



ASM Museum Chat

Jan. 18 , 11 am
Session 17

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Daniel

Moderator (LAM): Hi Scott!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Everything looks good, I guess we will just wait to see how many people join us

Andrew Goldstein: Hello

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Andrew!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Shoveled any snow lately?

Andrew Goldstein: Yes, to make an understatement.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Is it piled up as tall as buildings?

Andrew Goldstein: Yes, it's up to second story windows in many places. The big Indian head sculpture can only be seen from the eyes up.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Are you serious!?!?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That must be amazing

Moderator (LAM): Wow!

Andrew Goldstein: It is pretty amazing.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Dave

Dave: Hi Scott

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Where are you hailing from?

Dave: Kodiak Military History Museum

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Oh yeah, how is the weather in Kodiak?

Dave: Just finished shoveling the driveway...again.

Dave: How's Anchorage?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Is it as bad as Valdez?

Dave: No

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I was up in Anchorage last week and it was a lot colder than down here in Juneau.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): But now Juneau is in the single digits

Dave: That's significant for SEA

Dave: Brrr!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yeah, I thought our furnace was on the fritz last night but it turns out it was just the thermostat

Dave: I've had the woodstove burning around the clock for two weeks straight now

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Jo, welcome to the chat

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We are just getting started and waiting for more people to join

Jo Antonson: Thanks. Jo

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The photo is just in from Cordova



Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Aurora sent it. I guess the museum is somewhere behind that snow

Dave: I think I see the roof

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yes there appears to be a roof back there

Moderator (LAM) to Scott Carrlee, LAM: Let me know when you'd like the recording started.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Tana

Moderator (Scott Carrlee) to Scott Carrlee, LAM: you can start it now

Tana Finnesand: Good morning - brrrrrrr!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee) to Scott Carrlee, LAM: What is the Temp in Glennallen?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee) to Scott Carrlee, LAM: Hi Marnie

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Marnie

Marnie: Good Morning!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Tana, what is the temp in Glennallen

Tana Finnesand: -47 this morning. School kids still had to go to school. It's -53 here in Copper Center

Marnie: Well I guess I should not complain about the 8 inches of snow then!!!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Oh my, I guess we can't complain with our 2 degrees this morning

Tana Finnesand: Most of you folks are probably buried under feet of snow

Marnie: Way colder and snowier this year

Andrew Goldstein: 300+ inches here

Tana Finnesand: Haha Yeah, we've been hearing about you guys, Andrew

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So we can get started

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So does anyone have a burning question or topic they wish to discuss/

Marnie: Well, you know me! I do.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is great Marnie

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Go right ahead

Marnie: Scanning slides.....

We recently got a server and upgraded computers, operating systems, and software to learn that our nifty Nikon slide scanner, that scans 50 slides at a time, no longer works. Nikon decided not to update their software for new Microsoft operating systems. This is also true for our flatbed, but a flatbed is easy to purchase. They do not seem to make slide scanners that scan bunches of slides, that I have found. We have 30,000 plus slides to scan...

Marnie: Should we outsource - to who? Is there an industrial slide scanner worth purchasing?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): So just out of curiosity how did it scan 50 at a time?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Were they in a line or some sort of hopper?

Marnie: It had a feeder. It malfunctioned, but Patrick learned that you just have to keep your finger on the slide that was about to feed. Anyway, although you had to hold your finger on the slide, it worked great. Nikon and other companies did not bother to make this feeder or fix the problem as it is not a high demand product.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Jane

Jane Lindsey: hello

Andrew Goldstein: Hi Jane

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We are discussing slide scanning

Jane Lindsey: hi ya

Jane Lindsey: oh great topic

Marnie: You can do 12 or so at a time on a flatbed, and there are a few slide scanners out there, but none for the massive amount we have to scan.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Well it sounds like with so many slides you may want to outsource it

Marnie: If anyone has suggestions for outsourcing or a product - let us know!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I wish Bob Curtis Johnson was on the chat. He might know of someone in Anchorage

Jane Lindsey: are there vendors for this kind of thing that are affordable?

