

## **Melina Avery**

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## **EDUCATION**

**Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario** September 2007 – October 2009

Masters of Art Conservation with a concentration in Paper Objects

**Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York** September 2001 – May 2005

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Art History

## **EXPERIENCE**

July 2012 - present (full-time)

### **Book and Paper Conservator**

**University of Chicago Library, Chicago, Illinois**

- Perform a full range of conservation duties supporting the University of Chicago's preservation initiatives.
- Examination, research and documentation relating to library materials, including their history, condition and conservation options.
- Prepare condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carry out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
  - Primary focus is treatment of books and flat paper objects from the University's Special Collections Research Center, which includes the University Archives.
  - Occasional treatment of books, maps and other objects from the University's circulating collection.
- Carry out research projects on specific objects of interest, and on general conservation issues.
- Participate in risk assessments, disaster preparedness and disaster response.
- Stay up-to-date in the field, develop new skills, and represent the university, at workshops, conferences and other events.

September 2010 – June 2012 (full-time)

### **Conservation Fellow**

**Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Illinois**

- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
- Trained with the Special Collections Conservator in advanced book and paper conservation treatments.
- Did extensive research into the preservation of 20th century photoreproductions, including technical analysis done in partnership with the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

July 2010 – September 2010 (full-time)

### **Archives Intern**

**The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland**

- Trained with the archivists in archive preservation procedures.

- Rehoused and digitized archival records.
- Assisted in exhibit preparation.

February – July 2010 (full-time)

**Helen Ohrenschall Intern in Book and Paper Conservation**

**The Sheridan Libraries and Museums at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland**

- Trained with senior conservators in advanced book and paper conservation treatments.
- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
- Assisted in exhibit preparation.

November 2009 – February 2010 (full-time)

**Contract Paper Conservator**

**The Sheridan Libraries and Museums at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland**

- Assisted the paper conservator, with a primary focus on treatment of a large collection of letters written with iron gall ink.
- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
- Assisted in exhibit preparation.

June – October 2009 (full-time)

**Paper Conservation Intern**

**National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland and Washington DC**

- Trained with senior conservators in advanced paper conservation treatments.
- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
- Assisted in exhibit preparation.

September 2008 – April 2009 (5 hours / week)

**Paper Conservation Laboratory Teaching Assistant**

**Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario**

- Trained students in conservation protocols and techniques.
- Assisted the paper conservation professors as necessary.

May – July 2008 (full-time)

**Paper Conservation Intern**

**National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario**

- Trained with senior conservators in advanced conservation treatments, with a focus on art on paper and photographs.
- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out full treatments and housings of varying complexity.
- Assisted in exhibit preparation.

June – August 2004 (15 hours / week)

**Objects Conservation Assistant**

**Cantor Center for the Arts, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California**

- Assisted the campus art conservator in maintenance of the outdoor sculpture collection.
- Served as liaison to the public while working on sculptures in public view.

September 2003 – May 2004 (4 hours / week)

### **Conservation Training**

#### **Ezio Buzzegoli Conservation Studio, Florence, Italy**

- The practical component of a year-long undergraduate academic program in conservation, which included basic training in many areas of conservation of art and historic objects.
- Prepared condition reports, treatment proposals and treatment reports for conservation projects as well as carrying out minor treatments and housings of varying complexity, and assisting the conservators and technicians.

### **VOLUNTEER POSITIONS**

#### **The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Book and Paper Group Education and Training Committee 2016 – present**

Member-at-large

#### **Sarah Lawrence College Alumni Board of Directors 2012 – 2017**

Member and Chicago Area Liaison

#### **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Emerging Conservation Professionals Network 2012 - 2016**

Chicago Area Liaison

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

#### **Sarah Lawrence College Study Abroad Program, Florence, Italy September 2003 – June 2004**

Studies in Renaissance Art History, Art Conservation and the Italian language

### **PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

#### **The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Annual Meeting**

May 2019, Uncasville, Connecticut

“Rebinding a 52-pound Antiphonary:” a presentation at the Book and Paper Group Session, co-presented with Ann Lindsey, about our project to rebind the largest book in the Special Collections Research Center, and the equipment built to make the treatment possible.

