

President's Letter

Randy Silverman

Preparations are already underway to welcome you to Utah for the 2017 WAAC annual meeting. Please mark your calendars now – it is going to be a meeting filled with great comradery and professional engagement. Thanks to the 2002 Winter Olympics, Salt Lake City now has an effective light rail system to whisk you from the Salt Lake International Airport directly to the University Guest House. Rooms at the Guest House will cost only \$110 per night if you reserve in advance, and I'll provide more on that when registration opens.

Monday 25 September will include a day-long pre-conference in Brigham Young University's phenomenal

Rare Book Room in Provo. This stellar collection is the most important assemblage of rare books in the western triangle between Chicago, Austin, and Los Angeles. Highlights take in both manuscript books and 450 incunabula, European books printed before 1501. The emphasis on Renaissance printers includes works by Aldus Manutius and his heirs in Venice (600 titles); Henri Estienne, Robert Estienne, and Henri Estienne II in Paris and Geneva (500 titles); Simon de Colines in Paris (300 titles); Badius Ascensius of Paris (60 titles); the Giunta family of printers in Florence (140 titles plus 360 printed Laws of the City of Florence); Froben of Basel (120 titles); and Christopher Plantin of Antwerp (225 titles). Our behind-the-scenes tour will showcase BYU's extraordinary rare book storage facility.

Other highpoints will include an opportunity to visually compare Johannes Gutenberg's first carbon-black printers ink developed for his 1455 Bible (*Biblia Sacra*) with William Morris's black ink used to print the magnificent 1896 Kelmscott *Chaucer* with its 87 wood-cut illustrations by Edward Burne-Jones. Also, Louis Prang's vibrant chromolithographs for Thomas Moran's 1876 portfolio, *Yellowstone National Park*, are some of the finest examples of the technique ever created.

The conference proper will be Tuesday-Thursday 26-28 September 2017 at the University of Utah's Marriott Library. WAAC's board has already received several proposals for presentations, *so please consider this a first call for papers*.

This year's reception will be sponsored by disaster recovery firm Belfor USA, and held at the Natural History Museum of Utah. Set at the edge of campus in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains, the museum's new 163,000-square-foot Rio Tinto Center opened in November 2014 and contains 1.3 million items.

The museum's anthropology collection consists of objects recovered from 3,800 archaeological sites and boasts the largest known example of a Navajo pitch basket. Its archaeological collection includes artifacts from some of North America's most significant dry cave sites—Danger, Hogup, Cowboy, and Promontory. The ethnographic collection represents each of Utah's Native American groups—Goshute, Navajo, Paiute, Shoshone and Ute—and is home to a spectacular modern Navajo basketry collection. The museum's world-class vertebrate fossils were recovered largely from Utah and surrounding states with numerous examples coming from the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry. We hope to tour the museum's state-of-the-art storage facility that was realized, in part, with the generous support of a Save America's Treasures grant.

While you are making plans, please take time to consider the state's scenic beauty. Utah includes five national parks that are less crowded and more intimate after Labor Day. Highlights include sunrise over Canyonlands, sunset in Arches, a glimpse of the Milky Way over Capitol Reef, coral-colored hoodoos in Bryce Canyon, and the renowned slot canyons of Zion National Park.

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President's letter, continued

Southeastern Utah is also a treasure-trove of rare Barrier Canyon style rock art in and around the San Rafael Swell. Distinctive pictograph (painted) panels believed to be between 1500 and 4000 years old include Buckhorn Wash, Horseshoe Canyon, Courthouse Wash, and the remarkable Sego Canyon. And while you are here, don't forget to pay homage to the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument that President Obama recently called a "remarkable national treasure." East of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and south of Canyonlands National Park, these preserved 1.9 million acres of ancestral land represent a collaborative victory for Tribal and conservation groups. It has its detractors, however. Utah Republican Senator Mike Lee called the National Monument the "arrogant act by a lame-duck president" and says he intends to "work tirelessly . . . to . . . undo" the designation. Plan to see it anyway, it is wonderful.



WAAC's annual meeting in Utah promises to be memorable. Please let me know if you'd like to present a paper, and plan to join your colleagues for a great time this September. Insert yourself into the frame—this is one meeting you don't want to miss.

With warmest regards,
Randy Silverman

Regional News

Mark MacKenzie
column editor

Alaska

Ellen Carrlee is learning how to integrate conservation documentation into the new ARGUS database, designing a project to image and manage the museum's herbarium, and helping commission the new paper conservation lab. Upcoming projects include helping protect collections while a mezzanine is installed in the vault, and beginning stages of planning a cross-border regalia conference with Yukon conservator **Valery Monahan**.

Scott Carrlee helped write a grant and is coordinating a project to bring paper conservator **Seth Irwin** back to Alaska. Seth spent most of 2010 in Alaska working on grant funded projects at many small museums around the state. This time Seth will spend 3 months at the new State Library, Archives, and Museum facility in Juneau to commission the new paper conservation laboratory (the first paper lab in the state). He will help to prepare sesquicentennial documents related to the purchase of Alaska from Russia for exhibit.

Lisa Imamura continued at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau, helping Ellen Carrlee and **Paige Schmidt** reshape a humidified model *angyapik* (open skin boat). Lisa also surface cleaned model whaling accessories that accompany the *angyapik*,

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Deadline

Contributions for the January Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **April 10, 2017**.