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Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973): Correspondence 05

Charles van Ravenswaay

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van Ravenswaay, Charles, "Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973): Correspondence 05" (1973).
Conservation: Hearings, Reports, Correspondence (1971-1973). Paper 9.
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April 17, 1973

Dear Mr. Biddle:

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to participate in a small conference that will explore opportunities for cooperation among institutions committed to the training of conservators of artistic and historic works. The conference is to be held at Winterthur on Friday, June 15, and Saturday, June 16.

Sponsored jointly by the University of Delaware and the Museum, the conference is made possible by support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

You will note from the enclosed agenda and proposed list of participants that the conference is limited in attendance in order to assure complete and frank discussion of the questions for which answers are sought. All participants will be reimbursed for necessary transportation, food, and lodging. Written replies to the questions will be circulated in advance of the meeting, and it is planned to distribute a copy of the proceedings to all participants.

Please indicate on the enclosed card whether or not you plan to attend. If you can participate, please prepare written replies to the agenda questions and send them to my attention by May 7. While these questions are directed primarily toward the conservators, we hope that other participants will also provide comments on topics within their particular fields of knowledge and interest. Your cooperation in sending your comments promptly will enable us to collate the replies and to distribute them in advance of the meeting.

If you find that the agenda does not include topics which you feel should be considered, I would be pleased to receive them.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,


Charles van Ravenswaay, Director

Mr. Livingston L. Biddle, Jr.
Special Assistant to Senator Claiborne Pell
Room 325, Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

OUTLINE FOR A CONFERENCE TO BE SPONSORED BY

THE HENRY FRANCIS DU PONT WINTERTHUR MUSEUM AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Theme: Exploring opportunities to benefit programs training conservators through cooperative planning.

Time: Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16, 1973.

Place: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.

Agenda: I. FACILITIES, FACULTY, STUDENTS

- A. What are the possibilities for sharing of facilities in the training of students? What can be done by individual institutions without additional funding?
- B. Should formal recognition be made of the special strengths for training conservators that exist at individual institutions?
- C. Should students or faculty, or both, rotate among training programs in order to share expertise?

II. JOB MARKET

- A. How many conservators should be trained? What is the actual job market rather than the potential market for employment?
- B. How can students be directed away from areas of specialization that may be overcrowded with practitioners?

III. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

- A. What are the present total financial costs of providing training for conservators?
- B. How do the present costs relate to the actual present needs of training conservators? In other words, are the total resources available now adequate, and are operating budgets for training realistic?
- C. What will be the financial requirements for training programs in five years?
- D. How will that goal be reached?
- E. How can institutions be reimbursed for the costs involved in the sharing of expertise?

III. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS (continued)

- F. What additional possibilities exist for the sharing of facilities, faculty, and students if extra financial support could be made available?
- G. What possibilities exist for financial support of conservator-interns?
- H. Are there areas of common need requiring funding that could be expressed in joint proposals for support?

IV. TRAINING STANDARDS

- A. What are the minimum standards acceptable for the training of conservators?
- B. How can minimum standards be implemented and enforced?

Schedule:

--Tour for those wishing to see conservation facilities at Winterthur, one-half day before meeting begins (optional).

1st & 2nd DAYS--Morning and afternoon sessions, each of two and one-half hours duration. Luncheon break, social hour, dinner, and informal discussion.

Procedure:

1. Participants invited to examine agenda and propose additional questions (accomplished).
2. Participants to have agenda questions circulated in advance.
3. Answers to questions to be prepared in advance and returned to Winterthur by May 7.
4. Answers to questions to be duplicated and distributed to participants by May 25.
5. Conference to summarize points of consensus and focus on areas of disagreement.
6. Stenotypist to record proceedings.
7. Conference report to be transcribed and made available for distribution.

Winterthur