

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:

Rediscovering the New York University Papyrus Collection: Recent Preservation and Digitization Efforts

Speaker: Melody S. Chen

4pm, February 27, 2020

Mercer County Library HQ, Corner Brunswick Pike and Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville

In 2017 New York University received an eighteen-month grant to carry out a condition survey, photodocumentation, rehousing and conservation treatment of the University's papyrus collection of over 2,000 items. Because previous conservation efforts prioritized only select items for teaching and publication purposes, the majority of the collection was left in unstable, inappropriate housing, often with inadequate labels and identification data. The holistic approach of this project not only permitted the creation of a stable environment for the entire collection, but also afforded the opportunity to reorganize the collection, making it searchable and accessible through papyri.info. This talk will also introduce 3D scanning and RTI imaging of two cuneiform tablets from the NYU Libraries Special Collections.

Author Bio

Melody S. Chen is owner and principal conservator at Melody S. Chen Art Conservation. From October 2017 – June 2019 she was a Special Collections Project Conservator at New York University Libraries. She holds a M.A. in Art Conservation from Buffalo State College, and specializes in the conservation of works on paper and East Asian paintings.

RSVP to help us plan for refreshments: gary@saretzky.com

The Princeton Preservation Group meets about four times per year in various locations in New Jersey. Meetings are free and open to the public. For a list of past programs and membership information see <http://princetonpreservation.org> Members are notified of upcoming programs.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents a Susan Swartzburg Memorial Lecture:

Hallel Yadin
June 7, 2021
4pm via Zoom

Processing Born-Digital Manuscript Collections: A Case Study

Manuscripts are a key collecting area for many archives. An increasing number of manuscript donations are born-digital, meaning that repositories must establish protocols for materials in a variety of formats, originating from a broad range of platforms. This presentation will cover the accessioning, processing, and preservation workflows for a Google Drive manuscript collection at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. While the presentation will focus on the specific systems used at YIVO, I will discuss the process in broad terms so that anyone can get a sense of how to apply it to their own institution.

About the speaker:

Hallel Yadin is a distance M.L.I.S. student at the University of Missouri with an emphasis in archival studies. She is also completing the Society of American Archivists's Digital Archives Specialist certificate, thanks to a training grant from the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Network. The funding was provided in the context of her position as an archivist at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrc-ChpjwpEtFv4eYTLYQ0h6YOgLz8o7wH>

Introduction by Gary Saretzky, PPG President

Thank you, Melissa [Ziobro], for hosting this event, which is being recorded. Since 2005, I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Princeton Preservation Group and was one of the original members. Founded by Susan Garretson Swartzburg, then Preservation Librarian for Alexander Library at Rutgers University, PPG has been meeting regularly since 1983. Susan was an enthusiastic advocate for preservation and inspired many students to follow in her footsteps. PPG is an outgrowth of get togethers in her home in Princeton where her graduate students in her Preservation of Library Materials class would give reports on their term projects to other students and local professionals. She established the PPG to provide an opportunity for professionals to share information about projects, events, and techniques. Since 1983, more than 130 programs, some with several speakers, have

been given on a wide range of preservation and conservation topics. Continuing Swartzburg's tradition, speakers are never paid and as a result, dues have stayed at \$5 per year and there are no plans for an increase. If you are not a member, I would like to encourage you to join PPG so that you will be informed about future programs. Also, if you would like to be a presenter, we are open to proposals.

On behalf of the PPG Program Committee that also includes Tim Corlis, Vice President, and Evelyn Frangakis, Program Chair, I am very pleased to introduce Hallel Yadin as the speaker for our first Zoom program. Hallel is also the first speaker in our new series, the Susan Swartzburg Memorial Lecture, that provides opportunities for students and recent graduates to share their preservation work experiences. Information about the series, past lectures, and membership is available on our webpage, princetonpreservation.org.

