EDITORIAL

The New Year 2014 is in full swing already, but we still have to fulfill a promise given in the old year – the next issue of the Newsletter! There is indeed a lot to report – enjoy reading!

The WG Interim meeting dominated life and work during 2013, at least for Kate van Lookeren Campagne and I, who were leading the local organizing team in Amsterdam and at the same time acting as co-editors for the proceedings. We both were pleased about the positive feedback and were VERY happy when it was all over (see picture below). We are thrilled to present in this Newsletter, a report from somebody looking at it from a different angle – Lauren Fair (see page 2). Looking ahead at the next meetings, we shall mention the ICOM-CC Triennial in Melbourne (page 8) and looking even further ahead you should be wondering about the venue for the next WG meeting – where will it be held? (page 9).

Highlights of this Newsletter again include a section on new members, book announcements, and upcoming events. Specialty Groups met in Amsterdam during breaks at the conference and so you may be curious about what our Assistant coordinators (ACOs) have to report.

We are proud of two enthusiastic colleagues, who have shared their work experience with us – Eva Wolf and Katie Harrison. I also want to thank Guus Verhaar and Kate for their help in the editing and layout of this Newsletter and Janis Mandrus for proofreading.

A Working Group needs a coordinator. I have completed two years of my three year tenure and have been very happy to serve the community in this position. In September 2014 we will hold new elections for the next coordinator. Are you interested to stand for candidacy? Check out the section on page 9, and also watch out for further information during the coming months. An appeal to all: please remember to participate in the election of the ICOM-CC directory board and – of course – of your own WG coordinator!

A Working Group does not exist without its members! Please be (or become?) an active member of this WG! Make sure that you have renewed your ICOM membership for 2014 – and do not forget to enroll as member of this group.

With very best wishes for a successful 2014!

Hannelore Roemich,
Coordinator, ICOM-CC G&C WG
WG INTERIM MEETING 2013: RECENT ADVANCES IN GLASS, STAINED GLASS, AND CERAMICS CONSERVATION

ICOM-CC Working Group Glass and Ceramics Interim Meeting and Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass (Corpus Vitrearum-ICOMOS)

7-10 October 2013, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Lauren Fair

During the second week of October, the 17th century palace known as Amsterdam’s Trippenhuis, which houses the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW, figure 1), opened its doors to the 222 participants of a unique conference, where for the first time the interim meeting of the ICOM-CC Ceramics and Glass Working Group joined up with the Forum of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass (Corpus Vitrearum-ICOMOS). This conference provided a rare opportunity to learn about the latest research and innovations coming from both professional networks.

Jointly sponsoring the conference was the University of Amsterdam, the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands, the National Museum of Antiquities, and the Rijksmuseum. The local organizing committee and student assistants ran the entire week seamlessly, yielding a packed program of excellent lectures, plentiful coffee breaks that encouraged conversation (figure 2), and ample time to view the many interesting posters that contributed to this excitingly collaborative conference. Amsterdam, the city of canals (figure 3), coffee shops, and bicycles, is also a forerunner in the arts and the advancement of conservation research. This lively and vibrant setting perfectly inspired a week of innovation and exploration of issues such as manganese darkening, glass “disease,” new and exciting treatment techniques, and interesting analytical studies.

Fig. 1: The Conference Room at the KNAW. Photo: Renske Dooijes.

The talks were grouped into six thematic sessions, spread over the course of the week, all of which focused on presenting recent advances in the field. The first session on “Cracks and Fractures,” started by looking very closely – on a microscopic level – at glass. Gerhard Eggert’s study of chemist and microscopist Wilhelm Geilmann’s important research on the weathering of glass and photomicrographs of glass crack patterns lauded the chemist’s work but also reinforced the need for proper documentation of our methods. Right in line with this, Katrin Wittstadt presented on the causes of “sugaring” in historic glasses and demonstrated through SEM images how microfissures are often filled with gel glass or corrosion products which limit consolidation attempts in these cases. Wrapping up this section, Polytimi Loukopoulou took us into the macro- and microanalysis she and her colleagues are doing with beautiful gold-leaf glass tesserae from the Daphni Monastery mosaics in Greece.

Session two turned to the topic of “Bonding and Filling,” with five great talks that got everyone excited about new conservation techniques to try on glass. Reinforcing the understanding that glass consolidation has its limitations, Kristel De
Vis presented a collaborative paper that examined the physical properties and suitability of consolidants for Dalle de Verre, comparing several epoxies, acryloids, and UV-curing acrylates.

Two papers presented fascinating ways to approach loss compensation in glass. Astrid van Giffen explained the procedures of refining cast Paraloid B-72 at the Corning Museum of Glass. Following this, Karen Stamm presented the work that she, Gorazd Lemajić, and Lisa Pilosi have been pioneering with vacuum-formed PVC molds for casting epoxy in situ on glass objects at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Despite their obvious differences, these papers presented impressive options to treat loss compensation in glass objects.

Sophie Wolf and her colleagues from Switzerland faced this issue head-on with their in-depth look at protective glazing systems in historic churches that are primarily fitted for insulation purposes.

Stained-glass installations were also discussed, and two different scenarios were presented: an impressive gallery installation of American stained-glass windows in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, presented by Gerri Strickler; and selected case studies of re-installation of stained-glass windows in architectural settings in the Low Countries, presented by Geertje Huisman. In both cases, the need for collaboration with conservators, whether among museum departments, or with architects and private owners, was highlighted.

