

## Donia Conn

PA-AIC

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### Education

- 1997 MLIS with an Advanced Certificate in Conservation, Preservation and Conservation Studies Program, University of Texas, Austin, TX.
- 1992-1993 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Graduate work in Mathematics and Archaeology.
- 1991 BA, *cum laude*, St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. Mathematics major. Term abroad at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

### Professional Experience

- 2005-Present: Head of Conservation Services, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, IL. Responsible for the management of the conservation lab, 2.5 regular staff and several student employees. Responsible for rare book conservation and conservation project management. Chair of the Disaster Prevention and Action Team (2006-), Chair of the Exhibitions Committee (2006-), elected member of the Kaplan Humanities Center Fellow Jury (2006), member Search Committee for Head of Preservation (2006), elected member of the Speakers Committee of the NUL Assembly of Librarians (2006-2008).
- 1996-Present: Conservator in private practice providing conservation, consultation, and education for private and institutional clients. Clients include the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Olaf College, Stanford University, the Central New York Libraries Research Council, The Northern New York Library Network, and the Owen D. Young Central Schools/Van Hornesville (NY) Community Corporation.
- 2001-2005: Rare Book and Paper Conservator, Syracuse University Library, Syracuse, NY. Responsibilities include conservation of rare materials, exhibit preparation and installation, lab management, training and supervising work study students and interns, creation and maintenance of lab manual, and management of the treatment database. Member of the Central New York Libraries Resources Council Preservation Committee (2002-present), the Syracuse University Library Association (Chair, Library Concerns and Development Committee 2004-2005; Member-at-Large 2003-4), Exhibition Action Team (2004-2005), Organizational Review Task Force A (2004), and the Conference and Travel Reimbursement Action Team (2002).

- 2003-2004: Adjunct Faculty/Binder-in-Residence, Wells College Book Arts Center, Aurora, NY. Teaching Bookbinding I and II. Courses focus on skills in hand bookbinding to provide a strong foundation for more experimental structures. Bindings in Bookbinding I include concertina, Japanese, German (Bradel) case, as well as decorated papers. Bookbinding II was geared toward independent exploration with guidance.
- 2003: Advanced Conservation Intern, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. Treated manuscripts and early printed books, works of art on paper, made custom enclosures, and assisted in preparation of the large-scale exhibition "Elizabeth, Then and Now".
- 2000-2001: Paper Conservator, West Lake Conservators, Skaneateles, NY. Worked with a team of private paintings conservators to expand the services of the company to include book and paper conservation and conservation framing. Provided consultations services and on-site disaster recovery. Specialized in the treatment of large format materials and parchment.
- 1998-1999: Senior Library Bookmender, University of California, San Francisco, CA. Responsible for collections maintenance and environmental monitoring. Provided staff workshops in preservation and materials handling.
- 1998: Library Conservator, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY. Established the first book and paper conservation lab in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Primary responsibilities included lab management, establishing work-flow and treatment protocols, creation of lab manual, conservation treatment, surveying collections, and the training and supervision of five work study students in boxing and book repair.
- 1997: Conservation Intern, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Trained in all aspects of hand bookbinding and conservation. Full treatments were carried out on paper, leather and parchment.
- 1995-1996: Library Assistant, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, TX.
- 1995: Photo Technician, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, TX.
- 1994: Assistant Conservator, Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN.
- 1993-1994: Conservation Intern, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN.
- 1992-1993: Work study student, Conservation lab, University of Wisconsin Library, Madison, WI.

## **Instruction**

- Disaster Recovery. One-day workshop in disaster recovery techniques for library and archives materials. Sponsored by the Northern New York Library Network. (2005)
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Conservation Internship. One-week internship in book conservation for a student in the Art Conservation program at Buffalo State College, NY. Projects included joint tacketing, tissue repair of bindings, recasing using a molded paper spine, rebinding an incunabulum in a limp paper binding, and historic endband techniques. (2005)

