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5-24-1971

## Conservation: Hearings, Reports (1966-1973): Correspondence 05

Harold P. Stern

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
FREER GALLERY OF ART  
WASHINGTON, D. C., 20560

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Telephone: 381-5344

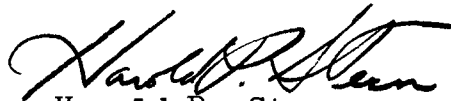
May 24, 1971

Dear Senator Pell:

I want to thank you for your kind letter the other day and for the visit you paid to the Freer Gallery of Art. I am sorry that it was rushed but, of course, know the hectic schedule you must face. I hope that you will accept our invitation, should you be interested to visit again, and see some of the work in progress at a more leisurely pace. I, of course, extend our invitation to Mrs. Pell also who enjoyed looking at some of the jades and other objects in storage. The Freer Gallery of Art is one of the few research institutions in the world where such facilities are made available to the public.

I am enclosing a report on our Technical Laboratory and Picture Mounting Studio prepared by Mr. Chase of our staff. I hope that it provides the necessary information you require. Should anything additional be needed, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

  
Harold P. Stern  
Assistant Director

The Honorable Claiborne Pell  
Committee on Labor and Public Welfare  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Attachment

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REPORT FOR SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

Prepared by W. T. Chase

1. Size of the Laboratory

The Technical Laboratory contains approximately 500 square feet; the Picture Mounting Studio contains approximately 1,000 square feet. Space is temporarily borrowed at times in other areas--for instance, we often work on large objects in stone sculpture storage.

2. Budget

	Fiscal 1970	Fiscal 1971
Technical Laboratory		
Salaries, full-time employees	\$32,790	\$36,640
Salaries, part-time employees	8,810	5,830*
Supplies and Equipment	5,290	4,660*
Total	<u>\$46,890</u>	<u>\$47,130</u>
* To March 31, 1971		
Picture Mounting Studio		
Salaries, full-time employees	\$43,670	\$49,140
Supplies and Equipment	1,500	1,500
Total	<u>\$45,170</u>	<u>\$50,640</u>

3. Staff

The Technical Laboratory employs two full-time technicians, a full-time secretary, and three part-time employees. The Picture Mounting Studio employs four full-time specialists.

4. Chief area of interest

The Technical Laboratory has as its chief area of interest the examination and conservation of Oriental Antiquities. In recent years emphasis has

been given to works of art in metal. It also has charge of all of the conservation and restoration for the Gallery except for that of the oriental paintings, which is the chief area of responsibility of the Picture Mounting Studio. The two sections cooperate closely. The Picture Mounting Studio is unique and the most complete organization of this type in the Western World.

5. Cooperation with other government agencies

The Technical Laboratory and the Oriental Picture Mounting Studio often provide assistance to other bureaus of the Smithsonian and other government agencies, as well as institutions at home and abroad, which seek our services. In addition, the Technical Laboratory often makes use of the facilities and equipment of other government agencies. In the past year we have used the services of other branches of the Smithsonian, especially the Conservation-Analytical Laboratory and the Department of Mineral Sciences, the National Bureau of Standards, the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, as well as the Geological Survey.

6. Cooperation with industry

The Technical Laboratory has had little opportunity to cooperate with industry. We have, on occasion, advised companies on specific problems relating to the use of their products and equipment in our field.

7. Funding

Although it is the responsibility of the Smithsonian Institution, in accordance with the Deed of Gift, to maintain the conservation program of the Freer Gallery of Art, this has not been done; the entire program is currently maintained from the original endowment.