



Simple Methods for Identifying Materials Used in Museum Objects

A Workshop presented by the Association of Midwest Museums (AMM)

the Registrars Committee, Midwest Registrars Committee, and Logan Museum of Anthropology

Friday, July 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin

The correct identification of the materials used in museum objects can be very helpful for accurate registration and cataloging, specifying safe storage and exhibition conditions, and anticipating possible preservation problems. While some materials require sophisticated analysis to determine their composition, with a bit of practice there are many common materials that can be recognized using quite simple methods and relatively inexpensive equipment.

This workshop, which will be led by Jane Ketcham, an Adjunct Instructor in the Museum Studies Program at Logan College, will introduce the participants to some of the clues that can be used to distinguish some materials, using features visible to the unaided eye, low magnification techniques, and an ultraviolet light. Participants will have the opportunity to practice distinguishing between bone, antler, ivory and horn; tortoise shell and plastic imitations; golden eagle and bald eagle feathers; handmade paper and machine made paper; as well as other materials. Samples will be used for handling and testing, while examples drawn from the collections of the Logan Museum of Anthropology and the Wright Museum of Art will be available for careful comparison. Lunch included!

Fees for the workshop are \$50 for AMM or MRC members and \$75 for non-members. The registration fee includes morning refreshments. For more information, contact Brian Bray, AMM Executive Director, at bbray@midwestmuseums.org or at 314-746-4557. More information will be available at www.midwestmuseums.org, including a workshop agenda.

The MRC, with support from the Registrars Committee of AAM, is offering one travel stipend of \$300 for attendance at the workshop - please visit the AMM Web site for more information and to download an application form.

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**Remit with payment to: Association of Midwest Museums, P.O. Box 11940, St. Louis, MO 63112
or fax your registration form to (314) 746-4569**

_____ Name	Circle One: AMM Member or MRC Member \$50
_____ Title	Non-Member \$75
_____ Institution	Total Cost: \$ _____ Check or Visa/MC
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