The afternoon of the second day allowed time for several business meetings to discuss developments in the sub-groups: Enamels, History, and Glass Degradation (see detailed reports in the Newsletter). This was followed by a visit to the newly re-opened Rijksmuseum where curators were available to discuss the collections, and by a visit to the Ateliergebouw where the conservation departments of the University of Amsterdam and the Rijksmuseum are housed together with the research department of the Cultural Heritage Agency. Conference participants had the opportunity to visit the laboratories and speak with conservators, students, and researchers about the impressive work and research projects currently being undertaken (figure 4). The day was rounded off with a lively evening reception at the Ateliergebouw given by the Rijksmuseum.

This session further focused on the bonding and filling of ceramics. Paraloid B-44, which has a higher $T_g$ than B-48N or B-72, was tested and used as an alternative in the assembly of a Tang Dynasty horse model in a study presented by Hanneke Ramakers. Similarly, Roosmarijn van Beemen presented an evaluation of the suitability of a selection of adhesives for large plaster casts, considering bond strength, reversibility, and the risks of potential future damage. After an enlightening first day of talks, attendees enjoyed a lively welcoming reception at the KNAW.

Day two of the conference was filled with beautiful images of stained-glass windows relating to the topic of “Protection and Installation” which comprised the third session of the conference. Stewardship of cultural property does not always go hand-in-hand with the protection of the environment, but energy efficiency is an important consideration.
The next day began with a series of talks on the topic of “Creation and Degradation.” Learning about how cultural objects and artifacts are made is not only essential for their proper care, but also provides deeper insight and understanding of objects. This fourth session included a survey of medieval literary sources on the manufacture and colouration of stained-glass windows, in an important and thorough paper presented by Giulia Brun. Sören Siebe then presented beautiful images of “Luce Floreo” glass windows and elucidated the unusual painting and etching techniques that go into making them. A fascinating talk about 7th-century Chinese ceramic horses and camels discussed the surprising find that they had been fired with inner iron armatures. In order to better understand the firing process, Isabelle Garachon and her Rijksmuseum colleagues analysed both the armatures and ceramic before making replicas and undertaking experimental firings.

Moving from creation to degradation, we then heard about Dutch tiles in Recife, Brazil from Kate van Lookeren Campagne, who through an unusual case study, was able to determine that when tin glaze has poor attachment to the clay body, tiles are more susceptible to salt damage and result in “shivering” glaze; whereas, salt damage to tiles with good glaze fit exhibit damage to the body, rather than just the glaze. Reinforcing the direct relationship between clay content and tile manufacture to glaze fit and deterioration, Melissa Vandevijvere presented an informative paper on the techniques and production defects of 16th-17th century majolica tiles from Antwerp, tracking the techniques through time and providing a clear understanding of the deterioration phenomena. Daniela Cherneva finished the session with an impressive technical study of a highly decorated but damaged lekythos, and presented the audience with beautiful after treatment images.

Session five covered the theme of “Degradation and Treatment.” Two of these talks focused on “manganese browning” in stained-glass windows. The paper presented by Élisabeth Venault de Bourleuf discussed diagnostic techniques and the promising results of using reducing agents to bring back glass transparency. Gert Nuyts showed how high-resolution desktop micro-computed tomography (µCT) used in conjunction with element-specific 2D imaging methods for in situ monitoring can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of reducing agents to reverse manganese browning.

We then turned to ceramics and outdoor sculpture as Bruno Pouliot lectured on advancements in ceramic stain reduction techniques and a successful treatment protocol that he and his American colleagues have been pioneering and sharing through hands-on workshops. Kusi Colonna-Preti took us through a mystery story of white efflorescence of what is most probably bacteria showing up on archaeological ceramics from Pachacamac, Peru, suggesting the burial soil as the contamination source. And finally, Rutger Morelissen ran through case studies that discussed particular challenges and successes when working in the world of public art stewardship in the Netherlands.

On Wednesday evening delegates enjoyed an excellent conference dinner at the IJ-Kantine (figure 5). The airy and stylish restaurant is situated on the other side of the IJ river behind the Central Station which provided the added enjoyment of a ferry trip to and from the dinner.

The sixth and final session of the conference on the Thursday focused on the recent advances in the “Examination and Analysis” of ceramics, glass, and stained glass. Papers covered topics ranging from a technical study of Staffordshire enamel technology on a large group of 18th and 19th century earthenware figures in the Winterthur collection (Delaware, US), to an in-depth look at one stained-glass panel in the Museum M in Louvain (Flanders, Belgium) presented by Joost Caen, a study informing conservation treatment that brought the panel back to a more accurate and aesthetically appropriate appearance.
Two other investigations of stained glass were presented: Alexandra Rodrigues was able to characterize and correctly date two panels from the stained-glass collection of King Ferdinand II of Portugal, and Aletta Rambaut presented the new information she and her colleagues have learned through in-depth historical interpretation and scientific analysis on the stained-glass windows of St. Jacobs Church in Antwerp, Belgium.

In Stuttgart the Glass Induced Metal-corrosion on Museum Exhibits (GIMME) Project has been set up to investigate this corrosion phenomenon. Andrea Fisher gave a talk on the latest research she and Gerhard Eggert have been doing as part of this project on 18th century snuff boxes, identifying sodium copper formate acetate as the most common corrosion product; though its formation via glass-induced metal corrosion cannot be confirmed.

To conclude the conference, we returned to looking closely at glass surfaces, as Guus Verhaar and Bodill Lamain discussed their work to detect the early stages of glass degradation. Their paper presents five overall categories of deterioration that can be determined through visual inspection, and they have identified ion chromatography as a promising way forward to quantifying levels of degradation.

The conference was enhanced by the full-colour publication of papers and extended abstracts for which we have to thank the authors, the scientific committee, and the editors Hannelore Roemich and Kate van Lookeren Campagne.

