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December 2010

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## PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

### Research on the Conservation of Photographs

Recent technical analysis by GCI scientists of photographic plates by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, from the UK's National Media Museum, provide new evidence of Niépce's contribution to early photography, including revelation of a previously undiscovered method of image making dating to the 1820s.

[Read the press release related to these new findings.](#)

[Learn more about Research on the Conservation of Photographs Project.](#)

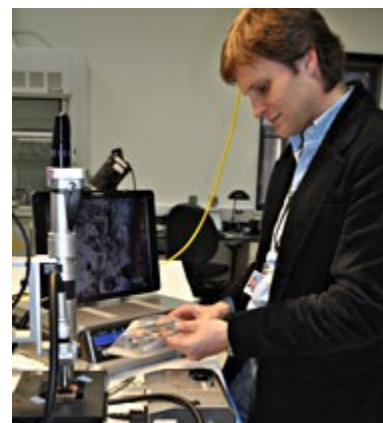


Niépce's photographic plate of *Cardinal d'Amboise* is examined with X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. The Royal Photographic Society collection at the National Media Museum. Photo: Art Kaplan, GCI

### Collaborative Research on Attic Red and Black Figure Pottery

The GCI, the Aerospace Corporation, and the Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford are investigating the technology used to make ancient Greek pottery. The project, made possible by a National Science Foundation grant, will provide a deeper understanding of ancient pottery techniques, inform future conservation methods, and enhance knowledge of iron spinel chemistry used in the advanced ceramics utilized by aerospace.

[Learn more about this research project.](#)



GCI scientist, Marc Walton, examining a fragment of Attic pottery with a digital three-dimensional microscope Photo: Jeff Maish, JPGM

## Historic Cities and Urban Settlements Initiative

In March 2009, the GCI convened an experts meeting to define the most urgent conservation issues of the historic urban environment, and to identify actions that can assist professionals and decision makers in addressing conservation threats.

[Read the report online.](#)

[Learn more about the Historic Cities and Urban Settlements Initiative.](#)



March 2009 experts meeting at the Getty Center. Photo: Caroline Cheong, GCI

## Panel Paintings Initiative

Staff from the GCI, the Getty Foundation, and the J. Paul Getty Museum will be attending a meeting of the advisory group of the Panel Paintings Initiative on December 14-15, 2010 in New York. They will be discussing the next phase of the initiative, including education and training activities.

[Learn more about the Panel Paintings Initiative.](#)



*Lady Playing a Lute* (detail), Bartolomeo Veneto and Workshop, Italian, about 1530, oil on panel. The J. Paul Getty Museum

## Upcoming Panel Discussion: Sustainability and Heritage in a World of Change

On January 11, 2011, at the Getty Center, Susan Macdonald, head of GCI Field Projects, will lead a panel of experts in a discussion on climate change and sustainable development, and their relationship to the conservation of cultural heritage.

[Find out more information about this free event and make a reservation online.](#)



The 1929 Van Nelle Factory in Rotterdam, today the Design Factory, is a successful example of adaptive reuse that incorporates sustainable design principles. Photo: [F. Eveleens](#), ([creative commons license](#))

## ***Proceedings 10th World Congress of the Organization of World Heritage Cities, Quito, 8-11 September 2009***



This conference took place in Quito, Ecuador, in September 2009 and focused on ways to engage all stakeholders in the revitalization of historic city centers.

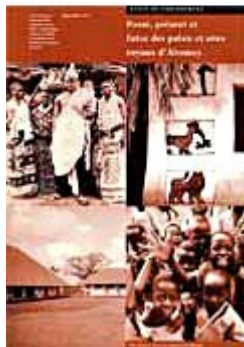
[Read the proceedings online.](#)

## **GCI Publications Available in PDF: Recently Added**



[\*Conservation of Ancient Sites on the Silk Road\*](#)

Proceedings from the Second International Conference on the Conservation of Grotto Sites.



[\*Passé, présent et future des palais et sites royaux d'Abomey\*](#)

Preprints from an international conference organized by the GCI, ICCROM, and Ministère de la culture et de la communication du Bénin, September 1997. Available only in French.

## ***Conservation Perspectives, The GCI Newsletter: New Issue***



The fall 2010 edition highlights the conservation of decorated architectural surfaces, including wall paintings, mosaics, plaster finishes, stucco, and tiles.

Join the conversation. Post your comments about our featured roundtable discussion [Preserving in Place: A Discussion About the Conservation of Decorated Architectural Surfaces.](#)

[Read this issue online.](#)

## **Video: In the Valley of the Queens**



This 11-minute video highlights the GCI's work with

Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities to develop and implement a plan for the management and conservation of the Valley of the Queens.

[Watch the video.](#)

## Newly Acquired Titles



Recently acquired titles in the [Conservation Collection in the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute](#) are available to readers on site at the Getty Center. Some materials are available through your library's interlibrary loan service.

[Access the list of recently acquired titles from the GCI Information Center page.](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### GCI Staff Member Honored

The People's Republic of China has honored Martha Demas, senior project specialist at the GCI, with the Friendship Award, the highest award presented to foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country's economic and social progress. This award is in recognition of Demas's extensive involvement in the GCI's work on the China Principles and Mogao Grottoes projects.

[Read an interview with Martha Demas.](#)



Martha Demas and Chinese Vice-Prime Minister, Zhang Dejiang, during the awards ceremony.

### Position Available

The GCI Education department is seeking a senior project specialist with expertise in built heritage. The application deadline is December 20, 2010.

[Find out more information and apply online.](#)

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**GCI Mission Statement**

The Getty Conservation Institute works internationally to advance conservation practice in the visual arts—broadly interpreted to include objects, collections, architecture, and sites. The Institute serves the conservation community through scientific research, education and training, model field projects, and the dissemination of the results of both its own work and the work of others in the field. In all its endeavors, the GCI focuses on the creation and delivery of knowledge that will benefit the professionals and organizations responsible for the conservation of the world's cultural heritage. The GCI is a program of the J. Paul Getty Trust, an international cultural and philanthropic institution that focuses on the visual arts that also includes the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Getty Research Institute, and the Getty Foundation.

**About the GCI Bulletin**

The GCI Bulletin is published electronically six times a year to keep partners and supporters up-to-date with GCI programs and activities.

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