- A German Approach to Springback Binding.
  - Two-day workshop sponsored by the Austin Book Workers, Austin, TX. (2004)
  - Two-day workshop (co-taught with Peter Verheyen) sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Easthampton, MA. (2003)
- Book Arts 115. For-credit course in the foundations of bookbinding. Part of the Wells College Book Arts Program. The focus of the course is the process of German (Bradel) case binding with students also learning Japanese binding styles, enclosures and paste papers. Final projects allow the students leeway in exploring different structures based on the standard case binding. (Spring and Fall 2003, 2004)
- Book Arts 215. For-credit course building on techniques from Book Arts 115. Part of the Wells College Book Arts Program. This course is predominantly self-directed with continued focus on function and precision. Required structures include the Millimeter binding and the Simplified binding. (Spring and Fall 2003, 2004)
- The Molded Paper Spine Binding. One-day workshop sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Hanover, NH. (2004)
- Basic Bookbinding. Credit evaluator for mentor based Empire State College. (2004)
- An Introduction to Paper Conservation. Semester-long independent study conducted at Syracuse University. (2003)
- Writing A Disaster Plan sponsored by the Central New York Library Resources Council. Participants learned what information should be included in a plan for libraries, historical societies or museums and were then allowed to work from a set template to begin their own plans. (2002, 2003)
- Advanced Techniques in Bookbinding. Semester-long independent study co-taught at Syracuse University. The course included the following historic binding structures: accordion, Coptic style, long stitch and limp paper (following vellum). (2002)
- Conservation Internship. Semester-long internship co-supervised for a Syracuse University School of Information Studies student. The student conducted a survey and was trained in basic book repair treatments. (2001)
- Introduction to Bookbinding. Two, two-day classes at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. Structures covered: single section pamphlet, Coptic variation, stab sewing, Japanese, link stitch on tapes, and double fan adhesive. (1999)

## Presentations

- The Care and Handling of Library Materials given to the Special Collections Research Center staff and students. Repeated for new hires. <http://libwww.syr.edu/information/spcollections/conservation/CareAndHandling.pdf> (2004)
- Handling, Housing and Dry Cleaning of Archival Materials given to the staff at the Owen D. Young Central Schools/Van Hornesville (NY) Community Corporation. (2004)
- Poster session: with Peter Verheyen, *Historic Endbands* presented to the Guild of Book Workers Standards of excellence during the Friday Forum event. (2003)
- Poster session: *Molded Paper Spine: An Option for Conservation Recasing* presented to the Guild of Book Workers Standards of Excellence during the Friday Forum event. (2002)
- Poster session: with Peter Verheyen, *The Springback Account Book Binding* presented to the Guild of Book Workers Standards of Excellence during the Friday Forum event. (2002)
- Poster session: *How to Present a Poster Session* and *A Little Funky Foldy* at the Guild of Book Workers Standards of Excellence. Part of an effort to educate members on poster sessions and encourage involvement. (2001)
- Preserving Your Family Papers given to the Spafford (NY) Area Historical Society. Talk on what the ordinary person can do to prolong the life of their news clippings, photographs, documents and other paper items. (2001)
- Book Conservation given to the Skaneateles (NY) Antiques Club. Talk on book collecting, conservation and preservation for collectors. (2001)
- Book and Paper Conservation given to the Skaneateles (NY) Historical Society. Talk on conservation and preservation for collectors. (2001)
- The Conservation of Alton B. Parker given to Alton B. Parker Elementary School. Cortland, NY. Talk for K-6 students on the conservation of the 6.5' x 9.5' campaign poster of Alton B. Parker (1902). (2001)
- Materials Handling given to UCSF(CA) library and photocopying staff. Two training sessions on the safe handling of library materials and determining materials to be sent to repair staff. (1999)
- Journal Structures given to interdisciplinary honors class at Stanford(CA) University. Lecture in the binding structures of journals and technical assistance in the binding of their class project in a 19<sup>th</sup> century journal style. (1999)
- Library Conservation given to LIS650, University of KY. Lecture on history and theory of conservation including a demonstration component on common in-house treatments for circulating collections. (1998)

## Publications

- *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Co-founder and Editor/Reviewer (2004 -).
- "The Molded Paper Spine". *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Vol. 2 No. 1, 2005.
- "A Traveling Punching Jig". *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Vol. 1 No. 1, 2004.
- Central New York Library Resources Council 2005 Preservation Calendar. Selected image materials, wrote text and designed layout.
- "Temperature and Relative Humidity Fluctuations: Why should we care?" in the Central New York Library Resources Council/Document Heritage Program newsletter, Refermation, March, 2004.
- "A German Approach to Springback Binding." With Peter Verheyen in *The New Bookbinder*, Vol. 23. <http://www.philobiblon.com/springback/> (2003)
- SUL Conservation Treatment Manual <http://libwww.syr.edu/information/spcollections/conservation/> (2003)
- "Archival Paper and Adhesives" <http://libwww.syr.edu/information/spcollections/conservation/> (2003)
- "Environmental Monitoring" <http://libwww.syr.edu/information/spcollections/conservation/> (2003)
- Book Review: "Pierre Ouvrard: Master Bookbinder" in the Guild of Book Workers Newsletter, no. 140, February 2002, pp. 12-14. (2001)
- Book Review: "ABC of Bookbinding" in the Journal of the American Institute of Conservation, pp. 391-393, Vol. 39(3), Fall/Winter 2000. (2000)
- "Board Reattachment for Circulating Collections: A Feasibility Study" in *The Book and Paper Group Annual*, Volume 15, 1996. (1996)