Hallel Yadin is a distance M.L.I.S. student at the University of Missouri with an emphasis in archival studies. She is also completing the Society of American Archivists' Digital Archives Specialist certificate, thanks to a training grant from the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Network. The funding was provided in the context of her position as an archivist at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York City. She will be speaking about her work there processing born-digital manuscript collections.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:

The Dread of Archivists, Bibliophiles, and Librarians: Bookworms

Online Lecture via Zoom, November 17, 2021, 7pm

Link to register: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtceusrT0iGdJfVHWA3k0LkzllgJKFwa7U>

In an engaging slide presentation, bibliophile Dr. David Wolf, a physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital, will review the early history of literature about bookworms, with illustrations from books and articles on the subject dating in range from Hooke (1665) to justifiably renowned collector Dr. William Osler (1917). Dr. Wolf will discuss and show examples of insect enemies of books, with characteristic types of damage, by silverfish, termites, book lice, and various beetles and other pests. Our speaker's lecture will be a revised version of a broader presentation he gave for the Medical History Society of New Jersey on September 21, 2021.

About PPG:

The Princeton Preservation Group has been meeting several times per year since 1983 to hear lectures on a wide range of topic relating to the preservation of cultural artifacts, including but not limited to books, manuscripts, artwork, furniture, photographs, tombstones, Lucy the Elephant, costumes, videotapes, and buildings. Recent meetings have been held in Manalapan, Princeton, New Brunswick, Morristown, and Lawrenceville. Meetings are open to the public without charge.

Among others, topics have included:

Disaster Recovery: Mold and Water Damage

Preserving Ethnic Materials

Binding Rare Books

Historic Building Conservation

Digitizing Photograph Collections

For more information, including membership (dues are \$5 per year) and a list of past programs, see <http://princetonpreservation.org>

If you missed our last program presented by Hallel Yadin, "Processing Born-Digital Manuscript Collections: A Case Study," a video is linked at the PPG website in the list of programs.

Princeton Preservation Group, with cosponsorship of the MARAC/NJCaucus and the NJLA History & Preservation Section, presents:

The CAPES Archival Consulting Program: CAPES Is Here to Help!

April 27, 2022, 1pm via Zoom

Speakers:

Janette Pardo, Reference Librarian, Wayne Public Library, and Coordinator, CAPES

Debra Schiff, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at The College of New Jersey, and CAPES Consultant

Abstract:

CAPES (Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) is the free consulting service provided by the MARAC/NJ Caucus (MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference/New Jersey Caucus) with funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission. Since 1989, CAPES consultants have produced more than 500 reports for archives, libraries, historical societies and other organizations to help enhance archival collection management. This online free PPG program will cover:

- A brief overview of the origins of the CAPES program
- Who and what qualifies for a CAPES evaluation
- How the CAPES program works
- Second CAPES evaluations
- Spreading the word about CAPES
- Using CAPES reports to get grants

About the Speakers:

Janette Pardo, Reference Librarian, Wayne Public Library, and CAPES Coordinator

At the Wayne Public Library, Janette's work includes collection development, adult programming and processing of the local history collection. After serving as a CAPES Consultant since 2001, she transitioned into the role of CAPES Coordinator in 2021. Prior to Wayne, she was a Research Associate for The Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers University. She holds a Master of Library & Information Science (MLIS) with a concentration in archives and preservation from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey-New Brunswick.

