

Preservation Newsletter—February, 2018

### **Does this need treatment?**

The preservation department is always available to examine items from your collection and help you make decisions about whether an item needs conservation treatment, or whether it can be re-formatted or re-housed so that long-term access is maintained. Why do we need to make these decisions about whether treatment should be done?: time and money, of course!

The Werner J. and Gisella Levi Cahnman Preservation Laboratory endeavors to provide collections services that result in the greatest positive impact on the largest number of collections items for the least amount of money per item. This is achieved by maintaining the preservation environment, providing protective enclosures, preventing mold and pest incursions into the stack areas, and educating our staff to ensure that correct storage and handling procedures are followed in our research and reference areas.

This does not mean that there is no time allotted for treatments, however. Currently, Preservation Services can provide up to *70 hours a year per partner* on single-item conservation treatment.

Treatment times can vary from a few hours up to 20 hours for a single item!

You can decide how to use those hours most effectively for your collection by applying the principles of triage. Materials with the highest levels of use, value, and deterioration should be prioritized for single-item treatment.

Examples of when conservation treatment might be indicated:

- A request has been made to use an object that cannot be safely handled in its current condition and a digital surrogate will not suffice.
- The damaged or fragile object has extremely high intrinsic value and maintaining its condition is a very high collection priority.
- An object cannot be understood, catalogued, or housed safely in its current condition (i.e. a tightly rolled, embrittled photograph).

You're always welcome to make an appointment for a consultation with Preservation Staff who can help you to decide whether an item should be prioritized for treatment—we're here to help!

*The Werner J. and Gisella Levi Cahnman Preservation Laboratory*