

BOOK REVIEWS

a future exhibition or using it to collect information for a grant. Discussing the exhibition of barkcloth, Stephens shows a diagram of a mount in which each element of a costume is supported individually. When fully assembled, the mount gives an accurate impression of the costume as worn. Murray and Johnson artfully explain the difficulty of rolling barkcloth artifacts and discuss various aspects of humidification and storage.

Hill and Johnson each provide valuable information on conservation treatment procedures. Hill tested various combinations of repair materials and adhesives for barkcloth treatment, and she summarizes these results in a concise table. Even more useful is her current-condition assessment of a barkcloth object that she treated 10 years ago. She provides a valuable lesson about the durability of treatment materials over time and encourages conservators to revisit aging conservation treatments—a policy that every conservator should enact.

Johnson also presents valuable conservation treatment information. Her study on the effect of pH on colorants has implications for those considering invasive barkcloth treatments that involve washing or deacidification. Her article has a superb literature review of previous barkcloth treatments and tackles some tough ethical questions regarding the benefits of, or justification for, deacidification. She also provides instruction on preparing a magnesium bicarbonate solution on a large scale (adapted from originators of this method, H. D. Burgess and A. Boronyak-Szaplonczay) and on titration procedures to determine the concentration of such solutions.

The articles in *Barkcloth: Aspects of Preparation, Use, Deterioration, Conservation and Display* are useful additions to the body of knowledge currently available on barkcloth. One of the benefits of this type of publication is that it gives authors a venue for wide distribution of their information, even if the articles are not necessarily of the same quality as those found in peer-reviewed journals. Here curators, conservators, and research scientists have published their newest ideas regarding barkcloth, from nascent research ventures to detailed technological information derived from years of intense study. The articles vary markedly in content, level of detail, and quality,

but as a whole they accurately demonstrate the state of barkcloth study today. In general, there is little technical information published on barkcloth. Most of the information now available describes manufacture and use. Few publications describe conservation, deterioration, or display. Therefore, conservators doing technical research on barkcloth or working with collections first-hand will benefit from this book. Even those with only a mild interest in barkcloth will find the publication to be approachable and useful.

This publication owes a great debt to editor Margot Wright. When not editing for CEA, Wright is senior curator of conservation at the Marischal Museum, Marischal College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland. She also edits for the Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration and is newsletter editor for the ethnographic working group of the International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation.

(It should be noted that this reviewer is mentioned in connection with research on the deterioration of barkcloths discussed in Holdcraft's article, "Research, Exhibition and Preservation of the Barkcloth Collections from the Pacific in the Harvard Peabody Museum.")

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DAVID WATKINSON AND VIRGINIA NEAL, *FIRST AID FOR FINDS*. 3d ed. London: Rescue/UKIC Archaeology Section, 1998, reprinted 2001. 100 pages, hardcover binder, \$28. Available from Archetype Publications, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, A210 Fowler Building, Box 951510, Los Angeles, Calif. 90095. ISBN 1-871656-28-1.

First Aid for Finds is a basic sourcebook of information to help archaeologists and conservators successfully recover and store newly excavated archaeological objects ("finds" in the United King-

BOOK REVIEWS

dom). First written by David Leigh and others and published in 1972, this work has been published in new editions two times and reprinted with and without revisions several times as well. The volume under review, the third edition (reprinted with minor revisions in 2001) was written by David Watkinson and Virginia Neal. There is also a Japanese-language edition under way. The multiple editions and reprintings speak to the book's usefulness to both archaeology and conservation.

This book gives enough practical information to safely excavate and store objects during and directly after excavation for individuals who may not have conservation training and experience. Conservation treatment is not covered except in minor ways. While the book gives some basic information about preservation and deterioration, it does not attempt to give a deep understanding of these issues. It is focused on getting objects safely out of the burial environment and packed so that they can be analyzed and treated at some point in the future.

The current edition, housed in a hard plastic-covered four-ring binder and printed on a water-resistant paper, is a larger format than the previous edition, with a larger, easier-to-read font. Some figures (updated by Nick Griffiths) have been simply redrawn, and others are completely new interpretations of previous illustrations. These changes make the book easier to read yet retain the strengths of the previous format that made it a tough, flexible book structure for use under difficult field conditions. I can testify to the toughness of my personal copy of the previous edition, which survived a dousing and mold outbreak when the facility where it was stored caught fire.

The book is divided into sections that cover the following broad topics: planning for excavation, excavation and decay, packing, metals, inorganic materials, organic materials, and lifting. There is a lot of packing information included in the sections on particular materials (such as copper alloys or leather) as well. A carefully written glossary and list of UK suppliers (with acknowledgment that suppliers can quickly go out of date) are also included.

