



**Symposium 2014
NL**

'If only I had known—looking back, moving forward'

Call for Papers - Dead Line: 1 May 2013

The International Association of Book and Paper Conservators (IADA), together with the Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed (RCE/ICN), the Dutch association for conservators 'Restauratoren Nederland', the University of Amsterdam, the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the National Archives and the National Library of the Netherlands are calling for contributions to the international symposium 'If only I had known—looking back, moving forward' which will take place in The Netherlands in spring 2014.

Topic

Professional development is simply impossible without learning from your mistakes. James Joyce (1882-1941) once wrote: 'Mistakes are the portals of discovery'. Making

these discoveries in the privacy of your own studio is one thing, but sharing this experience with your peers is an entirely different matter. We know that preservation and conservation decisions are still often based on fears, vague predictions or fashionable trends, but in our relatively young profession an open dialogue on treatment risks, dilemmas and failures is still considered a taboo. The IADA dares to open up the debate.

For our 2014 international symposium, we encourage speakers to report on lessons learnt so that we will not repeat them. We seek presentations that present, analyse and enhance our understanding of preservation decisions, conservation methodology, treatments and their desired or undesired outcome.

We welcome contributions that develop the underlying moral, ethical or cultural aspects of such issues. In general, we seek information that enables us to learn from the past. No doubt it is an appealing idea to lean back in the secure anonymity of a large audience and listen to other col-

leagues revealing their own professional challenges, but will this bring us further? Be the first to share your knowledge with us!

We are very pleased to be holding our 2014 symposium in Amsterdam as the Dutch conservation community is known for enabling constructive discussions of sensitive topics. By looking back at the lessons our members share at this symposium we intend to move forward in order to reach our ultimate goal—to sustain access to our world's cultural heritage on paper.

Contributions

Authors interested in presenting a paper should submit an English abstract (250 words) by 1 May 2013. Contributions should include the contact information for the author(s) (affiliation, address, telephone and e-mail). All abstracts will be reviewed by the international Review Committee. We also invite ideas for workshops, debates or interactive events. Presenters are typically given 20 minutes. Please submit abstracts to symposium@iada-home.org. Any questions should also be sent to this e-mail address.