

South African Preservation and Conservation Group

**Annual General Meeting
East London, 15 July 2005**

Present:

Lesley Hart: UCT Manuscripts & Archives
Gillian Condy: SANBI
Lubi Ndaba: Tswane University of Technology
Douwe Drijfhout: National Library
John Tsebe: National Library
Yolisa Soul: University of Fort Hare
June Hosford: Iziko Museums (Cape Town)
Dale Peters: DISA
Johann Maree: UCT Preservation Unit
Shirley Kabwato: Cory Library, Rhodes University
Sandy Shell: UCT African Studies Library
Alan Jeffrey: Brenthurst Library
Lucy Blumenthal: Durban Art Gallery
Verity Russouw: Sanlam Archives, Cape Town
Ria Groenewald: University of Pretoria Archives
Charmaine Wynne: Albany Museum, Grahamstown
Fleur Way-Jones: Albany Museum, Grahamstown
Charlotte Kunene: University of Johannesburg-Soweto Campus
Patience Ndwandwe: North-West University – Mafikeng Campus
Zuki Peter: Eastern Cape Provincial Libraries
Nellie Somers: Campbell Collections, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Mimi van der Merwe: University of Stellenbosch, JS Gericke Library
Elize Sutherland: Standard Bank Archives
Regina Isaacs: SAHRA
Janine Dunlop: UCT Manuscripts & Archives

Welcome and Apologies:

Lesley Hart opened the meeting. In the absence of a national chairperson, Lesley had volunteered to chair the meeting.

Reports from the regions:

Gauteng:

Gillian Condy reported that Sapcon North had held their Regional AGM in October 2005. At the meeting, a committee was voted in, consisting of Gerda Engelbrecht, Alexio Motsi, Alan Jeffrey, Jan Middeljans, Talita Fourie and Gillian

Condy. At that stage, no one was prepared to take on the position of Chairperson. Gillian volunteered to continue as Secretary/ Treasurer. At the February 2005 committee meeting, they again tried to appoint a chairperson without any success, work pressure being the main reason.

Sapcon North has 22 paid up members for 2005, with 11 arrears for this year. Their membership areas include Polokwane, Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp and Bloemfontein.

Meetings for 2005 included:

March: National Cultural History Museum, tour of the storeroom, hosted by Jan Middeljans. At this meeting, they bestowed Life Membership on Magda van Staden who was Sapcon North and National Chairperson for many years.

June: Johannesburg Art Gallery, organized by Gerda Engelbrecht. At this meeting, they took the opportunity to speak about recent projects that members were involved in and also viewed a photographic exhibition on the inner Johannesburg housing.

September: A visit to the Phumani paper mill, situated at Wits University, is planned. A two hour tour of the mill will be followed by a visit to Museum Africa, hosted by Kathy Brookes.

November: Workshop on ceramics, organized by Talita Fourie.

For 2006, they have asked Johann Maree to present his paper conservation workshop in Gauteng.

Western Cape

Lesley Hart reported that meetings this year have been poorly supported. They are planning to send out a questionnaire regarding the shape and form of future meetings.

Meetings have included both preservation and conservation issues. There have been visits to the University of Cape Town's Centre for Popular Memory, the Provincial Museums conservation laboratory, storage and scanning facilities at Metrofile, and the Mayibuye Archives. Topics of talks have included a discussion on enclosures and a report on a trip to archives in the United States. There was also a very interesting visit from Linda Hohneke from the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Kwazulu-Natal

Lucy Blumenthal reported that this region has been inactive recently. During the East London conference, they had received new members and they hope to breathe new life into the group by 2006.

Financial Report:

Gillian Condy presented the Sapcon bank statements. There are currently three bank accounts. There is, however, no one with signing power in Cape Town, which must be rectified. It was also noted that payment of registration fees should be centralized.

Dale Peters suggested that the two 32 day accounts should be merged. This was agreed upon. Gillian Condy, Talita Fourie and Allan Jeffrey will be signatories. Authorisation will be required for amounts greater than R1000.

Sapcon as a society:

Membership and Activities:

It was agreed that the group's role should be to address both conservation and preservation issues.

The question of training was raised. Since there is a dwindling core of professionals, should the onus be on a group such as Sapcon to provide training?

It was argued that, since Sapcon is a professional organization, the primary focus should be to provide support to one another, not to train outside parties. (Bodies such as SAQA and Create South Africa provide training.) A debate ensued around this topic.

John Tsebe pointed out that the group does not seem to have clear aims. It is necessary to establish these, as well identify the group's strategic partners, before going forward. He proposed that Sapcon's Executive Committee should meet to discuss these issues.

With regard to training, it was suggested that a web page should be established, where members could share information and those new to the field could find assistance. A 'list of expertise' should be one of the items to be added to the web page. Douwe Drijfhout volunteered the National Library as the web site host.

Members were reminded of the Sapcon listserv (sapcon@lists.ukzn.ac.za), which can also be used to share information. (*Lesley Hart undertook to send a current membership list to Dale Peters, who manages the listserv.*)

Election of office bearers:

It was suggested that an Interim National Committee should be elected, to carry Sapcon forward until March 2006. Gillian Condy requested that all regional AGMs should be held at the same time – ie – March, so that the finances for the year could be reconciled.

Members elected to office until March 2006:

Lesley Hart: Chairperson
Gillian Condy: Treasurer
Janine Dunlop: Secretary

Regional representatives:

Ann Torlesse

Allan Jeffrey

Douwe Drijfhout

Johann Maree

Patience Ndwandwe