

AGENDA

Hermitage Photograph Conservation Initiative Advisory Committee Meetings and Workshops October 25-29, 2010

Hermitage Working Group

- Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director, The State Hermitage Museum
- Svetlana Adaksina, Deputy Director of the State Hermitage Museum for Inventory, Storage and Conservation, and Chief Curator
- Georgy Vilinbakhov, Deputy Director for Research
- Yury Matveev, Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Development
- Miriam Dandamayeva, Scientific Secretary
- Tatyana Baranova, Head, Department of Conservation
- Vyacheslav Fedorov, Head, Department of Russian History and Culture and co-director of Mellon initiative
- Natalia Avetyan, Curator of Photographs, Department of Russian History and Culture
- Alexandra Davidova, Interpreter, Hermitage Friends
- Ekaterina Molchanova, Curator of Sector of Negatives, Manuscripts and Documents Department
- Natalia Plevaya, Department of Russian History and Culture
- Andrey Naslednikov, Curator of Photographs, Western European Department
- Tatyana Sayatina, Conservator, Department of Photograph Conservation

Mellon Advisory Committee

Paul Messier (co-director of Mellon initiative), Karina Beeman, Robert Burton, Franziska Frey, Bertrand Lavédrine, Debra Hess Norris, Eric Pourchot, Angelica Rudenstine, Consultant to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Mariët Westermann, Vice President, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Sunday evening 7:30 PM: Informal meeting at Kempinski bar

Advisory Committee Meetings, Day 1, Monday, October 25

10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Welcome and introductions

Vyacheslav Fedorov

Review of agenda and overview of activities since April Meeting

Vyacheslav Fedorov and Paul Messier

Updates on the status of the Photograph Conservation Laboratory

Tatyana Baranova

- Design and layout
- Furnishings
- Timeline for completion (possible access to the new lab by end of March 2011 as suggested by Mikhail Piotrovsky)
- Staffing

Updates on the housing and move preparation for the Russian History and Culture photographs collection

Natalya Avetyan

Updates on the daguerreotype publication and planned exhibition

Vyacheslav Fedorov, & Natalya Avetyan

Discussion of recent research regarding the display of daguerreotypes

Paul Messier

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM – Lunch

2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Presentation and review of cataloguing and digitization methodologies

Paul Messier

4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Daguerreotype exhibition planning meeting

Natalya Avetyan, Tatyana Baranova, Tatyana Bolshakova Head Laboratory of Climate Control, Vyacheslav Fedorov, Mariana Kozlova, Debra Hess-Norris, Bertrand Lavédrine, Paul Messier, Angelica Rudenstine, Tatyana Sayatina, & **representative from exhibition design department**

Meetings Day 2, Tuesday, October 26

10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Educational program round table discussion

- Review of past workshops
- Evaluating and documenting progress
- Proposed schedule for 2011: (Weissman Preservation Center, Harvard University, January 18 to February 1, 2011; PMG meeting in Ottawa, Canada, February 2-5, 2011; Spring workshops Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts & University of Delaware)
- Priorities for future workshops and site visits
- Possible opportunities (J. Paul Getty Museum, Getty Conservation Institute, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, USA; De Montfort University, Leicester, UK; Museum of Modern Art, New York)

Open discussion

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM – Lunch

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Meeting between Angelica Rudenstine and Mikhail Piotrovsky

Presentations (PowerPoint required)

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Care, identification and preservation of 19th Century photographic processes

Debra Hess Norris

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Evolving treatment philosophies and current research related to the daguerreotype

Paul Messier

Meetings Day 3, Wednesday, October 27

10:20 AM

Meet at staff entrance of the Hermitage

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Review of preventive conservation strategies for photographic materials
Bertrand Lavédrine

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Lunch

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Workshop

2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Introduction: Mikhail Piotrovsky (if possible)

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Part I
(PowerPoint required)

1. *Digitization and cataloguing as linked strategies: Examination of diverse cataloguing models currently in use in a range of institutions*

Robert Burton

- a. Cataloguing provides access and imparts a critical measure of intellectual control. Digital imaging provides highly versatile levels of access as well as yielding essential documentation of condition. Together cataloguing and digitization provide a platform for integration with other collections. -45 minutes
- b. Discussion -30 minutes

2. *Some existing standards and practices applied to digital recordkeeping*

Franziska Frey

- a. International standards for digital documentation have begun to emerge, including rationales for standardization. Coordinated inter-institutional documentation offers opportunities for enhanced research. -45 minutes
- b. Discussion -30 minutes

Meetings Day 4, Thursday, October 28

10:20 AM

Meet at staff entrance of the Hermitage

10:30 AM

Mariët Westermann to *Staraya Derevnya Center for Restoration Conservation and Storage* by Hermitage car from Kempinki (Karina Beeman, interpreter and, possibly, Deputy Director Yury Matveyev)

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Part II

1. *Review of cataloguing practices at the Hermitage*
Natalia Grishanova, Head of Department of Scientific Documentation
Review of:
 - a. Inventory and cataloguing standards and protocols
 - b. Cataloguing strategies and future initiatives
 - c. Cataloguing goals in general and for photograph collections specifically-45 minutes

2. *Review of cataloguing and digitization practices for photographs within the Department of Russian History and Culture*
Natalia Avetyan, Curator of Photographs, Department of Russian History and Culture
-35 minutes

3. *Review of cataloguing and digitization practices for photographs within the Western European Department*
Andrey Naslednikov, Curator of Photographs, Western European Department
-35 minutes (tentative)

4. Discussion -35 minutes

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Lunch

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Part III

Practicum: 10 participants

1. Presentation of cataloguing practices at the Hermitage, possibly including a tour of the cataloguing department: Speaker TBD (tentative)

2. Robert Burton demonstration of cataloguing process and cataloguing test cases

Meetings Day 5, Friday, October 29

10:20 AM

Meet at staff entrance of the Hermitage

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Part IV

(PowerPoint required)

1. Challenges and opportunities of high quality digital documentation

Franziska Frey

- a. Repeatability
- b. Reference standards used for photographic documentation
- c. Transition from analog to digital
- d. Preservation issues

-60 minutes

2. Demonstration of Paul Messier's methodology for documenting condition and effect of treatment on photographs

Paul Messier

-45 minutes

3. Discussion

-45 minutes

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM – Lunch

2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Cataloguing, Digitization and Digital Documentation Part V

Practicum: 10 participants

1. Visit to photography studio for demonstration of Hermitage conservation documentation practice.

-1.5 hours