On the Friday delegates had the opportunity to visit the spectacular stained-glass windows in Zaandam and Medemblik. Being gluttons for punishment, a particularly eager group of students and faculty took part in a student symposium organised by graduates of the University of Amsterdam, namely Roosmarijn van Beemen and Michiel Overhoff. This greatly fostered connections between six conservation schools that were able to send students to this conference. All of us who attending this day would agree that the symposium was professionally run, and that the student talks were of the highest caliber, right up there with all of the talks heard the previous four days.

The joint conference of the Glass and Ceramics Working Group and the Corpus Vitrearum-ICOMOS was a great success.

We wish to thank the coordinators of the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramic WG and the Corpus Vitrearum-ICOMOS, Hannelore Roemich and Isabelle Pallot-Frossard, for supporting this undertaking as well as the local organizing committee of conservators and researchers from the University of Amsterdam (Kate van Lookeren Campagne), the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (Luc Megens and Ineke Joosten), and the National Museum of Antiquities (Renske Dooijes) for realising such an important and memorable meeting.

Lauren Fair, Assistant Objects Conservator (Winterthur Museum) and Adjunct Professor (Winterthur/UD Program in Art Conservation)

**POST-CONFERENCE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**

October 11, 2013

Kate van Lookeren Campagne

The ICOM-CC WG G&C Interim Meeting and Corpus Vitrearum/ICOMOS Forum joint conference attracted a large number of students – more than 70 in total. In order to give the students attending the conference the opportunity to present themselves at an informal level and learn something about each other’s programmes, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) Conservation Department decided to fund and organise a student symposium on the day following the end of the conference. The symposium was organised by students for students, the chief organisers being two UvA ceramic and glass conservation graduates, Roosmarijn van Beemen, and Michiel Overhoff. In total, more than 50 students and course-tutors attended.

![Fig. 1: The ‘Doelenzaal’, University of Amsterdam](http://www.illc.uva.nl)
The symposium was held in the Doelenzaal, a university building in the heart of Amsterdam (see figures 1 and 2). The students who attended came from six different countries and in total 18 presentations were given from seven conservation programmes including the University of Amsterdam (UvA, the Netherlands), University of Delaware, Winterthur Programme in Art conservation (WUDPAC, USA), the University of Applied Science in Erfurt (Germany), Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design (Germany), the University of York (United Kingdom), and New York University (NYU, USA). Students were also present from the Sorbonne in Paris, La Cambre in Brussels, and Antwerp University. Continuing the interdisciplinary theme of the main conference, the presentations covered conservation issues relating to ceramics, glass, stained glass and metals, as well as combined materials.

Michiel Overhoff (UvA) discussed zinc hydroxy chloride, an alternative fill material for tiles in an architectural setting where variations in climatic conditions may occur. In a similar vein, two interesting case studies of aesthetic fills of lacunae were presented by Victoria Schussler (WUDPAC). In her talk on an Islamic fritware bowl and an iridescent Tiffany vase, the problem of restoring iridescent glaze was tackled. Conservation issues specifically relating to metals were presented by Julia Leunge and Stefania Lorenzotti from the UvA. The two subjects discussed were the use of acetyl acetone for cleaning brass furniture elements and coating systems on archaeological bronzes used for research purposes.

Fig. 2: The Doelenzaal lecture theatre (Photo: http://www.folia.nl)

There was an interesting range of talks on glass conservation beginning with the conservation of a Blaschka glass model by Roosmarijn van Beemen (UvA) who discussed the ethical problems of removing original adhesives that are no longer stable (see figure 3). Alexander Dittus (Stuttgart) presented an interesting study of a Byzantine glass vessel that proved not only to be a fake but also to have a forged ancient repair inscription. The issues involved in bonding a broken 17th century Chinese mirror which had reverse glass painting was discussed by Marijke Top (UvA). The conservation of a Black Forest beaded bridal crown or ‘Schäppel’ described by Stephanie Wümmers (Stuttgart) gave a fascinating insight into regional craft as well as mixed-media (see figure 4). When treating the dirty and cracked glass beads on this object, account had to be taken of the textile support. Finally Melanie Konrad (Stuttgart) discussed the consolidation of loose paint on painted glass vessels, also from the Black Forest, using microcrystalline wax.

Fig. 3: Blaschka glass model Lafoea Calcarata from the Utrecht University Museum collection (Photo: Roosmarijn van Beemen)

Fig. 4: Black Forest beaded bridal crown or ‘Schäppel’ (Photo Stephanie Wümmers)

Presentations involving mixed-materials included that given by Melanie Schwesing from Erfut on the conservation of a glass cloisonné panel. Of special interest was her research into the use of old binding media such as Isinglass. Leonie Samland (Stuttgart) discussed a recent project which involved the mapping and preservation of organic remains found on archaeological metal finds, a challenging task.
Students from the course at York University presented three very interesting talks on stained-glass conservation. Greer Ashman discussed the specific issues involved in the conservation of opalescent windows while Katharine Harrison presented her research into the effect of silver staining on the corrosion of glass. Finally Katrien Mestdagh presented a paper entitled ‘The Stained Glass Conservator Meets the 21st century’, highlighting developments in stained-glass conservation. To conclude, Brian Castriota (NYU) described the (very practical) use of visible-induced luminescence imaging for on-site archaeological conservation.

The symposium was rounded-off with a well-earned reception. Both the staff and students who attended the symposium commented on how professional the organisation was. The student talks were of the highest calibre and were on a level with the talks heard during the previous four days. We hope that the success of this meeting will create precedence for future conferences. A lot was learned and international links were forged.

Kate van Lookeren Campagne
ICOM-CC WG G&C ACO

POST-CONFERENCE VISIT TO DUTCH STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Taco Hermans

On Friday October 11th, twenty-three conference delegates took part in the post-conference visit to three churches that house important examples of Dutch stained glass. The churches visited were the Grote Kerk in Schermerhorn, the Oostzijderkerk in Zaandam and the Bonifaciuskerk in Medemblik. Participants included curators, restorers and researchers from England, Germany, the USA, France and Belgium.

