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National Park Service Museum Handbook, Part I, Museum Collections

The National Park Service (NPS) Museum Management Program (MMP) develops policies and procedures for the preservation and protection of NPS managed in over 385 parks and centers throughout the USA. The policies and procedures are contained in this Handbook and provide guidance for the management of NPS archeology, art, ethnography, history, biology, geology, and paleontology, and archival and manuscript collections.

The NPS Museum Handbook, Part I, Museum Collections was developed from earlier NPS museum publications, including the NPS Field Manual for Museums (1941), NPS Museum Handbook, Part I, Museum Collections (1967), and the Manual for Museums (1976). The Handbook was reissued in full in 1990. Updates and new additions are issued intermittently.

Museum Handbook, Part I, Museum Collections

General Editor, Joan Bacharach, Senior Curator, Museum Management Program, NPS Chapters
Chapter 1, NPS Museums and Collections. (2006) – Ann Hitchcock, Chief Curator and Steve Floray, Museum Specialist, MMP.


Chapter 4, Museum Collections Environment. (2016) – Joan Bacharach. Update based on the 1999 and 1990 editions of this chapter. Contributors: Brynn Bender, Senior Conservator, Western and Archeological Conservation Center; Mary Coughlin, Assistant Professor, George Washington University Museum Studies; Catherine Hawks, Senior Conservator, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History; Gretchen Voeks, Curator, Death Valley National Park; David Bitterman, NER, Architectural Preservation, Engineering & Maintenance Division, NPS; Antonio Aguilar, Historical Architect, Technical Preservation Services, NPS; Mike Eissenberg Chief, Technical Branch, Denver Service Center, NPS; and F. Boesma, Getty Conservation Institute.

The 1999 edition by Jessica Johnson updated the 1990 edition. The 1990 edition was developed by NPS staff: Edward McManus, Regional Conservator, North Atlantic Region; Tom Carter, Paintings Conservator, Division of Conservation, HFC; Diana Pardue, Staff Curator, Curatorial Services Division (CSD) (now MMP); John Hunter, Supervisory Staff Curator, CSD; and Toby Raphael, Conservator, Division of Conservation, HFC.


by Kathleen Byrne, Staff Curator, CSD (now MMP).

Contributors: Brynn Bender, David Bitterman, Catharine Hawks and Gretchen Voeks. Brynn Bender provided photographs.

Update based on the 2001 edition by Sara J. Wolf and Jessica S. Johnson, Conservators, MMP
Contributors: Rachael Arenstein, A.M. Art Conservation, LLC; Brynn Bender, Mary Coughlin, Carla Mattix, Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Division of Parks and Wildlife; Linda Blaser, Associate Manager, Museum Conservation Services, HFC; Joan Glassman, Procurement Analyst, NPS, WASO WCP Denver; and Kim Neutzlinger.


Contributors: Kathryn Makos, Senior Industrial Hygienist, Smithsonian Institution.


Contributors: Steve Floray and Sara J. Wolf.

Appendices


Appendix N, Curatorial Care of Wooden Objects. (2002) – Cynthia Murdock, based on the 1990 edition by Al Levitan, Furniture Conservator, Division of Conservation, HFC.

Appendix O, Curatorial Care of Metal Objects. (2002) – Martin Burke.


Appendix Q, Curatorial Care of Natural History Collections. (1999) – Catherine Hawks, Private Conservator.

Appendix R, Curatorial Care of Photographic Objects. (1996) – Debbie Hess Norris, Assistant Professor of Photographic Conservation, University of Delaware, and President of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works.

Appendix S, Curatorial Care of Objects Made from Leather and Skin Products. (1996) – Toby Raphael, Conservator, Department of Conservation, HFC.

Appendix T, Curatorial Care of Biological Collections. (2005) - Stephen L. Williams, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies, Baylor University and Collections Manager, Strecker Museum Complex (adapted from Mr. Williams’ Ph.D. dissertation); Catherine Hawks.

Appendix U, Curatorial Care of Paleontological Collections. (2005) - Greg McDonald, Senior Curator of Natural History, MMP; Ann Elder, Paleontologist and Museum Curator, Dinosaur National Monument; Sally Shelton, Collections Officer, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History.

Acknowledgements