not limit submissions to graduate students, but solicit articles from "anyone who has something to say". A few of the topics in the latest issue include computerized forensic facial reconstruction, archeological uses for the analysis of freshwater bivalves, and advice to graduate students on the best books to read and the ins and outs of publication.

TRACCE Online Rock Art Bulletin

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2996/index.html>

TRACCE bills itself as the "first Online and Worldwide Rock Art Bulletin" and is maintained by Footsteps of Man (*Orme dell'Uomo*), an organization that works at the European rock art site of Valcamonica, Italy. The journal has been published since January 1996, and comes out every 2-3 months. The most current issue is Number 5 (November 1996) and includes articles on a wide variety of topics relating to rock art research and interpretation. Issues of interest to the publishers include "rocks, sites, cultures, dating, recording, imaging, interpretation, new findings, conservation problems." Access to the bulletin is free via the World Wide Web and further printing and distribution is encouraged.

1996 US/ICOMOS Internships sponsored by NCPTT

Within its mission to promote the development of preservation professionals, NCPTT continued its sponsorship of international internships in collaboration with the US Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS).

NCPTT-sponsored international internships are part of an annual US/ICOMOS program directed by Ellen Delage of US/ICOMOS's Washington headquarters. NCPTT sponsored four internships in 1995 (reported in the September-October 1995 edition of Notes), and in 1996 sponsored five internships — four "outbound" and one "inbound".

Jeffrey Andoh is a young architect in practice in Accra, Ghana, and a member of the Ghana National Committee of ICOMOS. Mr. Andoh worked in the US with the Historic American Buildings Survey-Historic American Engineering Record in documenting historic blast furnaces for iron and steel production, with a special focus on the Sloss furnaces of Birmingham, Alabama.

Frank Brown III is a Spring 1996 graduate of the Master of Landscape Architecture program at Louisiana State University, with a previous Master of Architectural History and a Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia. Mr. Brown worked in Istanbul, Turkey with Yildiz Technical University's Department of Architectural Survey of Conservation, focusing on the documentation of 19th century Turkish architectural monuments.

Gina Haney has a Bachelor of Arts in Historic Preservation from Mary Washington College, and will complete a

Master of Arts degree in Architectural History at the University of Virginia in 1996. Ms Haney worked in Cape Coast, Ghana, preparing documentation and an historic structure report on Government House, towards rehabilitation of Government House as the palace for the Omanhene of Oguaa.

Roberta Hardy will complete a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Michigan in late 1996. Ms Hardy worked at ICOMOS World Heritage Documentation Center, Paris, France, developing database and Internet resources for organizing and disseminating information on current and potential World Heritage sites.

Roy Schweers is a young architect in practice in Austin, Texas. Mr. Schweers worked in the offices of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, New Delhi, India, documenting cultural resources along the Grand Trunk Road in Punjab and developing interpretive materials for the region.

NCPTT's support of US/ICOMOS's annual internships implements our mission of promoting and enhancing the preservation of historic resources "through the advancement of preservation technology and training." For further information about US/ICOMOS internship opportunities, contact Program Manager Ellen Delage at US/ICOMOS, 1600 H. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; telephone 202/842-1866, facsimile 202/842-1861.

Architects and Conservators: Preserving the Past and Building the Future

**Alexandria and Natchitoches, LA
October 31- November 3**

The American Institute of Architects' Historic Resources Committee (AIA-HRC) and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works' Architecture Specialty Group (AIC-ASG) convened in Alexandria and Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, October 31 through November 2. This joint meeting provided an opportunity for members of the two organizations to examine the role and impact of the architectural conservator on historic preservation projects and to discuss the benefits of team work. NCPTT hosted the conference. Co-chairs were Frances Gale, NCPTT Training Coordinator; Victoria T. Jacobson, AIA, Historical Architect at Mt. Rainer National Park; and Joel Snodgrass, an architectural conservator in private practice.

Attending the conference were nearly 150 experts in historic preservation and architectural conservation from across the United States. NCPTT provided scholarships for six students from Schools of Architecture in Louisiana to attend the meeting. Representing Louisiana State University were Andy Ferrell and Elizabeth Moore; Virginia

Lee and Sean Dugas represented Tulane University and Brian Davis and Dennis Normand represented Louisiana Tech.

The conference began with a reception on Thursday evening at River Oaks Square Arts and Crafts Center, located at the Bolton House, a circa 1899 Queen Anne Revival house listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Conference participants were welcomed to Alexandria by Mayor Edward G. Randolph, Jr.

John Robbins, Executive Director of NCPTT, provided opening remarks to conference participants on Friday morning. The educational session that followed examined how architectural conservators augment a team, focusing on the benefits of collaboration between architects and conservators. Presentations on "appropriate" technology for projects explored the use of computers in preservation. During the final session case studies were presented which illustrated successful collaborations between architects and conservators. Included were descriptions of preservation projects at Drayton Hall, Charleston, South Carolina; Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC; Alvar Aalto's Baker House at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge,

Massachusetts; and Monticello, near Charlottesville, Virginia.