Marnie: Ok, we will check with him. We will be shooting for a grant here for 2013-14 probably.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Here is an idea from the confirmed Luddite in me. Could you keep one computer with the old operating system in place? Maybe until you find another option

Marnie: Working on that! I have my old hard drive, and we have a few Macs...that's our temp. solution.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): But I can see it is only the temporary solution. With 30K slides you will need to find something else.

Marnie: Do other museums in AK have this many slides??? or do we have a freakishly abundant amount?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think you are freaks!! ha ha

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The Anchorage Museum might have that many

Andrew Goldstein: We have that many slides, most of them are unscanned. A lot are not even catalogued.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): But we don't here at ASM

Jane Lindsey: we are just now being offered them and want to make sure we are keeping them properly and are able to utilize them.

Andrew Goldstein: Well, not 30K, but several thousand...

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Who is offering them Jane?

Jane Lindsey: in general, we are seeing donations starting to come in from the 70s and there are a lot of slides involved.

Marnie: (We already know that Scott!)

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That makes sense. With the slides going out of favor and kodak going under I bet you will see lots of slides coming in

Jane Lindsey: Marnie, how do you store yours?

Marnie: In sleeves in hanging file cabinets. We store prints flat in boxes.

Marnie: This is per Arlene Schmuland's suggestion.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): For the new Library Archives and Museum building we are planning here in Juneau we are spec'ing out a cold room for slide storage

Jane Lindsey: Do you know how cold they should be kept, Scott?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I am not sure exactly but Jim Simard has the specs on it.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): It seems there will be a 0 degree room for nitrate negs and then a 40 degree room for slides and then a 50 degree room for photos But I will check with him to make sure I have that right

Jane Lindsey: Thanks! that is very helpful.

Moderator (LAM): There's an August 2009 NPS Conservation on cold storage at <http://www.nps.gov/museum/publications/conservation/14-10.pdf>

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): oh that is great Daniel. You should all follow that link

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That was a good topic. Does anyone have another question?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We could open it up to discuss how everyone is dealing with this weather vis a vis their climate control

Marnie: Andrew, did you have to take any special actions to deal with the 300 inches?

Dave: What is the more important condition to deal with: heat or humidity?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is a really good question Dave

Andrew Goldstein: We had to call in the city maintenance dept. to help shovel off the Perry -- the photo is what it looked like before it was cleared.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Where is the perry, what perry?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): To Dave question which is a really good one by the way

Andrew Goldstein: The Perry is our fishing vessel outside the museum.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Artifacts are not as affected by temperature change as they are by humidity change

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): so of the two you should be trying to control the humidity more than the temperature.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I should say that artifacts are more able to tolerate lower temperatures than higher ones

Dave: How dry is too dry?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Most artifacts won't really be affected by low or freezing temps.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Too dry is when artifacts are below 30% RH for extended periods of time. There have been some experiments done recently that looked at the affect of a low RH and they found that it is not the rapid swings in RH but extended periods of low RH (below 30%) that causes the most damage

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Hi Eleanor

Jane Lindsey 1: interesting

Eleanor: sorry I'm late

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yeah we used to preach that there be a steady RH and that the rapid swings were bad

Dave: I'm in a buried concrete building, so moisture is a constant problem. I'm able to get two of the rooms down below 60%, but with the recent cold spell it's edging down to towrds 20%.

Marnie: Ellen gave a a review she did of temp and RH....TEMP AND RH REVIEW FOR MUSEUMS 2010

A Review of Recent Ideas and Annotated Bibliography

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Now they have discovered that artifacts have enough moisture in them to withstand the swings and it is the extreme drying out that causes irreverisible damage

Jane Lindsey 1: yes - Dave, we also have low RH in the winter which is a huge problem for us too.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I think that is on her blog as well

Dave: How do you correct for it Jane?

