

## Donia Conn, PA-AIC

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### Professional Experience

- 2018-Present: **Assistant Professor of Practice**, Simmons College School of Library and Information Science, Boston, MA. Teach LIS 439 (Preservation Management) and LIS 447 (Collections Maintenance) online, at Simmons College, Boston, and Simmons West in South Hadley, MA. Teach 7 courses per year and develop new curriculum for in-person and online courses.
- 2013-Present: **Conservator in Private Practice and Preservation Consultant for Cultural Heritage Collections**, providing conservation, consultation, archival processing, and training for private and institutional clients. Institutional clients include Heritage Preservation, Saratoga County Historical Society, Lake Placid Olympic Museum, Skidmore College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, University of Rochester, Vanderbilt University, and Washington University.
- 2017-2018: **Project Coordinator** for 2-year Massachusetts National Endowment for the Humanities Grant *Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities*. Develop curriculum in conjunction with an instructor from the MA Department of Fire Services, instructor for train-the-trainers sessions and the cultural heritage aspects of the workshops, coordinate promotion, and evaluation of the project, develop online training platform for national distribution.
- 2010-2018: **Adjunct Professor**, Simmons College School of Library and Information Science, Boston, MA. Teach LIS 439 Online – Preservation Management, and LIS 447 – Collections Maintenance. Teach on average 5 courses per year.
- 2007-2012: **Education and Outreach Coordinator**, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, MA. Developed the online education program. Responsible for curriculum development, workshop organization, and presentation, both in-person and online; answering technical inquiries for institutions and the general public; preservation assessments; consulting for institutions on library, archive, and preservation topics; and updating and authoring technical leaflets. Assist with the organization of Stewardship of Digital Assets and Digital Directions conferences.
- 2005-2007: **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 (2006-07), Chair of the Exhibitions Committee (2006-07), elected member of the Kaplan Humanities Center Fellow Jury (2006), elected member of the Speakers Committee of the NUL Assembly of Librarians (2006-08).
- 1996-2007: **Conservator in Private Practice** providing conservation, consultation, and education for private and institutional clients. Institutional clients included St. Olaf College, The Northern New York Library Network, and the Owen D. Young Central Schools/Van Hornesville (NY) Community Corporation.
- 2003-2005: **Adjunct Faculty/Binder-in-Residence**, Wells College Book Arts Center, Aurora, NY. Develop curriculum and teach Bookbinding I and II.

- 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 and installation of the large-scale exhibition “Elizabeth, Then and Now.”
- 2001-2005: **Rare Book and Paper Conservator**, Syracuse University Library, Syracuse, NY. Responsibilities include conservation of rare materials, exhibit preparation and installation, 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 (2002-05), the Syracuse University Library Association (Chair, Library Concerns and Development Committee 2004-05; Member-at-Large 2003-04), Exhibition Action Team (2004-05), and the Organizational Review Task Force A (2004).
- 2003-2004: **Adjunct Faculty/Binder-in-Residence**, Wells College Book Arts Center, Aurora, NY. Teaching Bookbinding I and II. Courses focus on traditional 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 producing decorated papers. Bookbinding II was an independent study after setting a work plan with the instructor.
- 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.

## Education

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

## Publications

- **Forthcoming:** *The Preservation Management Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, ed. Donia Conn, Ross Harvey, and Martha Mahard. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

- “Collaborating with Emergency Responders to Protect Cultural Heritage.” *American Alliance of Museums Alliance Blog*, 1 May 2019, <https://www.aam-us.org/2019/05/01/collaborating-with-emergency-responders-to-protect-cultural-heritage/>.
- *The State of State Records: A Statistical Report on State Archives and Records Management Programs*. Albany, NY: Council of State Archivists. 2015, 2017.
- *ISO 11799:2015. Information and documentation – Document storage requirements for archive and library materials*. International Organization for Standardization: Geneva, Switzerland. 2015. Member of the working group.
- “Tools You Can Use: dPlan” in *LITA Guide to Technology Disaster Response and Recovery Planning*, ed. Mary Mallery. Chicago: ALA, 2015.
- “Paper: Works of Art on Paper” and “Paper: Library and Archival Materials” sections in *The Preservation Management Handbook*, ed. Ross Harvey and Martha Mahard. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.
- “Project Management” in *Planning and Constructing Book and Paper Conservation Laboratories: A Guidebook*. Chicago: ALA. 2012.  
[http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/pubs/chapter1\\_free.pdf](http://www.ala.org/alcts/sites/ala.org.alcts/files/content/resources/pubs/chapter1_free.pdf)
- *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Co-founder and Editor (2004 - 2011). <http://www.philobiblon.com/bonefolder/>
- Book Review: “A Companion to the History of the Book” in *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Vol. 5 No. 1, 2008.
- “The Molded Paper Spine.” *The Bonefolder: An E-journal for the Bookbinder and Book Artist*. Vol. 2 No. 1, 2005. <http://www.philobiblon.com/bonefolder/vol2no1contents.htm>
- Central New York Library Resources Council 2005 Preservation Calendar. Selected image materials, wrote text and design layout.  
<http://library.syr.edu/information/preservation/CLRC2005Calendar.pdf>
- “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)
- “Archival Paper and Adhesives” for Syracuse University Graduate School  
<http://library.syr.edu/information/preservation/dissertation.htm> (2003)
- “Environmental Monitoring”  
[http://library.syr.edu/information/preservation/environmental\\_monitoring.htm](http://library.syr.edu/information/preservation/environmental_monitoring.htm) (2003)
- Book Review: “Pierre Ouvrard: Master Bookbinder” in the Guild of Book Workers Newsletter, no. 140, February 2002, pp. 12-14.
- Book Review: “ABC of Bookbinding” in the Journal of the American Institute of Conservation, pp. 391-393, Vol. 39(3), Fall/Winter 2000.
- “Board Reattachment for Circulating Collections: A Feasibility Study” in *The Book and Paper Group Annual*, Volume 15, 1996. <http://aic.stanford.edu/sg/bpg/annual/v15/bp15-05.html>

