

Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2010

Interim Meeting of the ICOM-CC Working Group

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Hannelore Roemich, Editorial Coordinator

ICOM Committee for Conservation
in association with The Corning Museum of Glass



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*The papers in this publication
are dedicated to
Dr. Robert H. Brill
Research Scientist Emeritus
The Corning Museum of Glass*



Dr. Robert H. Brill. (Photo: Frank J. Borkowski)

Dr. Robert H. Brill is research scientist emeritus at The Corning Museum of Glass, an institution with which he has been affiliated for 50 years.

He earned a B.S. in chemistry from Upsala College in East Orange, New Jersey, and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was an associate professor of chemistry at Upsala College for six years before he joined the Corning Museum in 1960 as administrator of the Scientific Research Department.

From 1972 to 1975, he served as the museum's director, and he supervised its extensive recovery efforts following a devastating flood in 1972.

Dr. Brill is the author of more than 150 publications on the scientific investigation of early glasses and related materials, and on conservation studies. The most significant of these publications is *Chemical Analyses of Early Glasses*, the first two volumes of which appeared in 1999. These books detail Dr. Brill's chemical analyses of some 3,600 examples of historical glasses. Volume 1 presents a catalog of the samples, volume 2 consists of tables of analyses, and volume 3 will contain site reports and essays interpreting the data. Most of the glasses are fragments from archaeological excavations, although some are from objects in museum collections. These samples, which date from between 1500 B.C. and A.D. 1800, were provided by institutions in more than 40 countries. They come from Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Roman and Islamic worlds, Europe, and the Americas. There are also large groups of medieval stained glass windows and Asian glasses, as well as raw materials of the kind used in antiquity.

Dr. Brill was a founding member of the American Institute for Conservation, and he is a member of numerous scientific and archaeological organizations. During the 25th annual meeting of the Association of North American Graduate Programs in the Conservation of Cultural Property in 1999, he received a certificate of appreciation for convening the first such meeting of faculty and students from graduate programs in conservation. That meeting, titled "Conservation Seminar on Glass and Library Materials," was held in November 1974 at the Corning Museum, and it was attended by 70 students from New York University, the State University of New York

program at Cooperstown, Oberlin College, The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, and the Fogg Museum.

Dr. Brill's research and advances in the scientific analysis of glass have resulted in several major awards. In 2004, he received the William E. S. Turner Award for contributions to the work of the Technical Committees of the International Commission on Glass. He was the founding chairman of the Commission's Technical Committee on the Archaeometry of Glass (TC-17) in 1982, and he was chairman until 2004. He continues to serve as vice chairman.

The 11th annual Pomerance Award for Scientific Contributions to Archaeology was awarded to Dr. Brill in 1990. It is one of the two highest honors of the Archaeological Institute of America. The award stated: "Robert H. Brill has spent an enviable life as a productive scientist and administrator. He has been a pioneer in the application of many scientific techniques to the study and understanding of artifacts and the technologies behind their manufacture. His research, his field projects, his lectures, and his impact have extended throughout Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and the Far East." Among Dr. Brill's accomplishments, the award noted his use of lead-isotope analysis to determine the provenance of ancient glass, his production of a 30-minute film documenting a one-room glass factory in Afghanistan, and his research on the origin and development of Chinese glass.

In 1987, Dr. Brill received the American Chemical Society's Eugene C. Sullivan Award. As a Distinguished Scholar sponsored by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China, he lectured in China in 1982, 1984, 1990, and 1995.

Introduction

What a wonderful meeting we had in Slovenia in 2007! It left lasting memories of the unmatched hospitality of Jana Šubic Prisljan from the Goriški Muzej Kromberk in Nova Gorica and all of her colleagues in the country. All participants remember the three exciting days with presentations of current conservation projects and research, excursions to other places in the vibrant cultural melting pot of Slovenia, the tour to Murano, and the, h'm, let's say avant-garde venue of a hotel casino. Last but not least, because of Lisa Pilosi's tireless efforts, a well-edited and -produced preprints volume¹ made the content of the conference available also to all those in the conservation community who could not make it to Slovenia, as well as to future generations.

