

Acquiring an Education in the Area of Photographic Preservation

**Amigos Fellowship Final Report
October 1997**

Submitted by

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Final Report for 1994 AMIGOS Fellowship

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Summary of Activities:

I attended the RIT Preservation of Photographs seminar held August 13- 18, 1994. The seminar was sponsored by: George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, RIT's Image Permanence Institute, RIT's Technical and Education Center of Graphic Arts. The classes were held in the George Eastman House International Museum of Photograph and Film, Rochester, New York.

It began with an informal reception on Saturday, August 13 from 7:00 to 9:00. The daily sessions began at 8:30 a.m. and some evening sessions were scheduled. The seminar ran from Saturday to Thursday, with instruction beginning on Sunday.

The enrollment totaled thirty student. The eight faculty are leading professionals in the field. The low student teacher ratio allowed for an intimate and collegial setting. Discussion and submission of specific questions were highly encouraged.

Eleven key topics were covered in the lectures. The six workshops nicely supplemented the lectures. It was a thrill to be given the unique opportunity to visit the museum's archival storage area-which is state of the art. The hands-on laboratory sessions gave the students the change to use a variety of equipment and handle number of photographic materials.

The following three pages are a detailed daily course outline. Stated are: dates, times locations, topics and instructors. A roster of the faculty and institutional affiliation is supplied.

PRESERVATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS



August 13-18, 1994

Sat., Aug. 13 The Strathallan, 550 East Avenue

7:30-9:00 PM Registration and Reception

Sun., Aug. 14 George Eastman House, 900 East Avenue (University Ave. entrance)

8:30-9:00	Completion of Registration	Potter Peristyle	Val Johnson
9:00-10:00	Welcome/Orientation	Curtis Theater	Grant Romer
10:00-10:15	B R E A K	Studio Cafe	
10:15-12:00	<i>History & Technology of Photographic Material</i>	Curtis Theater	James Reilly
12:00-1:30	L U N C H		
1:30-2:15	Eastman Mansion and Garden Tour	Mansion entrance on East Ave.	Grant Romer
2:15-3:15	<i>History & Technology of Photographic Material (cont.)</i>	Curtis Theater	James Reilly
3:15-3:30	B R E A K	Studio Cafe	
3:30-4:30	<i>Chemistry of Deterioration</i>	Curtis Theater	James Reilly
4:30-5:00	<i>Collection Management</i> - Introduction	Curtis Theater	Seminar Faculty

Mon., Aug. 15 George Eastman House, 900 East Ave.

8:30-10:15 *Process Identification Workshop* - Expert Presentations Group A - Cons. Laboratory
Group B & C - Cons. Classroom

	Group A	Group B	Group C
8:30-9:15	Cased Objects	1-Layer Photographs	Albumen
9:15-9:45	Albumen	Cased Objects	1-Layer Photographs
9:45-10:15	1-Layer Photographs	Albumen	Cased Objects

10:15-10:30	B R E A K		Cons. Lobby
10:30-12:00	<i>Process Identification Workshop (cont.)</i>		
	Group A	Group B	Group C
10:30-11:00	Individual Exploration	Individual Exploration	Photomechanical
11:00-11:30	Individual Exploration	Photomechanical	Individual Exploration
11:30-12:00	Photomechanical	Individual Exploration	Individual Exploration
12:00-1:30	L U N C H		
1:30-1:45	Group Picture Taken		Portico (Mansion entrance on East Ave.)
1:45-2:30	“Backstage Museum Tour”		Grant Romer
2:30-3:30	<i>Collection Management Exercise I</i> (“Survey” of Collection, Begin Preservation Plan) CM Groups 1, 2, 3 CM Groups 4, 5, 6		Seminary Faculty Cons. Laboratory Cons. Classroom
3:30-3:45	B R E A K		Cons. Lobby
3:45-5:00	<i>Color Processes & Deterioration</i>		Curtis Theater James Reilly
7:30-9:00	<i>Likeness & Dislikeness</i> <i>The Hoffman Lincoln Daguerreotype</i> An Evening’s Entertainment		Curtis Theater Grant Romer

Tue., Aug. 16 George Eastman House, 900 East Ave.

8:30-10:15	<i>Process Identification Workshop</i>		Group A - Cons. Laboratory Group B & C - Cons. Classroom
	Group A	Group B	Group C
8:30-9:15	Matte Collodion	DOP	DOP
9:15-9:45	POP	Matte Collodion	POP
9:45-10:15	DOP	POP	Matte Collodion
10:15-10:30	B R E A K		Cons. Lobby
10:30-12:00	<i>Process Identification Workshop (cont.)</i>		
	Individual Exploration - All Groups		

12:00-1:30	L U N C H		
1:30-3:30	<i>Preservation Planning for Photographic Collections</i>	Curtis Theater	Debbie Norris
3:30-3:45	B R E A K		
3:45: 5:00	<i>Photographic Films: History & Deterioration</i>	Curtis Theater	Doug Nishimura
7:00-9:00	Archival Supplies Exhibition The Strathallan, 550 East Ave.		

