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1973

# Conservation: Hearings, Reports (1966-1973): Correspondence 01

Paul M. Perrot

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

*Washington, D.C. 20560*

*U.S.A.*

May 31, 1973

Honorable Claiborne Pell  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Pell:

I am enclosing some, unfortunately, out-of-date material on the Canadian Conservation Institute.

The general description of the program called for 81 persons by 1973-74. From more recent information I have received, the number is now over 100. Hence, there is a growing and going concern!

What the implications will be for a proposed Institute in the United States is hard to tell. No doubt, competition for trained personnel is going to become increasingly acute, underscoring the need for additional training facilities, such as those being planned for Winterthur, and the strengthening of existing programs, such as those of Cooperstown, New York University, and Oberlin.

With warm greetings,

Sincerely,

Paul N. Perrot  
Assistant Secretary  
for Museum Programs

Enclosure

At best we are on the fringe of neglect, and at the worst we tacitly acknowledge the expendibility of objects.

I believe, Mr. Chairman, that there is a critical need for better care of our artistic, historical, and archeological heritage, particularly for the training of personnel, both technical and administrative. A part of these needs is met by the National Endowment for the Arts, a part by the National Museums Act. Further funding is necessary to assist public institutions in caring for their collections, for the establishment of facilities, and for the training of personnel.

We should have, in addition, a coordinating agency to assess requirements for funding, to survey and monitor needs in conservation throughout the country, to determine needs for training of personnel, and to review standards of practice in conservation.