This book focuses very consciously on the care of objects recovered in the prevailing burial condi-

tions of northern Europe (usually somewhat damp and often waterlogged). However, most of the techniques are easily adapted to conditions found worldwide. Enough detail and explanation are given that readers should be able to evaluate which techniques and materials can be used in any particular situation. Some American readers may find unfamiliar vocabulary (polythene vs. polyethylene; industrial methylated spirit), but in most cases the glossary provides illumination.

A minor flaw is that the 2001 revisions are simply added in as an additional two-sided page (xiii and xiv), probably for cost savings. However, it is likely that the new information (some very specific and all very useful) will be missed by the reader thumbing through for information on a specific topic.

Section 1, "Planning for Conservation," discusses how conservation can be included in the initial planning and structuring of an excavation project. Using recommendations from the British Institute of Field Archaeologists and English Heritage, this section discusses how a conservation presence can be built in, depending on the goals and financial parameters of the project. It lays out the responsibilities that a conservator can take on and also describes the important concept of "levels of conservation" that allow for differing amounts of time and money to be spent on objects depending on their importance and preservation needs.

Section 2, "Excavation and Decay," describes what happens to materials when they are buried. Two useful tables help the reader identify what kinds of materials can be expected to be found, depending on the burial environment (i.e., acid, neutral, or alkaline).

The next section, "Packing Finds for Storage," gives a broad overview of why good packing is needed for preservation. It also details the materials and techniques that are especially useful for packing archaeological objects. A number of illustrations add to the information provided in the text. The very specific information, such as types of markers to use, exactly how to punch holes in polyethylene bags to prevent condensation, and how to determine the correct amount of silica gel needed to create a desiccated environment (among a wealth of other details), is what makes this book a very useful resource.

BOOK REVIEWS

The sections on “Metals” (iron, copper, silver, gold, lead, tin, pewter, and zinc), “Inorganic Objects” (stone, mosaics, ceramics, wall paintings, and glass), and “Organic Objects” (waterlogged wood, textiles, leather, bone, antler, ivory, and horn) give enough information about structure, identification, deterioration, and specific packing techniques for each material to enable objects to be identified and safely stored according to their needs. The tables listing the appearance of corrosion products of different metals are very useful, and the bulleted lists of dos and don’ts for each type of material make it quick and easy to find information on specific topics.

The final section, section 7, covers the lifting of fragile objects. The examples given are based on techniques published elsewhere, and the original sources are given. Enough detail is included, however, so that careful personnel using just the information supplied in this book can carry out the methods. Bowing to the fact that consolidation is sometimes necessary and often carried out by nonconservators, the authors have included a section on consolidants that clearly explains the difference between emulsions and dispersions on the one hand and resins in solution on the other (a distinction that is important to understand and often not clearly presented in the casual recommendations that can be found in print and on the World Wide Web).

I have used the second edition of this book regularly since its publication. It is an extremely useful field resource for conservators when encountering a material with which they are unfamiliar and gives enough background to safely remove and store it. It is a good reference to recommend to interested archaeological colleagues. It is also a useful resource for developing training materials in the classroom and on-site. The additions and improvements in the new edition expand on its previous strengths and can be recommended to conservators and archaeologists looking for a basic resource to use in the field. Much of the strength of *First Aid for Finds* comes from how it has been updated and improved over the years. Numerous authors and editors have provided expertise and experience. Rescue—the British Archaeological Trust and the Archaeology Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation—(with help

from others) should be applauded for generously supporting its evolution over four decades.

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MAXINE K. SITTS, ED., *HANDBOOK FOR DIGITAL PROJECTS: A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR PRESERVATION AND ACCESS*. Andover, Mass.: Northeast Document Conservation Center, 2000. 179 pages, hardcover, \$38. Available from NEDCC, 100 Brickstone Square, Andover, Mass. 01810-1494; 978-470-1010; Fax: 978-475-6021; ISBN 0-9634685-4-5.

Despite the common view that publications about digital projects tend to be short-lived in a field that changes so rapidly, *Handbook for Digital Projects* offers a lasting contribution. The book is not timeless, but it is successful in achieving its narrowly defined goals of providing guidance (not technical solutions) to managers of scanning and digital conversion projects and informing readers about the broad range of considerations in digitization projects from capture to storage to access.

The publication is the result of four years of research and curriculum development (funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities [NEH] and the A. W. Mellon Foundation) for the Northeast Document Conservation Center’s School for Scanning. Its essential message is that digitization for its own sake is clearly shortsighted. Managers should take time at the outset to define the scope, goals, sustainability, and metrics of a pending project. And then they must be well informed about the complexities justifying a project, when and how to begin, integrating preservation, selecting material, maintaining standards of quality, developing infrastructure, and providing access to the end product. To begin a project, managers must be able to answer: Why do it? What do you want to produce? And what will you