Human Remains: Conservation, Retrieval and Analysis

November 7–10, 1999

Final Program
Development of a Useable Research Collection: The University of Iowa-Stanford Collection

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Office of the State Archaeologist*
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The University of Iowa has recently acquired legal possession of one of the largest collections of documented human skeletal remains in the United States. Officially transferred in 1998 from Stanford University's School of Medicine, this extraordinary collection of nearly 1,100 individuals comes from a pre-antibiotic and pre-modern health trend population amassed in the first half of the century. Composed entirely of willful body donations for the express purpose of research and teaching, the collection provides a much-needed resource in academia given the rapidly shrinking availability of human skeletal material in the United States.

While the research potential of such a large collection is readily recognized, what is not as readily recognized are the number of steps needed in the process toward making the collection accessible to researchers. Some of the needs such an acquisition creates are for storage and space renovations, cleaning and degreasing, development of research access protocol, computer archival and Web database dissemination, and equipment and staffing support.

We also were faced with three immediate, but costly and time-consuming, needs. First, the collection had suffered from deteriorating containers and sub-optimal storage procedures over many years, and it was critical to purchase and place each skeleton in an archival quality container to alleviate the risk of further damage and loss of information. Second, vital statistical records (date and place of birth and death, medical history, cause of death, occupation, etc.) had become disordered over the years including the use of multiple numerical inventory protocols; recovering and organizing the existing documents was essential. Finally, accurate counts on the numbers of males, females, adults, and subadults, as well as assessment of individualized bone condition were necessary to obtain the present composition of the collection and in matching skeletons with individualized documentation in those cases where different numbering systems were employed. The overarching goal is the proper curation of this important collection to become a major research resource for a variety of multidisciplinary scientists around the country.

Application of Consolidants and Adhesives upon Human Skeletal Material

G. Panagiaris, S. Papanikou, M. Venaki, V.N. Lambropoulos
Technological Educational Institution (T.E.I) of Athens
Dept. Conservation of Antiquities and Works of Art
Egaleo, Greece

The properties of bone as a material, as well as the growing scientific interest in this research material, led us to initiate a detailed survey on the properties and behavior of consolidants and adhesives used for its consolidation. For each material three different accelerated artificial aging methods were applied, namely a) aging with heat, b) aging in water c) aging with exposure to UV Lamp irradiation, respectively. Before and after aging, two trials were carried out to test the mechanical strength and reversibility of the materials tested. The results obtained for each material both prior to and after aging were used for comparative studies. Examination of the
material under the binocular microscope enabled the detection of color variation in particular as a result of aging. Paraloid B-72 in Acetone, HMG and UHU_hart as well as Primal AC33 are recommended as appropriate adhesives and suitable consolidants for conservation purposes as a result of these tests.

**Hair Today, Here Tomorrow? The Conservation of Philip Calvert's Hair**

Lisa A. Young*, Henry M. Miller**, Timothy Riordan** and Silas D. Hurry**

Alexandria Conservation Services*
Alexandria, VA
Historic St Mary’s City**
St Mary’s City, MD

This poster will discuss the treatment and analysis of the hair recovered from Philip Calvert's coffin in Historic St. Mary's City. The hair was discovered during the Lead Coffin Project at HSMC in 1992. At that time, the hair was examined and stabilized by project Conservators until a research plan and analysis could be performed. Approaches to this interdisciplinary research project will be discussed, and future proposals for the conservation and analysis of the hair will be summarized.
Program Schedule
All events take place in the Williamsburg Lodge.

Saturday, November 6
4:30 P.M. Registration, Williamsburg Lodge

Sunday, November 7
8 A.M. Registration, Williamsburg Lodge

9 A.M. Making Human Remains Tell Interdisciplinary Research of a 16th-Century Crypt Ana Garcia, OAMC, and Carmen Cribón, Museo de la Historia de Teruel, Spain

The Archaeology of Recovering Unaccounted for Military Personnel from the Vietnam Wars Charles Shropshire and Michael Trouble, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District

The Nekalidh Temple at Comorin: A Specific Case Study in the Co-operative Efforts Between Various Fields Steven Baillie-Smith, QMRO, Glasgow, Scotland


Respect for the Ancestors' New Approaches for the Recovery and Analysis of Native American Burials Doug Carrig and Kevin McBride, Munson-Williams-Proctor Museum and Research Center, Munson-

Ward, Ithaca, NY

Lunch on your own.