These churches were chosen because of the secular imagery depicted in the stained-glass windows. The subjects shown provide good examples of the clear break in style before and after the Reformation, a break that is not so evident in the stained-glass imagery found in other European countries. A high point for the participants was the experience of enjoying lunch under the impressive UNESCO windows at Schermerhorn.

Fig. 1: Window at Schermerhorn (Photo: Taco Hermans)

Fig. 2: Enjoying lunch under the UNESCO windows at Schermerhorn (photo credit: Taco Hermans)

Taco Hermans
Cultural heritage Agency of the Netherlands: Senior researcher in conservation technology, stained glass, castles

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS – HOW TO ORDER?

Hannelore Roemich

We are very proud that we have been able to arrange the publication of colourful and peer reviewed preprints as an important feature of WG Interim Meetings. Here is how you can find the last two proceedings:


The individual papers will be uploaded on the web site in the next few days, which is good news! Access will be restricted to ICOM members till 2017. Some printed copies are still available. Please contact me at hr34@nyu.edu.

And here is how to order the most recent volume:


For proceedings from the 16th Triennial Conference in Lisbon in 2011 and the 15th Triennial Conference in New Delhi in 2008, see http://www.icom-cc.org/244/icom-cc-triennial-conferences/16th-triennial-conference,-lisbon,-portugal/#.UtAfTrStFqg

ICOM-CC’S TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE: BUILDING STRONG CULTURE THROUGH CONSERVATION

September 15 – 19, 2014, Melbourne, Australia

Image: http://www.icom-cc2014.org/

Hannelore Roemich

About the conference
The 17th Triennial Conference of ICOM-CC, will attract leading international keynote speakers and up to 800 delegates, including conservators, scientists, historians and art historians, curators, librarians, archivists, students, collection managers, and directors from the world’s leading cultural institutions and the private sector.

The culmination of ICOM-CC’s three-year cycle of collaboration and research, the Conference offers technical sessions of the twenty-one specialist Working Groups, keynote speeches, behind the scenes visits to local conservation laboratories and sites of historic interest, cultural and social events as well as numerous opportunities to meet and forge ties with colleagues from every region of the world. Twenty-seven years after its memorable 8th Triennial Conference in Sydney, ICOM-CC is pleased to return to the Australian continent, this time to Melbourne.

For registration and more information go to: http://www.icom-cc2014.org/

Travel grants
A limited number of Travel Grants are available for museum and/or conservation professionals from emerging economies and developing countries (ICOM country categories 3 and 4) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Application forms can be downloaded from the ICOM-CC website (www.icom-cc.org), the Triennial Conference website (www.icom-cc2014.org), or by request from the Secretariat (secretariat@icom-cc.org).

Deadline for application is FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2014!
WG meeting
During the conference we will hold our technical session on Glass and Ceramics, including about seven oral presentations and two posters. With many high-level contributions submitted, the selection of papers was a challenging process. We can all now look forward to a great conference. The papers will be included in the conference proceedings. We will also organize a WG meeting to discuss future plans, including the election of a new coordinator, the next interim meeting, and further joint activities.

Election of WG coordinator (and DB members)
The voting for WG Coordinators (COs) for the 2014-2017 triennium will be done on-line for the first time. In order to minimize voting confusion, CO candidacy eligibility and deadlines will parallel the Directory Board (DB) on-line voting system already in place. A specific timeline and guidelines for CO and DB candidacy will be distributed to you soon.
Let me stress the importance of renewing your ICOM membership early in 2014. Please remember that in order to stand for candidacy as coordinator you have to be member of ICOM by February 28 at the latest. Also please note that for the 2014-2017 triennium, in order to be appointed as an assistant coordinator (ACO), the ACO must be a full ICOM member and a voting member of ICOM-CC. ICOM-CC Friend participants can no longer serve as ACOs in 2014-2017.

The Skyline of Melbourne. (Photo: Tom McCrea, courtesy of Tourism Victoria, http://www.icom-cc2014.org/)

Only those individuals in the Voting ICOM-CC category as appears on the WG member lists on the website will receive a vote invitation. This means that anyone who considers him/herself a member of the WG but has not opened a web account and chosen our WG will not be eligible to vote in our WG elections. So please make sure that you all have open accounts and have chosen your WG. Counting on you as an active and engaged member of our community!

Hannelore Roemich
Coordinator, ICOM-CC G&C WG

NEXT WG INTERIM MEETING IN 2016

Hannelore Roemich

We are trying to plan well in advance and here we go: we have a very promising proposal for the next interim meeting from our colleagues in Wroclaw, Poland! In 2016 Wroclaw will be the official cultural capital of Europe and therefore the planning and booking process will need to advance quickly. Dr. Marta Sienkiewicz from the Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics and Glass Department, Faculty of Ceramics and Glass, Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wroclaw, together with Dr. Pawel Karaszkiewicz, Research and Development Centre for Renovation and Conservation in Nysa, Poland, are coordinating a local team, already searching for possible venues and funds to support the conference. The organizers also started working on options for excursions through the city of Wroclaw, offering visits to stained-glass windows in their historical context and exhibitions of modern glass as well as both historical and contemporary ceramics. Further trips will highlight glass production sites in the region. We are all curious to hear more about this in the near future!

Hannelore Roemich
Coordinator, ICOM-CC G&C WG

Conservation of ceramics in Wroclaw
(Photo: Piotr Rominski)
SPECIALIST GROUPS

HISTORY
Renske Dooijes, Isabelle Garachon

Activities during the past years
Unfortunately we have to report that we both have had limited time in the last few years and have only achieved some of the goals we had set to keep the history of glass and ceramics conservation alive within the Working Group G&C.

