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
I. Regional Museum Conferences and Associations

- 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>

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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/mpmaindex.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>.

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**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:
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>