Moderator (LAM): <http://ellencarrlee.wordpress.com/2010/10/21/temp-and-rh-review-for-museums-2010/> - Ellen's post

Dave: Thanks for the link

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): go Daniel

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Ellen really outlines some of the latest research in this area

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I encourage you all to read through it.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I have been to your museum Dave

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I remember walking throughthe bunker

Dave: Neat, I have some reading to do while the snow falls.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): You have too much humidity in the summer and not enough in the winter

Dave: We've been able to moderate that a lot by installing an arctic entrance. Everything is a lot more stable than it was.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Dave, do you have dataloggers in place?

Dave: No, not yet. I do have four indicators throughout the building, but the logging is manual.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Would you like me to send you a couple? They are part of our environmental monitoring program

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): They can easily download to the web and we can both look at the data

Dave: Yes, please! That would be great, thanks...

Dave: Sounds good.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): I will send a couple this week with instructions on how to download them. You can keep them for up to a year and we can check all the seasons

Dave: That will be a big help, and instructional, I'm sure.

Dave: Thanks Scott.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): How are other people coping with this cold snap?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We gave a have a lot of condensation on our windows here at the state museum

Dave: I don't have that problem!

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): ha ha no windows!

Dave:

Marnie: I have two humidifiers running in the colls. rm. As you know, our HVACs are dying, and are still a prob.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yes I remember that Marnie

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Do the room humidifiers do the job?

Marnie: Yes, but it takes two...or I come in everyday. The gallery system has failed recently too, so there's been a bit of juggling...

Jane Lindsey 1: how many sq. ft is your collection space, Marnie?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is a good point

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): sometimes huge areas are just too much for small humidifiers

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): In Dave's case they might not make a dent in it

Dave: Isn't there a temperature threshold for dehumidifiers as well?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): yes there is and it can get complicated

Dave: I'm using two units to keep one room "in spec".

Dave: I use a fan to circulate in the other areas

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): That is a good idea

Moderator (Scott Carrlee) to Scott Carrlee, LAM: That is a good idea

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): We still have time for another question or topic (or two)

Jane Lindsey 1: Oh - thanks, Marnie!

Tana Finnesand: Well speaking of cold & rh, a month ago I hung 3 oil paintings in the exhibit room. Now it is very cold, and very dry in the exhibit room

Tana Finnesand: I'm trying to figure out how to mitigate effects on ;the paintings

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): are they on stretched canvas

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): or on boards of some sort?

Tana Finnesand: On boards

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Do you notice any flaking of the paint?

Tana Finnesand: No, I haven't looked with a magnifier though

Jane Lindsey 1: when were they made? Scott, doesn't that also make a difference in how a artifact reacts to environment changes?

Tana Finnesand: They were all painted in the 1980s, so they're recent

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Yes, when and how they were made and with what materials

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Generally the better the artist knows the materials the better they will last.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Oil paints are generally quite robust

Tana Finnesand: Oil paint, on that artist board--don't know what it's called. Canvas glued onto some type of board

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Acrylics that are layered on thick and shrink and crack

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): If they are oil they on board they might be doing ok

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): It is the canvas stretched over wood that tends to be affected most by climate

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): The wood shrinks as the RH drops and then the canvas becomes slack.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Then the vibrations will cause the paint to crack and chip off

Tana Finnesand: Okay, I see. Thanks

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): You should look very closely at all the surfaces in good light (flash light held to the side) and see if there is any flaking

Jane Lindsey 1: Scott, what about oil or acrylic directly on wood?

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): if not then they could be ok

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Directly on wood is more problematic than on those artist boards with some sort of canvas in between

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Directly on wood causes a lot of problems with shrinking and flaking off

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Generally thck paint is a problem

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Are you thinking of painted masks and carvings?

Jane Lindsey 1: yes - and there is someone offering us a painting that is directly on wood.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Tana, let me know if you see any problems with these.

Tana Finnesand: I will. Thank you Scott

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): If it is done well, i.e. good surface prep and thinly painted it should do ok. Ellen or I could look at it for you some time.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Well that just about wraps up another chat

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Thank you all for joining in.

Moderator (Scott Carrlee): Keep Warm!!

Jane Lindsey 1: great information, thanks all.

Dave: Thanks all

Tana Finnesand: Stay warm

Eleanor: talk with you later - keep warm

Andrew Goldstein: Thanks everyone, see you soon.