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Preservin' the South

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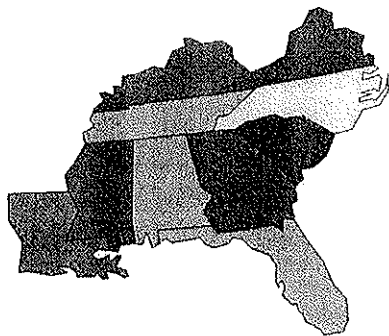
Preservin' the South

Preservation News by Christine Wiseman

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NEW REGIONAL ART CONSERVATION CENTER

The Williamstown Art Conservation Center is collaborating with the High Museum of Art to establish the Atlanta Art Conservation Center (AACC), the first regional conservation center in the Southeast. The AACC will specialize in treatment of paintings, furniture, decorative objects, sculpture, frames, and art on paper. See www.rap-arcc.org under "what's new" for the full press release.

NEW ONLINE CONSERVATION REFERRAL SERVICE

The American Institute for Conservation's guide to Conservation Services is now online at <http://aic.stanford.edu>. Included are helpful tips on working with a conservator, and a searchable feature that allows anyone seeking conservation services to find established conservators in their geographic area.

IRRADIATED MAIL

The Smithsonian Institution Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education (SCMRE) has issued a report on the affect of irradiation on materials, including materials of cellulosic composition. This may impact libraries sending collection items through the mail in the light of recent increased screening and irradiation for anthrax. The full report can be found at http://www.si.edu/scmre/mail_irradiation.html.

PRESERVATION MICROFILM RECORDS ON THE WEB

The microfilm records of the libraries participating in SOLINET's Cooperative Preservation Microfilming Projects (CPMP1 - CPMP5) are almost all now accessible and linked through the SOLINET website. By following a few easy steps, users and researchers can search the topics alphabetically to find out what has been filmed and which institution holds the microfilm. Please note that, because CPMP5 is currently in progress, those libraries may not yet display records. Search options and instructions head up the listing, at www.solinet.net/presvtn/micro/search.htm.

2002 HURRICANE SEASON PREDICTIONS: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM?

By Tina Mason, SOLINET

Ongoing climate anomalies, above-average sea temperatures and below-average trade winds, combined with a weakened El Nino have lead forecasters predict a near-normal to slightly above normal activity for the upcoming hurricane season. Experts predict that the 2002 Atlantic hurricane season is likely to include nine to thirteen named storms (average is 9.3), six to eight hurricanes (average is 5.7) and two to three intense hurricanes (average is 2.2), defined as Saffir-Simpson category 3, 4 or 5 with winds above 110 mph. The number ranges reflect larger uncertainty when no El Nino or La Nina is present. Analyzing historical data, experts noted that similar seasons have averaged two hurricanes hitting the US coastline and one to two in the Caribbean Region. Even though the season should be near-normal to slightly above normal, experts caution that the nation's most damaging hurricane, Andrew in 1992, occurred during a season with below normal activity.

Hurricane season begins June 1st and runs to November 30. It is time again to update, or develop in some cases, your institution's disaster plan. Most hurricanes are formed in August and September; however, experts predict that this season will see hurricane formation earlier than usual. Now is the time to inventory and replenish disaster supplies, update emergency phone lists, review recovery procedures, trim trees and remove loose debris around the perimeter of your building, and verify contact information for outside disaster recovery services.

The Southeast has experienced significant storm damage in the past several years. Four of 1998's ten hurricanes impacted the Southeast: Earl, Bonnie, Georges, and Mitch. Georges was ranked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the costliest hurricane to date, causing \$2.5 billion in damage. In 1999 there were 8 Atlantic hurricanes, Floyd, which caused severe flooding in North Carolina, was the 4th costliest hurricane. The 2000 season was relatively active with 8 named hurricanes; however, none made landfall or caused significant flooding or damage. Although no hurricanes hit the US coast during the 2001 season, Tropical Storm Allison went on record as the costliest tropical storm ever to hit the US causing \$5 billion in damages in Texas and Louisiana.

The safety of an institution's staff and patrons is of paramount importance before, during, and after a disaster. Build ample time into your disaster plan for staff to prepare the building and collections, keeping in mind that they will need time to protect personal property and possessions in the event of an evacuation.

Preparation and preparedness is the key to survival and protection of library and archival collections in the event of a hurricane. Although damage cannot be entirely prevented, it can be mitigated by preparedness. The potential for damage to library and archival collections is directly related to the construction of the building housing the collections. A structural engineer or architect can advise on building improvements such as roof bracing or installation of hurricane shutters to make a building more resistant to storm damage.

Since hurricanes usually approach with several days warning, an institution can stage its preparedness activities according to the level of warning. For example, when a hurricane watch is announced you have approximately 36 hours notice. At this time begin to brief employees, contact outside contractors and local freezer services, and identify shelters. When the announcement is elevated to a warning (hurricane is possible within 24 hours) the more labor-intensive precautions should be undertaken such as installing shutters, removing loose objects from building grounds, and covering and moving collections. These measures of protection will be impossible to implement in such a short period of time without advance planning. For more detailed information about what to do before, during, and after a storm see the excerpt from Mike Trinkley's Hurricane! Surviving the Big One on the SOLINET website

<http://www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_home.cfm>. Click on *Disaster Mitigation and Recovery Resources*, and scroll down to *Publications*.

In order to facilitate preparations the following websites may be of assistance:

Colorado State University, Department of Atmospheric Science <typhoon.atmos.colostate.edu>

Federal Emergency Management Agency <www.fema.gov>

National Hurricane Center <www.nhc.noaa.gov>

National Task Force on Emergency Response <www.heritagepreservation.org/PROGRAMS/taskfer.htm>

SOLINET Preservation Services <www.solinet.net/preservation/preservation_home.cfm>

Weather Underground <www.wunderground.com/tropical/>

DISASTER WHEEL NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Just in time for the 2002 hurricane season, the Spanish-language version of the Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel is now available. The Wheel is one of the most recognizable tools for use in disaster planning in libraries and cultural institutions. A number of free Spanish wheels are available on request for non-profit institutions. It is also available for purchase for \$10.95 (\$6.95 for nonprofits and government agencies). For order forms or more information call 1-888-979-2233 or email: Taskforce@heritagepreservation.org.

AASLH WORKSHOPS

The American Association for State and Local History recently received an IMLS grant for the project *Archival Basics Continuing Education* to develop online and on-site basic archival training targeted at the non-traditional archivist. A one-day workshop is being designed as a model so that various groups and organizations can provide the course with minimal preparation and adjustment. AASLH is looking for potential host sites for the ten pilot workshops slated to be held starting in the Fall 2002. For more information contact Terry Davis at davis@aaslh.org or (615) 320-3203.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION PUBLICATION ABOUT SEPTEMBER 11TH

Heritage Preservation, one of the nation's leading advocates for the protection of cultural property, has just released *Cataclysm and Challenge*, the results of the first comprehensive study on the impact of September 11, 2001 on our nation's cultural heritage. The publication reports the results of a survey of 122 museums, libraries and archives in lower Manhattan following the September terrorist attacks. The survey included questions related to disaster preparedness and recovery that reveals significant information that should aid in protecting cultural collections from future disasters. For more information, and a pdf version of the entire report, see www.heritagepreservation.org.