One important achievement was to provide a literature list on-line, which can be downloaded from the ICOM-CC website, see http://icom-cc.org/54/document/literature-from-history-group-glass-and-ceramics/?id=1064#.UtkNf7StFqg. This is a work in progress and will be updated again soon.

We also contributed interesting articles to the Newsletter and, thanks to the input of some of the history group members, some excellent examples of peculiar old repairs were presented. Others contributed by presenting some exhibitions dedicated to the history of conservation in their museum (see Newsletter 22). In this edition of the Newsletter we proudly present a contribution by Eva Wolf on old repairs of a porcelain figurine (see below).

In 2007 in Nova Gorica, Renke Dooijes launched the idea to set up a database of ancient and historical repairs. It would be a good way to record examples of repairs we encounter and could be consulted and updated by members of the group. We considered it carefully but realised this was more complicated than we thought and would take more time than we could allocate at that time.

How to go on
At this point we concluded that we need more help to be able to achieve our goals and asked those attending the History Group meeting on the 9th of October in Amsterdam who would like to assist us.

We were pleased to see that more people came to the meeting than we had expected and quite a few asked to be put on the mailing list of the History Group. Some very interesting ideas came up and some of you offered help. The relevance of a database was discussed, and other ways of exchanging information about ancient and historical repairs were considered, like creating a Facebook page. A good suggestion was to look for other examples of existing glossaries to get some ideas and inspiration. All together it was an inspiring discussion. The meeting encouraged us to go on with the group. With some new helpers recruited at the meeting, we will try to work out a way of recording and exchanging information about ancient and historical repairs. We also will think about realizing one of our wishes which is to organize a meeting dedicated to the history of conservation of ceramics and glass.

Renske Dooijes, Isabelle Garachon
Assistant Coordinators, History Group

GLASS DETERIORATION
Astrid van Giffen

The interim meeting in Amsterdam was a great success with numerous papers related to glass deterioration ranging from the scientific to the practical, as well as a lively GDG meeting with over 50 people in attendance!

The main discussion at our meeting was about the difficulty of describing symptoms of glass deterioration, especially for the earliest stages of atmospheric glass deterioration / crizzling / glass disease, because visible phenomena are so dependent on the conditions (lighting, whether or not the object is dirty) and the experience of the person making the assessment.

A majority agreed that we should create an illustrated glossary of terms specific for glass deterioration, although there was a warning from the stained-glass community that such a glossary could be misused by amateur conservators to diagnose/misdiagnose and treat deteriorated glass, possibly doing more harm than good. The best way to approach such a glossary still needs to be worked out and I would love to hear any suggestions or thoughts on the matter you may have. Likely places to start are some of the partial glossaries and condition descriptions that have been made by various groups over the years. Guus Verhaar, a PhD student at the University of Amsterdam, has suggested taking on this monumental project as part of his dissertation.

Gerhard Eggert announced a Glass Deterioration Colloquium to be held in Stuttgart February 20-21, 2015. See the call for papers in the section on “events”.
I have also been working on updating our extensive bibliography on glass deterioration and plan to add the update to the website later this year.

As always, I would love to hear from you! Contact me at glassdeterioration@gmail.com if you want to be added to the group or have information to share, such as publications, events, conferences, exhibits, research projects or research questions related to glass deterioration.

Astrid van Giffen
Assistant Coordinator, Glass Deterioration Group

ENAMELS
Agnès Gall-Ortlik

The ENAMELS speciality group met on October 8, 2013, during the conference in Amsterdam. The activities of the sub-group were presented to members of the group and potential participants. As an introduction, a report about past activities was presented: the history of meetings of the group, featuring the last meeting in Barcelona in 2012.

We discussed the organization of our next meeting, the 5th Enamel Experts’ meeting on the Conservation, History and Technology of Enamels on Metal, which will take place in London, at the Rangers House (Greenwich) on July 17 and 18, 2014. We have been invited by David Thickett (National Heritage). Due to the critical financial situation in the UK there is a lack of financial support. We will have to cover the (moderate) cost for the venue from registration fees. So far we received very interesting abstracts, but we are still accepting contributions to make the meeting more attractive. Please do consider contributing to this very exciting event! Send your abstract NOW! We organize our speciality group meeting only every two years and you may miss unique visits of special enamel collections in London!

In Amsterdam we also talked about the Newsletter and how we can continue to keep the list of « members ». We will have to clearly distinguish between ICOM members, friends of ICOM, and other participants. Experts, who are not currently members of ICOM, are encouraged to become members of ICOM in 2014. If they cannot, or do not want to become members, these persons will appear on a separate list as “collaborators /partners”.

Only those who agree in writing that we can publish their names and personal data (address, countries, profession and area of expertise) will be on the members or collaborator list. We have to respect privacy laws, which are getting stricter all the time. A mailing asking for specific agreement to publish your data will be sent out soon. The Newsletter shall remain a major means of communication for the group.

Agnès Gall-Ortlik
Assistant Coordinator, Enamels

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

The Glass and Ceramics WG is constantly growing. In the last Newsletter we started a new section to introduce new members since we are curious as to where they come from and what keeps them busy. Here is the information kindly provided by an old friend but new member.

Valeria Mamczynski

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I received my degree in Conservation Studies at the University of Barcelona, Spain where I’ve been living for more than ten years. I first discovered my passion for glass when I attended a stained-glass workshop in Buenos Aires in 2000. Since then I attended many courses on stained glass, casting and glass sculpture at the Escola del Vidre in Barcelona and at the Real Fábrica de Cristales de La Granja in Segovia, Spain.