As always, success raises expectations. Our working group² was delighted, at its meeting during the ICOM-CC triennial conference in New Delhi in 2008, to receive the invitation of The Corning Museum of Glass to host the group's next interim meeting in 2010. The museum, with its internationally renowned collection and its special exhibitions, will be the ideal locale for our international conference "Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2010." And it is not just the institution that is the attraction here. The Corning Museum has several highly regarded experts in its ranks, and two of them are of particular significance to us:

- What glass conservator will not have come across the papers of Dr. Robert H. Brill on crizzling? When trying to make sense of a glass analysis, who will not make comparisons with the data found in the (so far) two volumes of his *Chemical Analyses of Early Glasses* (Corning: The Corning Museum of Glass, 1999), the scholarly achievement of a lifetime and an indispensable reference work? It is in gratitude for these publications and for other contributions by Dr. Brill, research scientist emeritus at the Corning Museum, that we dedicate this volume to him.

- *Conservation and Care of Glass Objects* (London: Archetype Publications in association with The Corning Museum of Glass, 2006) is an essential book in the education

of glass conservators. It was written by Stephen P. Koob, the Corning Museum's chief conservator, and it presents invaluable hints and tips that are based on his decades of experience with the subject. In our continuing search for more stable conservation materials, such as glass and ceramic adhesives, all of us are following his tested route.

Meeting both of these outstanding scholars and practitioners in the lectures and social activities in Corning will be a highlight for all participants. More information on both of them will be found in the paper by Agnès Gall-Ortlík and Pau Maynés on pages 15–21 of this volume.

Because of the considerable interest in the interim meeting displayed by our colleagues in the working group and beyond, as well as the submission of papers, the 2010 meeting will cover all aspects of glass and ceramics conservation (as will be seen in the table of contents). Individual sessions will be devoted to history, technology, and training; special collections; treatments; science and technology; and architectural glass, ceramic tiles, and terra cotta. The contributions will lead us all around the world, affording our somewhat Eurocentric group (most of our members are Europeans) a truly international perspective. All of the papers were selected and reviewed by members of the program committee, led by our editorial coordinator, Hannelore Roemich of New York City. The other members of the committee are Stephen P. Koob of Corning and Gerhard Eggert of Stuttgart, along with assistant

1. *Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2007*, preprints of the interim meeting of the ICOM-CC Working Group, Nova Gorica, Slovenia, August 27–30, 2007, ed. Lisa Pilosi, Nova Gorica: Goriški Muzej Kromberk, 2007.

2. Glass and Ceramics is one of the working groups (WG) of the Committee for Conservation (CC) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). Its members are interested conservators, conservation scientists, and curators. More information about the working group will be found on our Web site, www.icom-cc.org.

coordinators Kate van Lookeren Campagne of Amsterdam, Agnès Gall-Ortlik of Barcelona, Laurianne Robinet of Gif-sur-Yvette (France), Renske Dooijes of Leiden, and Isabelle Garachon of Amsterdam.

We also thank the staff members of The Corning Museum of Glass who made this publication possible: Richard W. Price, head of the Publications Department, who edited the papers; Jacolyn S. Saunders, publications specialist, who designed the volume and prepared the layouts of the papers; and Dr. David Whitehouse, the museum's executive director, who served as editorial adviser.

In its triennial program of 2008–2011, the ICOM-CC Glass and Ceramics Working Group aims to foster the conservation of the world's cultural heritage made of glass, ceramics, and related materials. We believe that the way

to achieve this goal is through “improved communication between experts . . . on current conservation research, practice, and education.” We hope that “Glass and Ceramics Conservation 2010” and this volume of preprints will be milestones in this pursuit!

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Editor's Note: In the bylines of papers and posters with more than one author, the name of the corresponding author is followed by an asterisk, and that author's e-mail address appears at the end of the byline.