

**PAPER CONSERVATION CATALOG**

**The American Institute for Conservation  
of Historic and Artistic Works**

**Book and Paper Group**

**SEVENTH EDITION  
November 1990**

Preparation of this edition is made possible in part by a grant from the Office of Preservation at the National Endowment for the Humanities, an independent federal agency.

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PAPER CONSERVATION CATALOG  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE  
(Revised 1990)

The purpose of this project is to compile a catalog of conservation treatments for art on paper. The intention is to record a variety of treatment procedures in current use or with a history of use. It is not intended to establish definitive procedures nor provide step-by-step recipes for the untrained. An attempt will be made to include a variety of techniques used by AIC Book and Paper Group members and divergent opinions about particular techniques. Also included are chapters devoted to important related topics such as examination, documentation, housing, and display. The catalog is designed for practicing paper conservators and is intended as an aid in the decision-making process. It is understood that the individual conservator is solely responsible for determining the safety and adequacy of a treatment for a given project and must understand the effect of his or her treatment. Inclusion in the catalog does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the procedure described.

The catalog is distributed to BPG members in a loose leaf format to permit additions, revisions, and updates as necessary. The project is a collective volunteer effort of the BPG, with members compiling catalog chapters and making long or short contributions to these chapters. The Editorial Board in Washington, D.C. meets regularly to review chapter drafts. A list of topics and a standard outline format have been developed. Treatment chapters are divided into six sections: Purpose, Factors to Consider, Materials and Equipment, Treatment Variations, Bibliography, and Special Considerations.

The 1984 pilot committee drafted three prototype chapters in the standard format to serve as examples. From 1985 to 1990, fourteen additional chapters were completed. Conservators who know of or use other variants to outlined treatments are asked to contribute information to be added to existing texts in future printings. Individual conservators are also needed on an ongoing basis to compile and contribute to new treatment topics. The format is intended to be simple and flexible enough to encourage paper conservators to contribute any specialized technique or innovation, however broad or narrow in its application.

The catalog itself can be thought of as a goal but the process of writing chapters offers unlimited opportunities to exchange large and small amounts of information with our associates. The quality of this information should be similar to that learned while visiting or working with a colleague and discussing specific aspects of our work.

The BPG membership has always expressed interest in exchanging information, particularly the specific techniques and insights gained through practical experience. Until the development of the Paper Conservation Catalog, there has never been a convenient format available. It is hoped that the Paper Conservation Catalog will continue to be a useful, attractive, vehicle while also performing the necessary professional task of recording our body of knowledge.

PAPER CONSERVATION CATALOG  
CHAPTERS  
(Revised 1990)

1. Fiber Identification
2. Media Identification
- \*3. Media Problems
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5. Condition Forms and Description
- \*6. Visual Examination
7. Authentication
8. Documentation
9. Instrumental Analysis
- \*10. Spot Tests
  
- +13. Mold/Foxing Treatments
14. Dry Cleaning
15. Hinge, Tape, and Adhesive Removal
- \*16. Washing
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18. Solvent Treatments
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- +21. Enzyme Treatments
- \*22. Humidification
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- +27. Suction Table Treatments
- \*28. Drying and Flattening
- \*29. Lining
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31. Inpainting
  
- \*40. Matting and Framing
41. Encapsulation
42. Lamination and Impregnation
43. Environment
44. Exhibition/Storage
45. Transportation/Packing
- \*46. Adhesives
47. Materials/Tools/Equipment
48. Pest Control and Fumigation

\*Chapter has been printed. Contributions for expansion are actively sought.

+Chapter in progress. Contact compiler to submit your contributions.

Note: Discard 1989 list of categories.

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It is intended that catalog editions be integrated with each other. A new table of contents will be printed each year to aid in assembly. Copyright information will be included on the inside cover of all printings and should be retained.

Additional information is sought for and can be contributed to an existing chapter at any time by contacting a member of the Editorial Board. Miscellaneous brief contributions will be printed and added to the end of existing chapters until sufficient changes and additions have been made to warrant incorporating this information into the body of the chapter and reprinting it.

Please contact the Project Director or an Editorial Board member with your questions, contributions, or interests in working on the catalog. (See AIC directory for addresses/telephone numbers.)

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Kitty Nicholson

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Terry Boone Wallis

Editorial Assistant: Karen Kittredge

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For Chapter Topics

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16. Washing (1990)
17. Sizing/Resizing (1988)
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20. Alkalinization and Neutralization (1985) (Bibliography, Special Consideration 1986)
22. Humidification (Draft 1984)
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24. Backing Removal (1985)
25. Mending (1984)
26. Filling of Losses (1987)
28. Drying and Flattening (Draft 1984)
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PAPER CONSERVATION CATALOG  
FORMAT  
(reprinted 1990)

Each major topic (chapter) is identified by a specific number to facilitate indexing and cross-referencing.

Each treatment chapter (13-31) is broken down into six subheadings: **Purpose, Factors to Consider, Materials and Equipment, Treatment Variations, Bibliography, and Special Considerations.** Each of these subheadings can be further outlined as shown for 1.4 below, i.e., with **Treatment Variations** numbered 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3, etc.

1. **Major Treatment Topic**  
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- 1.2 **Factors to Consider**
- 1.3 **Materials and Equipment**
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    - B.
      - 1.
      2.
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        - b. (etc.)
- 1.5 **Bibliography**
- 1.6 **Special Considerations**

The **Bibliography** can be annotated to the extent that the subject dictates.

**Special Considerations** can take many forms. It may include extended essays relating to the material in the preceding chapter. It can offer a critical review of the existing literature or can evolve into a dialogue between conservators with complementary or dissenting viewpoints. **Special Considerations** material is segregated from the broader body of the outlined information in an effort to keep the chapter simple enough for easy reference.

## PAPER CONSERVATION CATALOG

### PARTICIPANTS

November 1990

Participation is encouraged both for the chapters below and for those which have not yet been begun. Please review this list and update your interest by contacting the Editorial Assistant or a member of the Editorial Board.

Editorial Board Liaison: Editorial Board contact for a specific chapter. Answers questions consults with committee, communicates suggestions, etc.

Compiler: Either outlines a specific category, fleshing it out in considerable detail, or outlines and develops a major topic within a specific chapter.

Contributor: Contributes to discrete areas within a specific chapter. Contribution can range from a sentence to an essay.

Available for Consultation: Interest in contributing to a specific chapter.

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- \*3. Media Problems (1985)  
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- \*4. Support Problems (1990)  
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7. Authentication  
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9. Instrumental Analysis  
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- \*17. Sizing (1988)  
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- \*19. Bleaching (1989)  
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- \*20. Alkalization and Neutralization (1985) (Bibliography and Special Considerations 1986)  
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- \*22. Humidification (1984)  
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- \*28. Drying and Flattening (1984)  
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- \* Chapter has been printed. Contributions for expansion are actively sought.