Debra Schiff, Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at The College of New Jersey and CAPES Consultant

Deb Schiff was the 2020 recipient of the New Jersey Library Association's Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award for her work developing a series of low-cost, hands-on workshops teaching basic archival skills to public librarians, religious archivists, and local historians. She is both a CAPES consultant for MARAC and a private preservation consultant for archives throughout New Jersey. Schiff has been active in and has held leadership positions in both the New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section and the Society of American Archivists. She received her MLIS from Rutgers, and BA in Communication -- Radio, Television and Film, from William Paterson University. Prior to changing careers in 2009, Deb was a consultant and freelance writer/editor for online software companies and technical magazines, respectively.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkc-GhqT0rHNRNyTNH8NnBQOnmxeEhi291>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

About the Princeton Preservation Group (PPG):

PPG began meeting in 1983 as a means to exchange information among archivists, librarians, conservators and others with responsibilities for the preservation of cultural materials. Meetings have always been free and open to anyone. Program topics have been wide ranging and a list of past program is on the PPG website. For information about PPG, including membership for which dues are \$5 per year, see <http://princetonpreservation.org>

Gary Saretzky
President, PPG

Melissa Ziobro
PPG Meeting Coordinator

Tara Maharjan,
Chair, MARAC/NJ Caucus

Beth Zakcohen
President, NJLA History & Preservation Section

Princeton Preservation Group
Susan Swartzburg Memorial Lecture

September 12, 2022. 7pm via Zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqfuGhpjMoGdy4JmT7036wklWtKyAA9FdG>

The Care and Context of Historic and Contemporary Hairwork

Speaker: Miriam-Helen Rudd

Bio: Miriam-Helene Rudd (she/her/hers) is currently enrolled in the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation where she is pursuing a major in objects and a minor in textiles as a Graduate Fellow in the Class of 2024. This past summer, she was an intern at the Brooklyn Museum. In 2021 Miriam-Helene graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.A. in Art History and Art Conservation, minors in History and Fashion History & Culture, and a senior thesis investigating the use of human hair as a material.

Abstract:

Human hair is uniquely positioned within material culture as an intensely personal medium; hairwork secures strands of memory and makes permanent the fleeting. This research investigates the historic and contemporary use of human hair as a medium, as well as approaches to the care and treatment of these objects. Spanning boundaries of time, culture, and geography, human hair is a multivalent medium. Hair has been twisted and woven into ropes and cloth that provided protection to the body, sealed away in relics and charms for the sake of ritual and memory, and crafted into decorative items of dress to indicate status and materialize ties of kinship and allegiance. The very act of creating objects from human hair is an act of devotion and preservation, as after hair has fallen from the head or been cut off the strands will typically be discarded and left to naturally degrade. Contemporary artists have drawn upon the lengthy history of hairwork and have woven complex, often personal narratives through the manipulation of strands of hair. Growing interest in the medium has resulted in increased display over the past ten years, resulting in a more pressing need to understand its degradation and treatment. Human hair is at risk for damage particularly from mishandling, environmental fluctuations, pests, and dissociation. As a material that outlasts our individual lifespans and so often was used to immortalize relationships and individuals, we have a responsibility to learn to care for human hair.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:

The Campbell Soup Company Corporate Archives: Preserving the History of an American Food Brand

Speaker: Scott Hearn, Corporate Archivist, Campbell Soup Company

Date: November 15, 2022, 7pm via Zoom

Registration: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctd--uqDojGtVouRvVzAAcMp6hhesT-jlf>

Abstract

The business that would become Campbell Soup Company was founded in 1869 in Camden, NJ as a cannery. The invention of condensed soup in 1897 fundamentally changed the trajectory of the business and how American consumers purchased and enjoyed soup. The goal of the corporate archives is to protect, preserve, and internally leverage our historic holdings across all brands. The current archival collection contains around 10,000 items of various mediums. To fully understand the scope of the collections, Corporate Archivist Scott Hearn will explore the early history of Campbell covering 1869 to 1922, followed by an examination of the challenges of working in a private archive and the preservation of such a diverse collection of artifacts.