2 P.M. The Influence of the Conservation of Archaeological Human Remains on Physical Anthropology G. Pantazopoulou, Technological Educational Institute, Athens, Greece

Standardized Condition Assessment—Skeletal Preservation Andrew Wilson, Robert Janoway, Charlotte Roberts, Bresk Beck, University of Bedford, UK

A Long-term Look at Polymers Used to Preserve Bone: Jessica Johnson, National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

A Co-operative Project Concerning Issues Related to the Excavation and Storage of a Royal Maya Burial Collection Mexico, Maryland Archaeological Conservations Laboratory

The Preservation of Associated Manuscripts: Vicki Carman, University of Nevada

"In All Areas of the Day" Considerations in Dealing with Relics: Elisa Beck, Museum for Angouvalerie Xeust, Köln, Germany

Hitting the Ground Running: Excavation and Conservation of a Human Tibia in the Media Spotlight Elizabeth Bartham and Rebecca Lang, Museum of London, UK

5:30 P.M. Reception, Williamsburg Lodge, Virginia Room

Monday, November 8


Excavating Our Ponds of Flesh: Soft Tissue Collection, Names, Individuation and Questions of Tissue Paula Molloy, Repatriation Office, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

The Attractions of the Museums and Other Issues Related to Human Soft Tissue Collections in Museums: Anna Whelk, Museum of Victoria, Australia

The Preservation and Utility of Soft Tissue Collections with Special Reference to British Virgin Islands, University of Chicago

From Privates to Presidents: Past and Present Memory from the Anatomical Collections of the National Museum of Health and Medicine L. Barnhart and B. Scheck, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington, D.C.

Lunch on your own.

2 P.M. Three-Dimensional (3-D) Imaging of Hard and Soft Tissue Pathology in the Orbital Cranium: An Approach to Non-destructive Documentation of Palaeopathology: Orbana Marie Elliott David Ellings, Collegeen, and Karl Reinhard, University of Nebraska State Museum

A Historical Case Study of Two Egyptian Mummies at the Milwaukee Public Museum: Centre Leporello, Milwaukee Public Museum

The Conservation of Ta-Senet-Nefer, a XXIII-Dynasty Egyptian Mummy, Ronald Harver and Erik Smidt-McNally, Tachshemkot Conservation Porter Session: Authors will be on hand to talk about their posters and answer any questions related to the poster presentations.

Tuesday, November 9

9 A.M. Posters on Osteological Collections: The Importance of Damage Limitations Robert Janoway, Andrew Wilson and Charlotte Roberts, University of Edinburgh, UK

A Standardized Protocol for the Radiographic and

from Office, Smithsonian Institution, and Ashley McKeown, University of Tennessee

Bone Tissue Protection, Investigation and the Documentation and Repatriation of Aboriginal Skeletal Remains in Victoria, Australia: Michael Wartman, Historic Properties Branch, Aboriginal Affairs, Victoria, Australia


Analysis of Curated Human Skeletal Remains from Highland, Illinois: Stephen Williams, Williamsburg, University of Maine

Lunch on your own.

2 P.M. Immigrants and Resident Immigrant Signatures in the Egyptian during the Colonial Period Douglas Oviatt, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

Interdisciplinary and Publicly Engaged Research of the African Diaspora Project: Michael Bailey, Coble Laboratory, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Taking Another Look: The Remediation of Existing Collections: Anne Palkovich, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Taphonomic Considerations in the Recovery and Analysis of Prehistoric Human Remains from the Marquesas Islands of Western Micronesia: Douglas Hanson, Forsyth Dental Center, Houston, Texas

Analysis of Dental Calculus Considerations for the Recovery and Analysis of Microfossils on Teeth: Karl Reinhard and Erin Kerstetter, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Claudia Rodriguez and Sheila Menendez, Fundacion Ossos y Genova, Brasilia

Survival of Human Hair: The Impact of Environmental Conditions: Andrew Wilson, Robert Janoway, Mark Halland, Ross Ghose and Donald Whitt, University of Rochester, NY

6:30 P.M. Optional dinner: Williamsburg Lodge. $40 per person, pre-registration required. See registration form for extra options.

Wednesday, November 10


"Last Will, Hidden Pits, Hidden Covers": Incorporating Humanitarian Values into Repatriation Efforts: Sonia Leib, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI, and Ellen Savitch, Franklin Pierce College, N.H.


Ethics, Evidence and Bone: Diana Smits, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and Allison Golloway, University of California, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Landscapes Bodies Art Histories at the Museums of London: Helen Czerski, Museum of London, UK

The conference will formally end by 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10. Optional tours will be available during the afternoon. The content of the conference is subject to change.

