

Ouachita Baptist University

## Scholarly Commons @ Ouachita

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Scholars Day Conference

Scholars Day 2023

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Apr 26th, 3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

### Preserving Your Family Treasures

Natalie Moore

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Chloe Jamora

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Emma Dennis

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Makena Munger

*Ouachita Baptist University*

Isaac Lawson

*Ouachita Baptist University*

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Moore, Natalie; Jamora, Chloe; Dennis, Emma; Munger, Makena; and Lawson, Isaac, "Preserving Your Family Treasures" (2023). *Scholars Day Conference*. 4.

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PREVIEW:  
PRESERVING  
YOUR FAMILY  
TREASURES

A Workshop  
Held by the  
Students of  
the Museum  
Studies class  
of the Public  
History  
Program

Presented by  
Emma Dennis  
Chloe Jamora  
Isaac Lawson  
Natalie Moore  
Makena Munger

# THE WORKSHOP

*Preserving Your Family Treasures* is a  
*Paul and Virginia Henry Enrichment*  
*Grant* funded workshop planned and  
executed by the Museum Studies class in  
the Public History Program

The Workshop will be held Saturday April  
29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sub>am</sub> - 12:00<sub>pm</sub> at Arkadelphia First  
Presbyterian Church in the Fellowship  
Hall. If you would like to participate  
contact [archives@obu.edu](mailto:archives@obu.edu) to register.  
Space is limited.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. *Chloe Jamora on Preserving Paintings*
2. *Emma Dennis on Preserving Wood, Stone, and Natural Specimen*
3. *Natalie Moore on Preserving Metals*
4. *Isaac Lawson on Preserving Ceramic, Glass, and Plastic*
5. *Makena Munger on Preserving Leather and Textiles*

WOOD, STONE,  
AND NATURAL  
SPECIMEN

Emma Dennis

# GRANITE, MARBLE, ECT.

## INSIDE

- ✿ Use water and a gentle soap to clean dust and grime from Granite or Marble artifacts
- ✿ Avoid any abrasive and/acidic cleaning agents like bleach or vinegar

## OUTSIDE

- ✿ Use D2 Biological Solution
- ✿ Keeps stones clean longer without the use of harsh chemicals
- ✿ Use soft bristles brushes when cleaning

# WOOD

## IDENTIFICATION

- Wood can be identified by its color, sheen, patterning, and – when unfinished – its smell.
- Find the wood you have as its care can vary from each kind

## ALL WOODS

- ☞ Keep from direct sunlight
  - ☞ This can lighten the color of the wood
- ☞ Do not allow dust to settle on the artifact
- ☞ Avoid prolonged water contact – keep all if any to a minimum. Most wooden artifacts can be cleaned in through dry methods

## HARD(ER) WOODS

- ☞ Dust regularly
- ☞ Can be cleaned with water occasionally

## SOFT(ER) WOODS

- ☞ Keep from moving around to avoid chipping
  - ☞ Dust regularly
- ☞ Only use water when absolutely necessary



## PLANTS

- Keep in a container and in a location where they are unlikely to be messed with
  - Dried plants are very delicate and even with the best of intentions can crumble and rip very easily

## NATURAL SPECIMEN

- Keep from high humidity places
- Even when sealed, if jostled they can expose the ashes to the air
- Keep from constant movement

## REMAINS

# PAINTINGS

Chloe Jamora

- ↪ Oil Paintings are usually older and have thicker paint
  - ↪ Acrylic Paintings are thinner with a matte finish in most cases
  - ↪ Watercolor paintings will have thinner more transparent finish

## IDENTIFICATION

## HANDLING

- ↪ Be careful and away from things that can snag, puncture, and otherwise damage the paintings
- ↪ Wear gloves as paintings can be made of harmful materials
- ↪ Do not take on more than you can carry

# STORAGE

- ↗ Keep in average humidity, light, and temperature. Extremes can fade and damage the paintings
- ↗ Store framed objects in vertical positions and on shelves
- ↗ Store framed paintings flat
- ↗ If you lean the paintings against the wall, use padding to keep from direct contact and prevent sliding
- ↗ Place something in-between each painting and stack face-to-face and back-to-back

# MOVING

- ↗ When moving, surround the paintings in cardboard and wrap in polyethene or propylene bags secured closed with mylar tape

# CLEANING AND CARE

- ↷ Do not attempt to do any intensive cleaning and care work, go to a professional conservator
- ↷ Do not clean paintings with flaking paint
- ↷ Dust with soft brushes and do not let water or any cleaning chemicals to come into contact with the paintings
- ↷ Keep dust and dirt away from the paintings