Bio

Scott Hearn (he/him/his) is the Corporate Archivist for the Campbell Soup Company. Scott earned his B.A. in History and M.A. in Public History from Rutgers-Camden. Before working at Campbell, Scott worked for the Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, PhillyHistory.org, and the Philadelphia City Archives. Scott began working at Campbell in 2018 as the Assistant Corporate Archivist and became the Corporate Archivist in 2021. He oversees the archival collection of the Campbell Soup Company and all of the associated brands.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:

The Woodstock Oral History Project of the Museum of Bethel Woods, New York

Speaker: Julia Fell, Curator of Exhibits & Oral History

Date: February 27, 2023, 7pm via Zoom

Registration: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvc--qqzsqHNabcNF7FI2HINezkMILBGsH>

Speaker:

Julia Fell is the Curator of Exhibits & Oral History at the Museum at Bethel Woods, located the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock Music & Art Fair. A graduate of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, she was trained in oral history methods and developed a firm belief in the importance of first-person narratives in history. She began implementing oral history at the Museum during her first year there in 2018, and has been the lead curator on the Museum's oral history initiative since 2020. To date, Fell and her team have recorded over 300 new audiovisual interviews with Woodstock alumni and other players in the 1960s counterculture. Supported by grants from MANY, NYSCA, and IMLS, Fell and the Museum staff have been able to execute a series of experimental oral history pop-up programs over the last year which have been incredibly successful and enlightening. She enjoys connecting with individuals as an interviewer, and working with colleagues, consultants, and interns as the oral history initiative grows and evolves.

Abstract:

Woodstock isn't just 1 story; it's 450,000 stories. And the Museum at Bethel Woods wants to hear them all. In the wake of the 50th anniversary of Woodstock in 2019, the Museum team evaluated opportunities for the Museum's legacy over the next 50 years. The chance to build a robust collection of first person narratives about the greatest festival of all time and the decade that led up to it couldn't be ignored. Nor could it be ignored that the window of opportunity to capture these stories will only continue to shrink. Since 2020, the Museum at Bethel Woods has been on a mission to collect as many stories from Woodstock attendees and other participants in the 1960s counterculture as possible. Curator Julia Fell has acted as lead of the oral history initiative since its inception. In this presentation she will discuss the motivations behind the project, the interview process, experimental programming, and the successes and lessons of the Museum's work so far.

Princeton Preservation Group presents, "Meet Preservation NJ" with PNJ Executive Director Kelly Ruffel

May 23, 2023, 7pm, via Zoom

Join PPG to meet the new Executive Director of PNJ, learn a bit about the group's history and current goals, and how you might get involved.

Founded in 1978, Preservation New Jersey is a statewide, member-supported non-profit historic preservation organization. The group promotes the economic vitality, sustainability, and heritage of New Jersey's diverse communities through advocacy and education. PNJ publishes the annual 10 Most Endangered Historic Places in NJ list, which draws attention to remarkable sites and to their many challenges; publishes instructional and informative toolkits and other educational materials and publications; maintains an informative newsletter, as well as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds; advocates for sound public policy at the local, state and federal levels on behalf of the historic preservation community in New Jersey; conducts tours, workshops, lectures and conferences to educate the public about historic sites and preservation and sustainability issues; provides a network of and informative training opportunities for professionals through the Building Industry Network and serves as a clearinghouse for technical assistance and information to homeowners, municipalities, historic preservation commissions, nonprofit agencies and other individuals and groups.

Princeton Preservation Group presents:

“From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower: Charles Hine’s Challenge to Preservation”

by Professor Nicholas Yablon, University of Iowa

September 26, 2023, 7pm, via Zoom

Register at <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoce-qrTkve9Giv8oR8B7LMGfte4iM3353>

Abstract

Prof. Yablon will discuss his book-in-progress, which examines a unique survey of New York, undertaken in 1905 by amateur photographer-historian, Charles Hine. Following Broadway up the entire island of Manhattan in search of features that were disappearing, Hine produced about 300 photographs and pasted them into a three-volume album, alongside newspaper clippings and his own historical essay. He titled it, “From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower.”