Lodging and Dining at Colonial Williamsburg
The following special conference rates are available for this conference. To make hotel reservations, please call 1-800-244-9737. Dining reservations for Colonial Williamsburg restaurants and colonial taverns may also be made at this number.

Hotel rate for single or double occupancy, per night:
Rates (Rises do not include applicable taxes)
Williamsburg Lodge—Towel or West Wing $170
Williamsburg Lodge—Main, East or South Wing $155
Williamsburg Woodlands Suites $175
Williamsburg Williamsburg Guest Rooms $99
Governor’s Inn $169
*Prices are subject to change at any time

How to Visit Colonial Williamsburg
Williamsburg, Virginia, is located 50 miles south of Washington, D.C., approximately midway between Richmond and Norfolk, Va. Major airports are located in Norfolk, Richmond and Newport News. Daily Amtrak train and Greyhound bus service makes Williamsburg easy to reach.

Cancellation Policy
Cancellation request must be made in writing and mailed to the Registrar, Human Remains at a University address. A 25% refund is given for cancellations received no later than four weeks prior to the beginning of the conference. A 50% refund is given for cancellations received no later than two weeks prior to the beginning of the conference. A 75% refund is given for cancellations received no later than one week prior to the beginning of the conference. After this date, no refunds will be given. A letter with your full name and address (in case the registration forms are returned without your name) is required. We cannot accept cancellation requests by phone.

The National Park at Cranbrook: A Specific Case Study in the Conservation Efforts between Various Fields: Berkeley, Cranbrook, and CRB. PRINCETON, GLENDALE, SOUTHWEST SCOTLAND.


Lunch on your own.

The Influence of the Conservation of Archaeological Human Remains on Physical Anthropology. G. Davysh, Technological Educational Institute, Athens, Greece.

Standardized Condition Assessment—Skeletal Preservation. Andrew Wilson, Robert J. David, Collette Roberts, Bryan Radin, University of Bradford, UK.


A Co-operative Project Concerning Issues Related to the Preservation and Storage of a Broad Range of Bones. Carine Hofer, University of Iowa Archiological Conservation Laboratory.


5.30 pm.

Reception, Williamsburg Lodge, Virginia Room

Monday, November 8

9:30 am.

The Value of Human Remains for Research and Education. David Hart, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.


The Attitudes of the Muscles and Other Issues Related to Soft Tissue Collections in Mammals. Anna, Whaley, Museum of Victoria, Australia.


From Prehistory to Present: Recent Memorials from the Anatomical Collections of the National Museum of Health and Medicine. L. R. DeBarr and W. W. Hall, National Museum of Health and Medicine, Washington, DC.

Lunch on your own.

2:00 pm.


Posters Session: Authors will be on hand to talk about their poster and answer any questions related to the poster presentations.

Tuesday, November 9

9:00 am.

Preservation on Osteological Collections: The Importance of Damage and Reactions. Robert Jonas, Andrew Wilson, and Charlotte Roberts, University of Bradford, UK.


Three-Dimensional Digitizing of Human Skulls as an Archival Procedure. Stephen Osley, Ripon. How to Visit Colonial Williamsburg

Williamsburg, Virginia, is located 150 miles south of Washington, D.C. It is approximately 30 miles north of Richmond and 60 miles north of Norfolk, Richmond, and Hampton Roads. Major airports are located in Norfolk, Lexington Park, and Hampton Roads. Major Amtrak trains and Greyhound bus service is available. Williamsburg is easy to reach.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing and mailed to: Registrar, Hampton Reunion, 500 North Broad Street, Williamsburg, VA 23185. A 50% cancellation fee will apply. No refunds will be given for cancellations received after November 1, 1999.

How to Contact Colonial Williamsburg

For information on special events, accommodations, and directions, call 1-800-727-1776. For additional information, visit www.history.org.
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Registration Information

Conference registration must be made in advance and must be accompanied by payment of the conference registration fee. This fee includes the opening reception, four coffee breaks and presentations proposed in this program schedule. The fee is $199 for registrations postmarked through September 15, 1999, $229 for registrations postmarked after September 15, 1999. Register early!

You may register by mail or fax. We cannot accept registrations by telephone. Fees are payable by major credit cards listed on the registration form or by check. Make checks payable to "Colonial Williamsburg Foundation." Send completed registration form with payment to:

Registrar, Human Remains
Williamsburg Institute
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
P.O. Box 1776
Williamsburg VA 23187-1776

For additional registration information, contact the conference registrar by telephone (757) 220-7182, fax (757) 565-8639 or e-mail tngle@cwfa.org.