Guests at Friday evening's banquet at the Hotel Bentley included the Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana. She cited Louisiana's long support for Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record projects, and she encouraged conference attendees to enjoy Louisiana's cultural heritage. James Marston Fitch, D.H.L., D. Arts, Hon. AIA, Hon. FRIBA, Director of Historic Preservation Architects and Planners at Beyer Blinder Belle and a leading authority on historic preservation in the United States provided a keynote address. Katherine Stevenson, National Park Service' Associate Director for Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, presented awards to winners of the 1996 Charles E. Peterson Prize, an annual competition that recognizes the year's best Historic American Buildings Survey documentation produced by college students. The prize honors Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, founder of the HABS program, and is intended to increase awareness and knowledge of historic buildings throughout the United States. An exhibit of 1996 Peterson Prize winning drawings was displayed during the conference. A retrospective of prize winning HABS drawings of Louisiana structures from previous years also was exhibited. The Louisiana

drawings exhibit will travel to schools of architecture in the state.

Conference sessions in Alexandria were augmented by a tour of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Heritage Area sponsored by NCPTT and the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches (APHN). Commentary about the historic architecture of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Parish was provided by Dr. Eugene Cizek, Professor of Architecture, Tulane University, Dr. Barrett Kennedy, Professor of Architecture, Louisiana State University and Lestar Martin, Professor of Architecture, Louisiana Tech University. A guidebook prepared by NCPTT provided information on about 15 historic sites in Cane River Country. At Cherokee Plantation, participants enjoyed a tour of the house where refreshments were served. William Brockway, Professional in Residence at LSU, discussed the origins of Creole architecture in a slide presentation at St. Augustine Church on Isle Brevelle.

At Melrose Plantation, the final stop in Cane River Country, participants toured the complex of eight historic structures and were entertained by the music of Rivers Review. A barbeque dinner was provided by APHN.

Conference on collections environment

Autumn 1997
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC

Over the years, a group of scientists at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Analytical Laboratory (CAL) have researched the effects of environmental conditions — especially temperature and relative humidity — on the stability of collection artifacts, emphasizing the mechanical properties of the constituent materials and the composite objects. While it is generally agreed that the results of this research have enriched the understanding of the relationships between environmental conditions and object stability, and that the results have significant implications for decisions defining the appropriate environmental parameters for specific collections; nevertheless, the extrapolation of these data to actual recommendations for collections environmental parameters has led to confusion, misunderstanding and even controversy.

Research data generated at CAL do not stand alone, but can and must be evaluated only in the context of results obtained in research at other institutions worldwide, pertaining to the effects and processes involved in the interaction between collection and the environment. Such contextualization also must consider the technological means and the costs involved

in controlling the environment within specified parameters.

Ongoing ad-hoc debates, often addressing only a small fraction of the complex issues at hand, offer little hope for reaching a consensus or a common understanding of the state of knowledge in this area and its implications for actual collections care and management.

The Smithsonian Institution feels that an open discussion of the extant issues in a professional forum of those engaged in the conservation, preservation and care of collections is urgently needed. The Smithsonian intends to organize, in co-sponsorship with NCPTT, a three-day international conference on the collections environment, to be held in Autumn 1997 at the Institution in Washington, DC. Internationally-recognized conservation scientist Dr. Frank D. Preusser will serve as program chair for the conference. During the rest of this year, Dr. Preusser will undertake a thorough worldwide review and assessment of all relevant research and data. Based on the results of his assessment, he will identify the specific issues that need to be addressed at the conference and will draft a preliminary program. At that time, a call for papers will be issued, with a goal of publishing a volume of invited papers, edited by Dr. Preusser, subsequent to the conference.

The Smithsonian Institution hopes and expects that this conference will clarify many of the issues pertaining to the collections environment and will result in a generally accepted understanding of the factors to be considered in the

NCPTT receives AIA Presidential Citation

NCPTT received a Presidential Citation from the American Institute of Architects for NCPTT's work in developing and implementing research, training and information programs that address urgent needs of the preservation and conservation community throughout the United States. The citation was presented at a November 2 dinner on the grounds of Melrose Plantation in Natchitoches Parish. The dinner was the Saturday evening event of an AIA-HRC/AIC-ASG joint meeting (see article on page 10).

The citation honors NCPTT's extensive work with the preservation and conservation community, and the NCPTT's wide-ranging achievements in only two years of operation. The citation recognizes that — *Working with the most up-to-date technologies and the most respected experts in the field, the Center has elevated research, training and information management into enlightened stewardship of this nation's irreplaceable design heritage, thus helping to ensure that future generations will continue to learn from and delight in the wisdom and beauty of the past.*

The American Institute of Architects was founded in 1857, and is headquartered in Washington, DC. It is the premier professional association of architects in the US, with a mission of promoting the aesthetic, scientific and practical aspects of the profession, and advancing the science and art of building and standards of architectural education, training and practice. The Historic Resources Committee is the AIA's oldest standing committee.

The citation is awarded by Raymond G. "Skipper" Post, Jr., FAIA, current AIA president and an architect practicing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The citation was presented by Jerry Berggren, AIA, of Berggren & Woll Architects in Lincoln, Nebraska, who chairs the AIA's Historic Resources Committee. John Robbins, NCPTT's Executive Director, received the citation on behalf of NCPTT and the Preservation Technology and Training Board.

specification of environmental parameters for a specific collection.

For information, contact — Office of the Director, Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Smithsonian Institution, MRC 534, Washington, DC 20560, 301/238-3700, facsimile 301/238-3709.

Our Mission

The National Park Service

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service is also responsible for managing a great variety of national and international programs designed to help extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training promotes and enhances the preservation of prehistoric and historic resources in the United States for present and future generations through the advancement and dissemination of preservation technology and training.

The Center, created by Congress, is an interdisciplinary effort by the National Park Service to advance the art, craft, and science of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, historic landscapes, objects and materials conservation, and interpretation. The Center serves public and private practitioners through research, education, and information management.

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