This talk will emphasize Hine’s expansive, heterodox approach to preservation. While documenting several “historic” buildings on Broadway, he focused more on vernacular and relatively recent structures that were threatened by urban development, such as theaters, hotels, stores, or even squatters’ shacks; on marginalized social groups, such as sex workers, street vendors, and market gardeners; on apparently disappearing animals, such as working horses; and on the wild flora and geology of the island. Yablon’s study of Hine’s photographs thus contributes to ongoing efforts to expand the scope of historic preservation, and to connect it to urban ecology.

Bio

Nick Yablon received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago and is Professor of History and American Studies at the University of Iowa. He is the author of *Untimely Ruins: An Archaeology of American Urban Modernity, 1819-1919* (University of Chicago Press, 2009) and *Remembrance of Things Present: The Invention of the Time Capsule* (University of Chicago Press, 2019). He is currently completing “From the Sky Scrapper to the Wild Flower”: Charles Hine’s Survey of New York’s Broadway” (under contract to Columbia University Press).

About PPG:

The Princeton Preservation Group has been meeting for forty years on a broad range of topics related to preservation. Meetings are open to the public. For more information about PPG, see <http://princetonpreservation.org>

PPG Presents: "Treating and Rehousing a Tintype Collection"
Speakers: Johanna Pinney and Katarina Stiller
Live Stream via Zoom, November 2, 2023

Zoom registration: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkcOysqDMpGdZCN7sjXp3gvJso9lsEg-uV>

Abstract

In 2022, Winterthur Library acquired fifteen 19th-century tintype portraits of Black Americans. This talk details their conservation, which included research on tintype production, consolidation of flaking media, and rehousing in sealed packages.

Speaker Bios:

Johanna Pinney is currently a rising third year library and archive materials conservation major, paper conservation minor, in the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC). She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2016 with a BA in art conservation, and minors in anthropology and German. Her pre-program work was varied, including assisting with the restoration of a 20th-c. steam locomotive at Shelburne Museum in Vermont, the Terrific Tuesday museum education project at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, and the treatment of a large painting currently at the Museum of the American Revolution. She spent time at Historic Odessa interning in paper conservation. She then spent over two years working in Kansas City, Missouri, at Heugh-Edmondson Conservation Services, LLC on many different paper and book conservation projects. The following two years were spent at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, where she focused on preventive conservation and the care of their many historic homes. Johanna is spending her third year working at a private paper conservation studio and at Dartmouth College Library.

Katarina Stiller is a rising third year library and archive materials conservation major and paper conservation minor at WUDPAC. She graduated from California State University, Long Beach in 2018 with a BFA in ceramics. After graduating, she gained a variety of pre-program experiences which have included working with UCLA Library, the Library of Congress, and the Margaret Herrick Library/Academy of Motion Pictures. During graduate school, she has interned with the Conservation Center of Art & Historic Artifacts and the University of Michigan Library, and she will be spending her third year at the University of Iowa Libraries.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents

Meet the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music

January 30, 2024, 7pm via Zoom

Registration Link:

<https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwud-CprD4qGtWl-mZZcs2-A3H9xKZMTNDA>

Abstract: The Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music (BSACAM) at Monmouth University preserves the legacy of Bruce Springsteen and celebrates the history of American music and its diversity of artists and genres. The collection holds approximately 35,000 items dating from 1927 to the present.

Monmouth University recently announced a new 30,000 square foot building to house the Archives, related exhibition galleries, and a 230 seat, state-of-the-art theater. Join the BSACAM Curator Melissa Ziobro for an overview of the collection's history, programmatic and exhibition efforts to date, and an inside look at ongoing efforts to stage a major traveling exhibit while planning for a museum opening in 2026.