### Professional Service

- Archives Committee, Great Camp Sagamore. Non-board member of the committee (2017-Present)
- Panelist for the Greater Hudson Heritage Network Conservation Treatment Grant (2015-Present)
- Reviewer for NEH Preservation Assistance Grant (2019)

- Reviewer for IMLS Inspire! Grants for Small Museums (2019)
- U.S. delegate on the ISO TC46/SC10/Working Group 1 – *Information and documentation, Emergency preparedness and response for holdings* (2015-2019)
- Reviewer for *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture* (2017, 2018)
- Reviewer for *Journal for the Institute for Conservation* (2016)
- Reviewer for IMLS Museums for America Grant (2013, 2016)
- Reviewer for NHPRC Literacy and Engagement with Historical Records Grant (2015)
- Peer reviewer for AASLH Basics of Archives course update (2015)
- U.S. delegate on the ISO TC46/SC10/Working Group 1 – *Document Storage Requirements for Archive and Library Materials* (2014-2015)
- New England Archivists, Co-chair Fall 2008 Meeting Program on Preservation
  
- American Institute for Conservation, National Heritage Responder (NHR) (2005-Present)
- American Library Association
  - ALCTS/LITA/LLAMA Activities Working Group, 2018
  - Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)
    - Interest Group Coordinator, 2015-present
    - Programming Coordinating Group, 2016-present
    - Leadership Development Committee, 2011-2015, Chair 2013-15
    - 2014 and 2015 Emerging Leaders Project mentor
    - Chair – 2016 ALCTS Pre-Conference at ALA Mid-Winter
  - ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS)
    - Preservation Week “Dear Donia” column and Preservation Week booth presentations at ALA, PLA, and ACRL. (2013-present)
    - 2013 ALCTS Presidential Citation for work with Preservation Week
    - Education Committee (2006-08, Co-Chair, 2008)
    - Chair – Preservation Planning and Program Committee (2009-10)
    - Chair – PARS Program, “Preservation without a Preservation Librarian (2009)
    - Preservation Week planning committee (2009-10), Working Group (2010-12)
  - Association of College and Research Libraries (Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS))
    - Chair - Curators and Conservators Discussion Group (2006-08)
    - RBMS Seminars Committee (2009-12)
    - RBMS Liaison to ALCTS PARS (2009-14)

## Assessments

- Wenham Museum, IMLS Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) Program assessment (2019)
- University of Northern Iowa, NEH PAG supported preservation assessment and collections care training. (2019)
- Rockport Public Library, MBLC LSTA Preservation Assessment (2019)
- University of Rochester, Vanderbilt University, Washington University, and Case Western Reserve: preservation assessments for physical and digital collections with an eye toward collaborative projects. With Lynne Thomas and Holly Prochaska (2016)
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute Disaster Planning assessment (2016)

- Greater Hudson Heritage Network Circuit Rider archival assessments for the IMSL Connecting to New York's Collections project: 14 instances, 2014-16 including the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society, Bard College, Silver Bay Heritage Hall Archives, and the Percy Grainger Society.
- Lake Placid Olympic Museum, General Preservation Assessment (2014)
- NEDCC Book Repair Workflow Assessment: Wellesley Free Library (2010)
- NEDCC General Preservation Assessments: 5 instances (2009-12)
- 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. Completed with full report and pilot project to vendors. (2007)
- Owen D. Young Central Schools/Van Hornesville (NY) Community Corporation: Conservation survey of historical materials in the School and Corporation archives. Completed with a full report with treatment priorities. (2004)
- Syracuse University Department of Special Collections: Conducted a conservation treatment survey on the New York Collection. Completed with a full report with time and materials outlay needed to complete the project. (2003)
- Syracuse University Department of Special Collections: Conducted and supervised a treatment survey of the Architecture Collection. Completed with a report consisting of 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)