- ↷ Excessive light leads to fading and yellowing
- ↷ Unreliable temperature and humidity leads to warped canvas and wood, cracked paint, and sagging canvas
- ↷ Build up of dirt causes scratching and chipping of the paint

# SIGNS OF DAMAGE

CERAMIC,  
GLASS AND  
PLASTIC

Isaac Lawson

# CERAMICS

- ☞ Many people have ceramic art and pottery in their home.
- ☞ These pieces are delicate and easily breakable.
- ☞ If they are painted, do not touch with your bare hands.
- ☞ If they need to be cleaned, lightly dust. No cleaning products!
- ☞ If they break, don't try to fix it on your own. Seek a professional!
- ☞ For storage: Do not wrap in newspaper. Keep in an acid-free box where it can't slide around.
- ☞ For Display: Keep away from ledges and direct sunlight.

# GLASS

- ☞ Very similar to ceramics!
- ☞ Glass is breakable, so we should treat it that way.
- ☞ Don't touch jagged edges, avoid getting cut if a piece is broken.
- ☞ Try not to clean with clean products, light dusting will do.
- ☞ If it breaks, don't try to fix it on your own.
- ☞ For storage: Keep in an acid-free box. Make sure it can't slide around. Don't wrap in newspaper.
- ☞ For display: Keep away from ledges.



# PLASTICS

- ⌚ Don't handle a plastic with your bare hands unless you know its safe. Especially older plastic. Always look to see if the type of plastic is identified, if not handle with caution.
  - ⌚ Clean by lightly dusting with no products (again!).
- ⌚ If you see: discoloration (yellowing), acidic odor, unusual brittleness, warping chipping, and cracking, then do not let it come in contact with your skin!
- ⌚ There isn't much you can do to fix a deteriorating plastic. Once its started, all you can do is work to slow the decline.
- ⌚ For storage: Keep types of plastic together. Keep somewhere with stable temperature & humidity.
- ⌚ For display: Keep away from anything acidic. Keep out of direct light to keep coloring.

# METAL

Natalie Moore

# IRON AND IRON ALLOYS

- ☞ Appear Grey/Silver, Blue-black, and red-brown in color
- ☞ Some are magnetic

# LEAD

- ☞ Dull, metallic blue in color
- ☞ Very heavy and malleable
- ☞ Avoid direct and/or prolonged contact

# COPPER AND COPPER ALLOYS

- ☞ Yellow and rich browns, Surface can be patinated and will vary from red, brown, black, and blue to shades of green
- ☞ The most common form of Copper Alloys in bronze and brass

## SILVER AND SILVER ALLOYS

- ☞ White metallic in color
- ☞ Sterling Silver will usually be hallmarked

## TIN AND TIN ALLOYS

- ☞ Dull gray in color

## NICKEL

- ☞ Gray to white in appearance
  - ☞ Slightly magnetic

# CORROSION

- ☞ Keep in around 35% humidity to slow down corrosion
- ☞ Items that are fully metal and have corroded can be stored in microclimate boxes to be stabilized

- ☞ Polishing should only occur in rare situations
  - ☞ Clean before polishing
- ☞ Prevent metals from needing to be polished in the first place

# POLISHING

- ☞ Should be stored with inert materials
- ☞ Avoid acidic materials being stored in the same place
- ☞ Clean and soft cloths can be used for storage as well
- ☞ Storage containers called housings can be used and should be padded and avoid coming into prolonged contact with other metals as that can lead to corrosion

STORAGE

LEATHER  
AND  
TEXTILES

Makena Munger

# STORAGE

- ✧ Do not leave in light when not in use or you are not present
- ✧ Excessive light can cause damages
- ✧ Keep in 68°-72° and 45%-55% humidity
- ✧ Keep in sealed area away from pests
- ✧ Use acid free boxes
- ✧ Keep free of dust
- ✧ Refrain from stressing the item
- ✧ Try not to handle often
  - ✧ Wear gloves
- ✧ Make sure that wherever the object is moved is clean

# HANDELING



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ↪ Gaylord Products
  - ↪ University Products
  - ↪ American Institute for Conservation
  - ↪ National Park Museum Handbook
  - ↪ Canadian Conservation Institute
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- ↪ Use Museum grade Vacuum if item is in good condition
    - ↪ Use on lowest setting with a nylon screen
  - ↪ Use soft bristled brush to dust the item

## CLEANING

# THE WORKSHOP

*Preserving Your Family Treasures*

This Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00<sub>am</sub> -12:00<sub>pm</sub>.

Arkadelphia First Presbyterian  
Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Space is limited. Please email  
[archives@obu.edu](mailto:archives@obu.edu) to register or ask any  
questions

FIN.