Speaker: Melissa Ziobro, Curator, BSACAM, and Director of Public History, Monmouth University

Melissa began her career in 2004 as a historian for the US Army at Fort Monmouth, where her duties included managing the Command archive, exhibition development, oral history, and more. She transitioned to teaching at Monmouth University, where her classes have included US History, Intro to Public History, Museums and Archives Management Basics, and Oral History, among others. She transitioned to the role of BSACAM curator this past August.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:
Preparing a Palace: Installing Monumental Egyptian Architecture at the Penn Museum
April 16, 2024, 7pm, via Zoom
Speaker: Julia Commander

Registration: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYpc-GhrjopGtNiDsvkg51AwXqX7Yjym2tT>

Abstract:

The Penn Museum is currently undergoing a major building transformation project, which includes the reinstallation of its Ancient Egypt and Nubia galleries. Components of massive structures, like the Palace of 19th Dynasty Pharaoh Merenptah, are being stabilized and treated as part of this ongoing effort. Beginning in 2019, a team of Penn Museum conservators established an off-site lab where treatment and reconstruction for many of these large elements could be addressed for the first time in over a hundred years. Collaboration with engineers, mount makers, and riggers has helped the team establish non-invasive and reversible strategies for the reassembly of monumental structures. This talk will take a look at the new methods and materials that have been developed for this unique project and reflect on lessons learned throughout the process.

Speaker:

Julia Commander (she/her) is the Alice and Herbert Sachs Conservator of Egyptian Collections at the Penn Museum, currently focusing on treatment and reinstallation of monumental stone architecture. Julia earned her MS from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in 2017, specializing in objects conservation and preventive collections care. Experience at the American Museum of Natural History and the Gordion Excavations in Turkey supported a specific interest in archaeological materials, which was further developed through post-graduate training at the J. Paul Getty Museum Antiquities Department and a research fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:

Company Town Collecting: Community-driven project to document lives of industrial workers in Roebling, New Jersey

Speaker: Lynne Calamia, Ph.D., Executive Director, Roebling Museum

June 13, 2024, 7pm via Zoom

Registration: https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rcuqtrzwtHNLcpHzJ_Kg9ZVzgfUwa0CM1

Roebling Museum tells the story of industrial workers in a company town built by the Roebling company, most famous for building iconic suspension bridges such as the Brooklyn Bridge. It is embarking on a new project to turn a working-class row house into an immersive experience to allow visitors to more fully understand industrial life in the 1930s–1940s. Executive Director Lynne Calamia will share about recent successes in engaging the local community and descendant families to gather new artifacts and stories, shedding light on what it was like to live in the shadow of a steel and wire rope mill. Join us to learn about low-cost and creative ways to preserve local history through community collaboration.

About the Speaker

Lynne Calamia is a leader in the field of Public History with more than a decade of broad, hands-on experience. She is committed to building strong, sustainable organizations and uses her expertise in non-profit strategy and management to bring creative solutions to small museums and historic sites. As Executive Director of Roebling Museum, Dr. Calamia, who earned MA and PhD degrees from Penn State University, has built a strong coalition of staff, board members, volunteers from the community, and donors. She has introduced innovative, mission-driven strategies to prepare Roebling Museum to step up to the next level of organizational development.

Title: 800 Tsatsa: Preservation in Remote Rachen Nunnery, Tsum Nepal.

Speaker: Ann Shaftel, Conservator

Date/Time: August 27, 2024, 7pm

Registration via Zoom: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclf-mrqDoiGNEpUr9XVt3PCdaCtwy3Pcca>

Abstract:

A stellar example of successful community engagement began in a remote nunnery in high altitude Nepal when a team from a conservation non-profit, Treasure Caretaker Training (TCT), was invited to work on more than 800 tsatsa (blessed clay tablets of Avalokiteshvara). Avalokiteśvara is a bodhisattiva, an awakened being associated with great compassion. The team was warmly welcomed into the life of the nunnery and worked together in their historic meditation hall.

Bio:

Ann Shaftel is Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation, Fellow of American Institute for Conservation, and member of Canadian Association of Professional Conservators, ICOM and ICOMOS. Since 1970, Ann has worked in conservation of Buddhist art with monasteries, dharma centers, museums, universities and communities. Her work is referenced by international scholars, and advised and blessed by Buddhist teachers.