#### **Music Library Association Annual Meeting**

March 2013, San Jose, California

“Ozalids and Open Reels: Preservation Problems for 20th Century Music Collections”

Co-presented with Greg MacAyeal, music librarian at Northwestern University Library.

#### ***The Book and Paper Group Annual Volume 31 (2012)***

“Ozalids in the Music Library: Life Before Xerox:” a paper discussing my research on conservation options for a type of photoreproduction commonly called an Ozalid.

Viewable online: <http://cool.conservation-us.org/coolaic/sg/bpg/annual/v31/bp31-02.pdf>

#### **The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Annual Meeting**

May 2012, Albuquerque, New Mexico

“Ozalids in the Music Library: Life Before Xerox:” a presentation during the Book and Paper Group Session, discussing my research on conservation options for a type of photoreproduction commonly called an Ozalid.

### **Chicago Area Conservation Group**

November 2011, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

A presentation on my projects during my fellowship at Northwestern, including discussion of a particularly complex conservation treatment as well as my research on the preservation of 20th century photoreproductions.

### **Conference of the Association of North American Graduate Programs in Conservation**

April 2009, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York

A poster presenting my research on the effect of aged varnish on paper objects.

Viewable online: [http://cool.conservation-us.org/anagpic/2009jpg/2009ANAGPIC\\_Avery.jpg](http://cool.conservation-us.org/anagpic/2009jpg/2009ANAGPIC_Avery.jpg)

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### **Under Covers: the Art and Science of Book Conservation**

March - October 2013, John Crerar Library, University of Chicago

An exhibit that I curated about book conservation, open to the public and designed to coincide with the American Library Association's Preservation Week. An online version of the exhibit is accessible at: <https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/webexhibits/scienceofconservation/>

#### ***The Conservator***

June 2013

A documentary film with my profession and a Special Collections rebinding project as its focus. The short film was made by University of Chicago undergraduates, in situ in the conservation lab. It is viewable online at: <https://vimeo.com/68180343>

### **WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

#### **Byzantine Bookbinding Workshop**

Presented by Michael Burke

August 2018, San Francisco Center for the Book, San Francisco, California

#### **German Paper Case Binding Workshop**

Presented by Henry Hebert, Conservator for Special Collections at Duke University Libraries

March 2017, Big River Bindery in Atlanta, Georgia

#### **Biennial University of Illinois Conservation Colloquium: *The Iron Gall Ink Dilemma: To Treat or Not to Treat?***

Presented by Crystal Maitland, paper conservator at the Canadian Conservation Institute

December 2016, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Attended the full two-day program including the smaller hands-on workshop.

#### **The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works Annual Meetings**

2015 (Miami, Florida): *Practical Philosophy, or Making Conservation Work*

2014 (San Francisco, California): *Conscientious Conservation – Sustainable Choices in Collection Care*

2013 (Indianapolis, Indiana): *The Contemporary in Conservation*

2012 (Albuquerque, New Mexico): *Connecting to Conservation: Outreach and Advocacy*

2011 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania): *Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation*

2009 (Los Angeles, California): *Conservation 2.0—New Directions*

**Midwest Regional Conservation Guild Symposium**

October 2015, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Biennial University of Illinois Conservation Colloquium: *Adhesives in Library and Archives***

December 2014, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Biblio Tech: Reverse Engineering Historical and Modern Binding Structures, Part II**

Taught by bookbinder Karen Hanmer

January 2013, Columbia College, Chicago, Illinois

**The Fabrication and Preservation of Architectural Drawings: An Afternoon Lecture with Lois Olcott Price**

Presented by the Guild of Book Workers

March 2010, Columbia University, New York City

**Documentation and Conservation of Media Arts Heritage (DOCAM) Summit**

Presented by the DOCAM Research Alliance

October 2008, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec

**Mount-making for Museum Objects**

Presented by the Canadian Conservation Institute

November 2007, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

**Canadian Conservation Institute Symposium on Preserving Aboriginal Heritage: Technical and Traditional Approaches**

October 2007, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Professional Associate in the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)
- AIC Specialty Group: The Book and Paper Group
- The Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property
- The Midwest Regional Conservation Guild
- Guild of Book Workers
- The Chicago Area Conservation Group

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Proficient in Microsoft Word and Office, FileMaker Pro, Adobe Creative Suite, and Apple and Microsoft computer systems.