### Instruction and Presentations

- Disaster Response Webinar for LYRASIS Performing Arts Readiness program. 7 instances (2018-2019)
- Finding Common Ground Presentation on Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners NEH Grant program *Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities*. Presented at the New England Archivists Spring Meeting (2018), the Massachusetts Library Association Meeting (2018), and the New England Museum Association Meeting (2018).
- Fuzzy Furry Creepy Crawlies Half-day workshop on pests and mold for the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (2018); Connecticut League of Historic Organizations StEPs program (2016); Northern New York Library Resources Network spring meeting, as a webinar for the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, and for the Friends of Livingston County History museum training day. (2014)
- Caring for Your Textiles webinar for the home collector. For ALA's Preservation Week (2017)
- Remembering World War One workshops and onsite guidance for individuals and organizations concerning the preservation of personal collections. For the Connecticut State Library. 6 instances (2016-17)
- Preserving Family Papers demonstrations at ALA, PLA, and ACRL in the Preservation Week booth and full program for public libraries. 16 instances (2007-17)

- Fundamentals of Preservation. A six-week course for the American Library Association. 7 instances (2014-Present)
- Archival Management Principles and Best Practices for Museums, Historical Societies, and Libraries. Half-day workshop for Connecticut State Library Archives Roundtable. (2016)
- Risk Assessment. The first segment of 2-part webinar series for the American Association for State and Local History focusing on policy issues in line with the StEPs section on Management. (2016)
- Preserving and Handling Materials during Digitization presented as an outbreak session at the Digital Commonwealth meeting. (2013)
- Risk Assessment for the Small Museum at the Small Museum Association conference. (2013)
- Collections Care Basics. Developed curriculum and presented four of six webinars covering such issues as agents of deterioration, pests, mold, and the environment for Heritage Preservation. (2013)
- Fundamentals of Digitization. A series of workshops performed seven times around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to promote the Digital Commonwealth's program. (2012)
- The Preservation Cooking Show presented at the New England Archivists Meeting. (2012)
- Disaster Planning for Southampton, NY. Consultation and training in disaster planning and response to the historical records of the Town of Southampton (NY). (2012)
- Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery. A series of workshops and site visits performed for the state of Connecticut as part of their IMLS Connecting to Collections Implementation Grant. (2010-12)
- Disaster Planning, Response, and Recovery. A series of workshops performed for the state of Rhode Island as part of their IMLS Connecting to Collections Planning and Implementation Grants. (2009-13)
- Disaster Recovery. A one-day workshop in disaster recovery techniques for library and archives materials. Sponsored by the Northern New York Library Network. (2005)
- 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.
  - A two-day workshop sponsored by the Austin Book Workers, Austin, TX. (2004)
  - A 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 a continued focus on function and precision. (Spring and Fall 2003, 2004)
- The Molded Paper Spine Binding. A one-day workshop sponsored by the New England Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers, Hanover, NH. (2004)
- Basic Bookbinding. Credit evaluator for the mentor-based Empire State College. (2004)
- The Care and Handling of Library Materials given to the Special Collections Research Center staff and students. Repeated for new hires. (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)
- An Introduction to Paper Conservation. A 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 plans. (2002, 2003)
- Poster session: with Peter Verheyen, *Historic Endbands* presented to the Guild of Book Workers Standards of excellence during the Friday Forum event. (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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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 presented 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 presented to the 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 presented 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)

## Exhibits

- Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL. *One Book, Many Interpretations*. 30 September 2006 – 15 April 2007. Juried Exhibition. Dybek, Stuart. *The Coast of Chicago*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990. Full leather with leather onlays in design of the coast of Chicago and the Red Line. Bound, 2006.
- Chicago Hand Bookbinders, Milwaukee, WI, Evanston and Chicago, IL. *Books About Books*. 16 January – 20 June 2006. Tickle, Jr., Samuel Milton. *Saturday Night, 1953/The Elements*. Angorfa Press, nd. Millimeter binding, vellum head and tail with paste paper by the binder. Vellum stamped label. Bound, 2004.
- Providence Athenaeum, Providence, RI. *New England Vignettes*. 11 November – 31 December 2004. Tickle, Jr., Samuel Milton. *Saturday Night, 1953/The Elements*. Angorfa Press, nd. Millimeter binding, vellum head and tail with paste paper by the binder. Vellum stamped label. Bound, 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

## Significant Continuing Education

- Photographic Process Identification Workshop. Image Permanence Institute, Rochester, NY, three days. Identification and storage of major types of true photographs and digitally printed photographs. (2017)
- Identification and Preservation of Digitally Printed Materials. Image Permanence Institute workshop, Rochester, NY, three days. Identification and storage of major types of digital prints as well as the likelihood of recovery in water disasters. (2015)
- Behind the Scenes at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Museum. Online, 6-week course from the University of Leicester. (2015)
- Digital Directions. NEDCC Symposium, Boston, MA, two days. Sessions on digitization and digital preservation. (2012)
- Stewardship of Digital Assets. NEDCC Workshop, Atlanta, GA, two days. Workshop in digital preservation. (2008)
- Collections Emergency Response Training. AIC course, Shepherdstown, WV, five days. Part of the national emergency response team for cultural materials – AIC CERT. (2007)
- Use of Bleaching Treatments in Paper Conservation. AIC course, Omaha, NE, five days. (2007)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- European Bookbinding: 1500-1800. (Rare Book School) Nicholas Pickwoad. Austin, TX, five days. (1995)