Wed., Aug. 17 George Eastman House, 900 East Ave.

8:30-10:15	<i>Negative Identification & N Deterioration Workshop</i>	Cons. Classroom	
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	Group A	Group B	Group C
8:30-9:15	Polyester	Nitrate	Acetate
9:15-9:45	Nitrate	Acetate	Polyester
9:45-10:15	Acetate	Polyester	Nitrate

10:15-10:30	B R E A K	Cons. Lobby	
10:30-11:30	<i>Negative Duplication</i>	Cons. Classroom	Michael Hager
11:30-12:00	<i>Collection Management Exercise 2</i>	Cons. Classroom Cons. Laboratory	Seminar Faculty
12:00-1:30	L U N C H		
1:30-2:45	<i>Enclosures & Housings: Design & Function</i>	Curtis Theater	Grant Romer
2:45-3:00	B R E A K	Studio Cafe	
3:00-4:15	<i>Organization of Photographic Collections</i>	Curtis Theater	David Wooters
4:15-5:00	<i>Surveying a Large Negative Collection: A Practical Example</i>	Curtis Theater	Jean Louis Bigourdan
5:00-7:30	Bus to Light Impressions Light Impressions Reception at Spectrum Gallery Light Impressions Corporation, 439 Monroe Ave. Food and beverages provided courtesy of Light Impressions Corp.	East Ave. Entrance	
7:30	Bus returns to George Eastman House		

Thu., Aug. 18 George Eastman House, 900 East Ave.

8:30-10:15 *Color Identification & Deterioration Workshop* Group A - Cons. Laboratory
Groups B & C - Cons. Classroom

	Group A	Group B	Group C
8:30-9:15	Print Materials	Color Negs. & Polaroids	Transparencies
9:15-9:45	Transparencies	Print Materials	Color Negs. & Polaroids
9:45-10:15	Color Negs. & Polaroids	Transparencies	Print Materials

10:15-10:30 B R E A K Cons. Lobby

10:30-12:00 *Color & Negative Identification & Deterioration Workshop*
Individual Exploration - All Groups

12:00-1:30 L U N C H

1:30-2:15 *Grant Funding of Preservation Efforts* Curtis Theater James Reilly

2:15-3:45 *Collection Management Wrap up* Curtis Theater Seminar Faculty

3:45-4:00 B R E A K Studio Cafe

4:00-5:00 Open Discussion Curtis Theater Seminar Faculty

Names and Addresses of Seminar Faculty

James M. Reilly
Image Permanence Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
70 Lomb Memorial Dr.
Rochester, NY 14623-5604

Grant B. Romer
George Eastman House
900 East Ave.
Rochester, NY 14607

Debbie Hess Norris
Assistant Director Art Conservation Program
University of Delaware
303 Old College
Newark, DE 19716-2515

Michael Hager
Museum Photographics
11 Centre Park
Rochester, NY 14614

Edward Zinn
Image Permanence Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
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Douglas Nishimura
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David Wooters
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Jean-Louis Bigourdan
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Rochester Institute of Technology 70 Lomb Memorial Dr.
Rochester, NY 14623-5604

Evaluation:

The RIT Preservation of Photographs seminar was outstanding. The faculty, content and setting all contributed to the success of the program. Also, the networking with the students and vendors was a wonderful opportunity. I can not say enough good things about the faculty. They have continued to serve as resources to me long after attending the seminar .

The knowledge gained from the course has proven invaluable. All the objectives I have outlined in my fellowship proposal have been achieved. I have been able to evaluate the condition of the photographs housed in the McGovern Historical Collections and Research Center. I have focused my attention on the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission Collection photographs. All 4000 pieces (combination of photo prints, B& W , color, negatives, slides and glass plates) have been examined. The materials have been rehoused and many now have archival negatives. Sound preservation measures are carried out for all our photographs. Word of the care and attention I give to our collections has spread and as result the collection continues to grow.

I have continued to work diligently to create bibliographic access to the photographs in our collection. As stated in my proposal, preservation and access go hand in hand. At present, we have nearly 600 photographic titles covering over 2000 items available in our online catalog SIRSI with the bibliographic records having created on the OCLC bibliographic network database.

Our growing international level of access has encouraged scientists, historians and the media from around the world to use our collections. As a librarian, this is truly exciting and fulfilling. We hope to expand our preservation measures in the future with digitization and are considering putting selections of photographs on the World Wide Web.

I have openly shared the information I have gained with members of my department and home institution. Members from other institutions have consulted with me on variety of preservation and access issues. I welcome the opportunity to assist them.

Lastly, I am happy to share that we have received much support from the academic community .It has come in form of funds, invitations to exhibit collections and conference participation. In March of 1997, I was invited to Japan to review the collections at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation. (The RERF was formerly the ABCC.)

I believe the knowledge I gained from attending the RIT Preservation of Photographs seminar has increased my knowledge of preservation and as a result helped me better serve my institution, clients and the global information community .Once again, thank you for helping me grow as professional librarian.

MAI
28 OCT 1997