In the summer of 2009, I got an Internship at The Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where I performed conservation treatment on several ceramic pieces. In 2010-11, I went back to the Met, this time as a Research Fellow, to work on the James Jackson Jarvis collection of glass objects under the supervision of Lisa Pilosi and Karen Stamm. In 2010, I worked on the conservation project of the stained-glass windows from the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, and in 2012, on the conservation project of the stained-glass windows from the Cathedral of Barcelona, Spain (19th c.). Since October 2013, I have been working on my first solo conservation project of a modernist stained-glass window (19th c.) for the National Museum of Catalonya. I am a conservator in private practice looking forward to continuing my work with glass objects and stained-glass conservation.

Contact our new member: Valeria Mamczynski at valeriamam@gmail.com.
SPECIAL PROJECT REPORTS

Searching for Special Repairs on Porcelain Figurines

Eva Wolfs

During my work as a self-employed conservator of ceramics, glass and stone, I recently came across an object with some very peculiar old restorations. The object discussed in this article is a porcelain figurine from the German factory Königliche Porzellan-Manufaktur (KPM). This year the Berlin factory, founded by Frederick II of Prussia, is celebrating its 250th anniversary.

The figurine depicts a donkey pulling a milk cart with a female farmer (Figure 1). As expected, the damage occurred in all the ‘weaker’ areas; mostly the reigns (Figure 2) but also to the tip of one of the donkey’s ears and the farmer’s wife had her head broken off.

What was interesting about this object though, were the old restorations (Figure 3). One was to the farmer’s neck and the other the donkey’s reigns. The two restorations were completely different, but both were very unusual.

The farmer’s head had broken off and been bonded back in place by a previous conservator. And, as sometimes occurs, he added something to the figure to hide the break. In this case the break was hidden by adding a little necklace. A small silver chain was glued around the farmer’s neck with the ends meeting at the front of her torso. At this point, a small green stone was added to serve as a pendant, making the break hard to spot.

I found it a heartwarming solution: giving a country girl a beautiful avant-garde necklace in order to hide the fact that she had lost her head.

Restoring the reigns must however have been more difficult. How could you make thin strips of porcelain out of something other than porcelain? Observation of the fills under a microscope showed that the ‘conservator’ used paper to make fills for the reigns, a material you don’t often find in combination with porcelain. Long strips of paper were bonded over the areas where there were losses and then papier-mâché was added as a bulk material underneath the strips. The whole fill was then covered with a lacquer or other consolidant.

Close observation of the paper fills exposed how the paper was color-printed, making it appear that the strips were cut from a magazine-cover (Figure 4). Perhaps he chose this type of paper in order to give greater strength to the thin strips?
When I told the owner about the quirky inventiveness used to restore the object in the past he quickly realized that the ‘conservator’ must have been his father. The owner’s father had passed away in the early 1980s, so he estimated that the repairs had probably been carried out in the early 1970s. He laughed as I described the necklace and said that such a solution was typical for his father. He told me about an object I had previously restored for this family, also a KPM porcelain figurine: a beautiful maiden carrying a basket of grapes. She was broken in half; with a break line around the waist. This was solved by our ‘past conservator’ by bonding the two halves together and then covering up the break with a cigar-band to represent a beautiful gold belt around her waist. However, when I received the object, the paper had already lost any adhesion to the porcelain and no trace of it could be found.

Because of the emotional value of the restoration, the owner chose to put back the necklace after the treatment was completed.

For the treatment the object was first cleaned with a steam cleaner. Fills were made with Milliput, sanded down to size and then retouched with Golden acrylics and varnishes.

To bond the female farmer’s head, a 50% (w/v) solution of Paraloid B72 in acetone was used. I felt that in this case that Paraloid would be strong enough, since it is a decorative object in a home environment and gravity would help keep the head in place. To rebond her necklace, a few drops of the same solution were used.

I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. H. for their continued trust in my capabilities and Isabelle Garachon for her enthusiasm and help. For more information I can be contacted at wolfsconservation@gmail.com

Eva Wolfs
Private Conservator at Wolfs Conservation,
Amsterdam, NL
The Silver Stain Myth: A Critical Consideration of Current Understanding and Research Opportunities

Katie Harrison

The apparent ‘corrosion-resistant’ properties of silver stain have been observed and commented on by various scholars and conservators during the past century. However, a review of existing literature regarding silver stain has revealed that, whilst scientifically-based explanations have been proposed, none have been tested, and scientific studies into the application and properties of silver stain are sparse. Given the proliferation of silver-stained glass, the current lack of understanding, particularly when compared to the research invested into analysing glass and glass paint, presents a worrying gap in stained-glass conservation research.

Whilst scientific studies analysing the condition of historic stained glass have not investigated the effect of silver stain, studies investigating its role in colouring glass provide valuable insights into the properties of silver stain, for example, variations in its depth, concentration and colouring effects resulting from different staining techniques. As a result, they can guide future studies into the effects of silver stain upon glass corrosion.

Datable historic samples should be analysed to determine the morphology of the silver stain and glass, and their interactions at a molecular level, to assess whether there is any correlation between the distribution of silver stain and corrosion. Comparably conducted studies should then be undertaken using model glass, with the aim of replicating the phenomena observed within the historic glass, in order to better understand the processes involved and the role silver stain plays in glass degradation.

The bibliography compiled through the course of this study has been added to the general glass deterioration bibliography. An updated version of the bibliography will be uploaded soon on the speciality group web site at http://www.icom-cc.org/89/GLASS%20DETERIORATION/#.UtJV5bStFqg

About the author: Katie Harrison recently graduated with an MA from the program on Stained Glass Conservation and Heritage Management, The University of York, UK. Katie is currently spending 40 weeks working in conservation studios through the Award for Excellence, from the Worshipful Company of Glaziers. Contact: keh504@hotmail.com.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ICOM!
BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR WG GLASS AND CERAMICS!

