

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Suggested Interview Questions**  
**(vary as necessary)**



1. Where were you born? Where did you grow up? What was your early training in art? Chemistry? Did you or your parents draw and paint?
2. What schools did you attend? Did you go to graduate school? What were your early jobs? Where have you lived? May we have a copy of your C.V. or your list of publications?
3. How did you first become involved with conservation?
4. Who were the first people you worked with? How did they give you instruction? What were materials used? What were philosophies or approaches? Who were other students who worked alongside you? Please describe your mentors and their approaches to training you.
5. If you were with a conservation department in a museum or private situation, when was it founded? Who founded it? Who were the sympathetic, interested curators? Who were the sympathetic scientists?
6. What was or is your involvement with international groups such as the IIC, ICOM, ICOMOS, etc? Did you attend early meetings and conferences? Which sessions or speakers do you remember as particularly valuable? What were the typical concerns of conference participants in those days?
7. Have you invented any treatments or methods? Brought any materials or approaches to the attention of your colleagues? Are there certain treatments or accomplishments in which you take particular pride? Do you have an especially important moment regarding a treatment or discovery?
8. Do you take apprentices? What students have you trained or worked with? Do you have any children involved with conservation or art? Whom might we interview further about you?
9. What would you consider to be the ideal characteristics of a student or a trainee you would gladly welcome into your department? What do you feel is the ideal method of training?
10. Do you have a different philosophy and approach now? How much of what you do now reflects the theories of your mentors? Do you work for museums or private collectors? Has the type of treatments you have done changed over the years?
11. Would you describe for us a particularly satisfying moment in your career?
12. How much do you feel the conservator or art historian is obligated to educate the public about the profession of art conservation?
13. What part of our profession needs the most research in the future?
14. Do you have suggestions for other people who should be interviewed for our oral history archive?

**NOTE: PLEASE TRY TO OBTAIN A FORMAL C.V. OR RESUME FROM YOUR INTERVIEWEE AS WELL AS A PHOTO**