Princeton Preservation Group

Laura Wahl, Library Conservator

Preserving Plastic Handles at the Hagley Museum & Library

December 2, 2024, 7pm

Zoom registration link: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0qdu6ppzwpGdK7MzKzM975ltbbq2aNhpjS>

Abstract

This talk will introduce the ongoing project of preserving a series of prototype models of plastic handles for consumer products created by designer Thomas Lamb. The items are components of a broader archival collection at Hagley Museum and Library, frequently accessed by researchers interested in mid 20th century design, accessibility, and ergonomics. A conservation survey at the Library in 2023 attempted to identify plastic objects using dating, visual characteristics, and odor to classify the polymer by feeding the data into an online plastics analysis tool. This method helped to narrow down the likely suspects, but often it was far from conclusive. There were concerns about the degradation materials (off gassing) and the possible impact on adjacent metals and other plastics. A more precise materials identification was desired. Object conservators were consulted, and some concepts for preventive storage were considered. In the spring of 2024, under the direction of Dr. Liora Mael, a group of undergraduate University of Delaware Art Conservation students performed FTIR analysis at Winterthur's SRAL on some of the unknown plastic materials. The students worked as a team to document each handle and to organize the analytical work flow. Some of the identities were surprising. This is likely due to the experimental nature of some materials in the Lamb collection, being examples along a continuum of the design process, rather than final products. The information generated by the students will soon be used to help improve storage and preservation of the collection.

Bio

Laura Wahl has been the Library Conservator at Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware since 2008. There she works to preserve a wide range of library and archival materials documenting the history of business and technology. Prior to Hagley she worked as a Conservator and Fellow at the Conservation Center for Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. She graduated from the University of Delaware/Winterthur Program in Art Conservation where she majored in Photograph Conservation. Laura also has a BFA in Visual Communication/Photographic Illustration from Ohio University. Laura has recently been researching gelatin DOP photographic papers of the 1890s in the context of photographs by William H. Rau in the Hagley Library.

Princeton Preservation Group
Presents a Lecture in the
Susan Swartzburg Memorial Lecture Series

Speaker: Maria Júlia Costa

Title: Conservation and Treatment of Acetate Negatives

February 11, 2025, 7pm, Virtual via Zoom

Registration: <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJludO6rpj8iG9KwDF5EKGSVhktf354KOzbl>

Abstract:

This lecture addresses the application of cellulose acetate negatives in the world of photographs, focusing on their physical characteristics, historical significance, and deterioration. The discussion will cover its importance as support for photographic films throughout the 20th century, and the challenges associated with its conservation. The presentation will include the stripping method for conservation of acetate negatives, presenting two case studies of stripping treatment.

Bio:

Maria Júlia Costa is an emerging professional based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and has a bachelor's degree in Conservation and Restoration of Artwork from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). She is a master's degree student in Preservação e Gestão do Patrimônio Cultural das Ciências e da Saúde at Casa de Oswaldo Cruz, Fiocruz, Brazil. Among Maria's experiences, it is worth mentioning her one-year internship at Gawain Weaver Art Conservation, where she had the opportunity to improve her skills in the conservation of photographs field and digitization for cultural heritage, and her participation as a Guest Scholar at the PhotoBlock - ARTC 657 at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Maria worked as a supervisor in the conservation of photographs for a project funded by the Getty Foundation that aimed to stabilize and re-house 5.000 photographs damaged by fire in 2021. Currently, she is a Collections Coordinator for Instituto Ziraldo in Rio de Janeiro.