Hannelore Roemich

Most of you reading this Newsletter are members of ICOM. Some of you may still have to renew your membership. Please do so through your National Committees. The National Committees are required to remit names of renewed members to ICOM Paris by 28 February each year. Unpaid membership renewals after 30 April are considered as “lapsed” and ICOM services are suspended. If you want the benefit of reduced rates for the conference in Melbourne, if you want to be nominated or vote for the DB or your WG CO, if you want to receive the next Newsletter – you have to make sure you are member of ICOM, and also official member of your truly devoted WG Glass and Ceramics!

Here is a quick tutorial for those of you, who want to become new members:
Please use the form at the ICOM web site: http://icom.museum/join-us/become-a-member/
Indicate “Conservation (ICOM-CC)” as the International Committee in which you wish to become a voting member. In addition, you can also join “Glass” to receive exciting information from the museum glass world! Please send the completed form to your National Committee.

Addresses can be found at: http://icom.museum/the-committees/national-committees/

If you encounter any problem please contact me at hr34@nyu.edu.

Once you are an ICOM member, all you have to do is click on the member info tab on the ICOM-CC website or contact the secretariat (secretariat@icom-cc.org) with your name and ICOM member number to get an account and to choose your WGs. We strongly urge you to register on line and establish your account, if you have not done so already. Distribution of information, such as this Newsletter, will be restricted to the mailing list we receive from the WG member list on the web site. Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of our community! Become a member NOW to fully benefit from the membership during 2014!

Hannelore Roemich
Coordinator, ICOM-CC G&C WG

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Simone Bretz: Hinterglasmalerei
Publisher: Klinkhardt & Biermann

http://www.bretz-hinterglas.com/buch.html

The book gives a comprehensive overview about technology, history, and conservation. Available in German.

Robert H. Brill and others: Chemical Analyses of Early Glasses, Volume 3
Publisher: Corning, NY: Corning Museum of Glass, 1999-2012

The long-awaited final volume of Chemical Analyses of Early Glasses is now available. This summative third volume completes an in-depth survey of work performed by the Museum’s Scientific Research Department over the last 50 years. This third volume contains narrative reports and essays interpreting the data that were published in the previous volumes. The book (727 pages; Hardcover) is available in the Museum’s GlassMarket:
http://glassmarket.cmog.org/browse.cfm/museum-publications/2,157.html

Volume 1 and 2 are available for FREE as pdf download: http://www.cmog.org/library/chemical-analyses-early-glasses-robert-h-brill. GREAT!

Bruno Fabbri, ed.: Science and Conservation for Museum Collections
Publisher: Nardini Editore Firenze
The book takes into consideration archaeological artefacts made of stones (both natural and artificial), mosaics, ceramics, glass, metals, wood and textiles, as well as less common materials such as clay tablets, goldsmith artefacts, icons, leather and skin objects, bones and ivory, coral and mother of pearl. Chapter 3 on ceramics is written by Elena Agnini, Giovanna Bandini, Bruno Fabbri, Sabrina Gualtieri. Authors for chapter 6 on glass are Elena Agnini, Francesca Amato, Bruno Fabbri, and Michele Macchiariola.

Available from: http://store.nardinieditore.it/it/

Koen Janssens, ed.: Modern Methods for Analysing Archaeological and Historical Glass
Publisher: Chichester, United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., 2013 (2 volumes)

Being the first scientific volume to compile the modern analytical techniques for glass analysis, the book presents an up-to-date description of the physico-chemical methods suitable for determining the composition of glass and for speciation of specific components. This unique resource provides a forum for members of Association Internationale pour l'Histoire du Verre, as well as for university scholars, to introduce a number of case studies on the effective use of one or more of analytical methods for elucidating a particular historical or technical aspect of glass manufacturing technology.


UPCOMING EVENTS


This symposium honors the life and work of CMoG former executive director David Whitehouse, and celebrates his scholarship in glass, ceramics, and archaeology. The program will begin on Thursday at 6 pm and conclude with a dinner Saturday evening. All activities will take place at The Corning Museum of Glass. Cost to attend is $150. Please RSVP to Tina Snow at SnowTS@cmog.org
Learn more about the symposium at: http://www.cmg.org/event/life-archaeology-and-glass-honoring-david-whitehouse-1941-2013

Architectural Ceramics in the 21st Century: Design and Preservation of Contemporary and Historic Architecture
March 22-24, 2014, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

The intensive 2-day conference will be held at MIT, Cambridge, MA on March 22-24, 2014. See the flyer on the website for additional information, including the schedule, hotel information and mail-in registration form. The deadline for the conference’s early registration rate is January 20, 2014. http://architects.org/committees/news/architectural-ceramics-21st-century-conference

For ICON members: Nigel Williams Prize

ICON announces the Nigel Williams Prize 2014. It will be awarded to a project in the conservation of glass, ceramics or some related material. Entries are invited from any member of ICON. The application deadline is Monday April 14, 2014. For more information see: http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=167
**Study Days on Venetian Glass**  
April 2-4, 2014, Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, Venice, Italy

The “Study Days on Venetian Glass” are an opportunity for in-depth study on Venetian glass and are tuned to an audience of Museum conservators, collectors and experts. The programme includes lessons by experts who, after a general overview, will guide participants through the direct study of methods and pieces, encouraging participants to actively take part, also through presentations. Lessons and discussions will be held in English; contributions in Italian will be translated into English by the seminar curators. The event is organized with the support of Corning Museum of Glass, Ecole du Louvre, Fondazione Musei Civici Venezia, Institut national du patrimoine, Venice Foundation, Victoria & Albert Museum with the participation of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice (Italy).

Applications should be sent by e-mail (ivsla@istitutoveneto.it) at the latest by 31st of January 2014.