## Surveys

- Northwestern University Library: Developed a survey of reel-to-reel audio tapes and supervised its execution by a University of Wisconsin Milwaukee LIS Fieldwork student. To be completed with full report and pilot project to vendors. (2007)
- Owen D. Young Central Schools/Van Hornesville (NY) Community Corporation: Conservation survey of historic materials in the School and Corporation archives. Completed with full report with treatment priorities. (2004)
- Syracuse University Department of Special Collections: Conducted a conservation treatment survey on the New York Collection. Completed with full report with time and materials outlay needed to complete project. (2003)

- Syracuse University Department of Special Collections: Conducted and supervised a treatment survey of the Architecture Collection. Completed with a report consisting of a prioritization of treatment for the upcoming lecture season. (2001)
- Central New York Library Resource Council: Developed survey instrument and was involved in writing a successful New York State Discretionary Grant to implement the preservation needs assessment surveys at 21 regional libraries and historical associations. (1999)
- University of Kentucky Department of Special Collections: Conducted condition survey for Special Collections materials. Full report with preservation suggestions. (1998)
- St. Olaf College: Conducted a building and condition survey for the entire college library system. Presented full report with recommendations. (1996)

### Exhibits

- Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL. *One Book, Many Interpretations*. 30 September 2006 - 15 April 2007. Juried Exhibition.
- Chicago Hand Bookbinders, Milwaukee, WI, Evanston and Chicago, IL. *Books About Books*. 16 January - 20 June 2006.
- Providence Athenaeum, Providence, RI. *New England Vignettes*. 11 November - 31 December 2004.
- Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. Curated exhibit *Conservation of Rare Materials in the Syracuse University Library*. Dec. - Feb. 2001
- Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Austin, TX. Curated exhibit *Printing in an Independent Scotland: 1597-1707*. Feb. - Sept. 1996

### Professional Memberships and Service

- American Library Association - Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (Preservation and Reformatting Section), Education Committee (2006-2008); Association of College and Research Libraries (Rare Books and Manuscripts Section), Chair - Curators and Conservators Discussion Group (2006-2008).
- American Institute for Conservation - Book and Paper Group, awarded Professional Associate status 2003.
- The Institute of Conservation (formerly Institute of Paper Conservation) (UK)
- Guild of Book Workers, New England and Midwest Chapters
- Sagamore Institute of the Adirondacks, Inc. - member, Board of Trustees Preservation Advisor (2006-)

## Significant Continuing Education

- Preservation and Salvage of Audiovisual Materials. SOLINET on-line course (2007)
- X-Ray and 3D Imaging for Medical Applications and Art Investigation: Is There a Digital Advantage? Seminar Series on Conservation Science. Chicago, IL, one day. (2006)
- Leadership and Management Series. MICA Consulting Partners and Northwestern University Human Resources. Evanston, IL, eight sessions. (2006)
- Invasion of the Giant Mold Spore. Debi Hacker (Chicora Foundation for Solinet). Urbana, IL, one day. (2006)
- Integrated Pest Management: Beating the Critter Jitters. Debi Hacker (Chicora Foundation for Solinet) Urbana, IL, one day. (2006)
- Medieval and Renaissance Bookbinding Structures. (Rare Book School) Christopher Clarkson. Baltimore, MD, five days. (2005)
- Wooden Boards Conservation Binding. Renata Mesmer. Boston, MA, three days. (2003)
- Characterization of Media and Deterioration. Cheryl Porter. Washington D.C., three days. (2003)
- Coloring and Texturing Bookcloth for Unique Covers and Repairs. Bill Minter. Easthampton, MA, two days. (2003)
- Digitization Planning Seminar. Jill Ann Hurst. Hurst Associates, Ltd. Syracuse, NY, five days. (2003)
- Planning for Digitization: Everything you need to know but didn't realize you needed to know. Liz Bishoff. Syracuse, NY, one day. (2002)
- Taming the Giant Spore: Mold in Library and Archival Collections. Beth Patkus (NEDCC), Syracuse, NY, one day. (2002)
- Inpainting Works of Art on Paper. James Bernstein and Debra Evetts. Conservation Center, New York University, New York, NY, four days. Recipient of Scholarship. (2000)
- Consolidation of Pigments using the Ultrasonic Mister. Abigail Quandt. Dublin, Ireland, half day. (1997)
- Paper Production from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and The Analysis and Authentication of Papers. Peter Bower. Belfast, Northern Ireland, one day. (1997)
- History and Identification of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Photographs. Roger Watson. Austin, TX, two days. (1996)
- European Bookbinding: 1500-1800. (Rare Book School) Nicholas Pickwoad. Austin, TX, five days. (1995)