The Susan Swartzburg Memorial Lecture Series

The Princeton Preservation Group (PPG) has been meeting since 1983 with lectures that are open to the public on a wide range of topics related to conservation and preservation of cultural artifacts. To honor PPG founder Susan Swartzburg's memory as an educator, PPG hosts occasional lectures presented by students or recent graduates on topics related to conservation and preservation of cultural materials. Additional information on PPG is available at its website <http://princetonpreservation.org>

Princeton Preservation Group Presents a Susan G. Swartzburg Memorial Lecture

Title: Keeping it Cool: Recovering a Large Garment and Textile Collection at a Small Community Museum

Speaker: Binh-An Nguyen

April 8, 2025, 7pm via Zoom. Register at <https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcuceCorjsrHte41RnGbXiWVXcK7Vp2Qwc7>

Abstract: The Hopewell Museum, located in the village of Hopewell, New Jersey, was established to preserve and display artifacts that "serve as an expression of village life in New Jersey and tell the story of Hopewell-area history from its pre-colonial beginnings to the present" (<https://thehopewellmuseum.org/the-museum-and-its-mission>). The Museum's collection is comprised of a wide range of materials, including a large and significant collection of 18th to 20th century garments and textiles. As part of the Museum's Reimagination project to celebrate its 100-year anniversary, the Museum will be renovating its building, which requires relocation of its entire collection to off-site storage. Over the last few years, the Museum's Board and volunteers have catalogued and packed the artifacts, art, and furniture collection for relocation. However, the garments and textiles were found to be infested and required specialized treatment. Under the guidance of a preventive conservator, a team of interns led by a graduate student from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC), processed the collection: each piece was examined and documented; packaged for disinfestation by freezing; frozen; reexamined and cleaned after treatment; and rehoused for off-site storage. Once the museum renovation is complete, the garment and textile collections will be available for future research and exhibition to showcase fashion history within New Jersey and the local community.

Bio: Binh-An Nguyen is a graduate fellow of the Winterthur Museum and University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC) where she specializes in preventive conservation. This program is a three-year masters program based at the Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware where she will earn her M.S. in Art Conservation in 2026. Part of the program's curriculum involves summer internships where the fellows learn from conservators in the field to exercise and build upon the knowledge they have gained thus far in their studies. Thus, this brought her the opportunity to intern at the Hopewell Museum in 2024. What led her to pursue preventive conservation as her major was realizing that many of the aspects of the projects she enjoyed the most were deeply rooted in preventive conservation. Additionally, she loves how preventive conservation can often be a more accessible way for people to care for their objects and collections. She looks forward to using her skills to continue to help people care for their collections as best as they can. Binh-An earned her B.S. in Chemistry and Minor in Art History from Temple University and in her free time loves to knit, explore the local towns and visit museums.

Princeton Preservation Group Presents:
Down the Brook: Historic Preservation at Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage
Speaker: Paul F. Soltis

Live Stream via Zoom, July 17, 2025 7pm

Registration: https://monmouth.zoom.us/meeting/register/3j_XbFV_SxCIEBINyFVH5w

Two hundred and fifty years ago in December 1775, Scottish emigrant and Philadelphia merchant John Wallace purchased from Dutch Reformed minister Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh 95 acres along the Raritan River in Somerset County. In the opening years of the Revolutionary War, Mr. Wallace constructed the Wallace House at "Hope Farm" unknowingly in time for the Wallace House to serve as George Washington's Headquarters for the Continental Army's Middlebrook Cantonment of December 1778 - June 1779.

Two hundred and fifty years later, the Wallace House is going under construction again, undergoing a major historic rehabilitation in time for its 250th birthday in 2026 and the 250th anniversary of Washington's Headquarters at Middlebrook in 2028-29. Follow the history of historic preservation at the Wallace House, from the historic home's opening as a museum by the Revolutionary Memorial Society of New Jersey in 1897 to the Revitalization of Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites underway now for Revolution NJ.

Bio:

Paul F. Soltis is the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's historian for Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites. Paul contributes to Revolution NJ, New Jersey's official observance of the 250th anniversaries of New Jersey's first Constitution July 2, 2026, and the American Revolution in New Jersey on now through 2033.