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**Tape and Spillage – Interventive Treatments in a Preventive Climate**  
May 16-17, 2014, ICON Ceramics and Glass Group, York, UK

ICON announces the next Ceramics and Glass Group Conference in York (UK) on the 16th and 17th of May 2014. This conference aims to discuss and evaluate the variety of interventive treatments available to us and ethical decision making, regardless of whether we work in private practice or in larger institutions. The Conference will be held in York (Jorvick to the Vikings) and will include tours of various historically significant buildings and collections on Friday May 16, with a full day of talks and posters arranged for Saturday May 17.

The deadline for submission of abstracts has passed on January 17th 2014.

For further information please visit: [http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?id=22&option=com_content&task=view](http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?id=22&option=com_content&task=view)

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**LACONA X**  
June 9-13, 2014, Sharjah, UAE

LACONA X is the tenth conference in a series entitled “Lasers in the Conservation of Artworks – LACONA”. The biennial LACONA conference gathers researchers, conservators and conservation scientists, companies, architects, decision-makers and experts to share their latest projects and experiences on Laser-based techniques for the conservation of cultural heritage.

Selected papers from the LACONA X conference will be published after regular peer-reviewing process in a special volume of Studies in Conservation. In releasing the first call for papers, the organizers welcome contributions from a variety of topics.

The organization committee is looking forward to welcoming participants to Sharjah and will do its best to make LACONA X a pleasurable and peaceful meeting!

For further information please visit: [http://www.lacona10.org/](http://www.lacona10.org/)

The deadline for submission of abstracts has passed (January 15, 2014). The deadline for early registration fee is March 15, 2014.

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**Enamels Group Meeting: Conservation, History and Technology of Enamels on Metal**  
July 17 and 18, 2014, Rangers House, London

The Enamels group has accepted the invitation by David Thickett to hold the next meeting in London. The organizers are currently rating abstracts submitted in December 2013 – but are still open to accepting further submissions! Please e-mail your interest to participate and your abstract to Agnès Gall-Ortlik (gallortlik@yahoo.fr) or Cátia Viega Wesolowska (k_viega@yahoo.com).

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**EuroMed 2014, International Conference on Cultural Heritage**  
November 3-8, 2014, Lemessos, Cyprus

The agenda of this unique conference will include hundreds of excellent oral and poster presentations, as well as workshops and demonstrations from academia and industry,
reflecting the wide scope of work in the area of cultural heritage. The organizers are expecting policy makers, professionals, students and delegates from more than 60 countries of the world to attend this special Euro-Mediterranean conference which is dedicated to the protection, preservation and e-documentation of Cultural Heritage.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is May 30, 2014.

For further information please visit: http://www.culturalheritage2014.eu/

**Collecting through Connections: Glass and Stained-glass Collectors and Their Networks in the 19th Century**  
**February 4-6, 2015, Lisbon, Portugal**

The Research Unit VICARTE – Glass and Ceramic for the Arts and Parques de Sintra – Monte da Lua are pleased to announce the organization of this international conference. The aim of this conference is to develop knowledge about the art market for historical glass and stained glass during the 19th century, including the contacts and network of collectors, the criteria for collecting and the use/display of the objects within the collector's domestic space. For more details or enquiries, please visit [http://eventos.fct.unl.pt/collecting-through-connections/](http://eventos.fct.unl.pt/collecting-through-connections/) or send an email to registration.ctc@campus.fct.unl.pt

**Glass Deterioration Colloquium – Call for Papers!**  
**February 20/21, 2015, State Academy of Art and Design Stuttgart, Germany**

The scope of the International Conference covers the corrosion of historic glass and its consequences for conservation and for other materials (e.g. metals) in contact with the glass; case studies on how conservators deal with glass deterioration during treatments as well as scientific investigations are encouraged. Please send an abstract (ca. 300 words) via e-mail to Gerhard Eggert by June 30th, 2014.

There will be no full conference publication. We do not expect exclusivity of the presented material, authors are free to submit and publish their material elsewhere, e.g. the ICOM-CC Glass & Ceramics Interim Meeting 2016. We will only print a b/w brochure with extended abstracts (up to 5 pages for lectures, up to 2 pages for posters) of every presentation and put it online as well (Extended abstracts due October 30th, 2014).

The conference is part of a series of short annual international Objects Conservation Colloquia in Stuttgart started in 2005. Glass & Ceramics conservators might remember the Ceramics Conservation Colloquium in 2006 (with Norman Tennent and Victoria Oakley) and the Glass Conservation Colloquium in 2008 (with Sandra Davison, Luc Megens and Kate van Lookeren Campagne) in collaboration with the ICOM-CC Glass & Ceramics WG. The conference in 2015 will consist of oral and poster presentations (all in English), a visit to the famous Ernesto Wolf Glass Collection in the State Museum of Württemberg on Saturday and a get-together party on Friday.

For more information contact: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Eggert at gerhard.eggert@abk-stuttgart.de

The conference is organized by the State Academy of Art & Design Stuttgart in cooperation with the Glass Deterioration Group of the ICOM-CC Glass & Ceramics WG and the Landesmuseum Württemberg.

**WG CALENDAR**

**Enamels Group Meeting: Conservation, History and Technology of Enamels on Metal**  
**July 17 and 18, 2014, Rangers House, London**

Abstracts are still accepted!  
More information: see Upcoming Events section above

**ICOM CC 17th Triennial Conference in Melbourne**  
**September 15–19, 2014 in Melbourne, Australia**

Updated information about the conference can be found at [www.icom-cc2014.org](http://www.icom-cc2014.org).  
WG meeting during the conference: to be announced

**Glass Deterioration Colloquium**  
**February 20/21, 2015 in Stuttgart, Germany**

More information: see Upcoming Events section above
**“Glass and Ceramics” Working Group**

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