

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Condition & Treatment Report

Object: [1959.2363] Figure, Bird (eagle)

Creator Name: Wilhelm Schimmel

Category: Sculpture

Title:

Material: Pine, Gesso, Paint

Object Date: Dated: Earliest: 1800 Latest: 1900

Measurements:

Height: 53.66 cm (21.13 in)

Length:

Width: 76.20 cm (30.00 in)

Measurement Notes: OW of wings.



Reason for Examination: Change in Condition Report response

Requested by: Josh Lane

Catalog Description: Standing, carved and painted bird figure perched on a small mound. The head is upright and turned slightly to the left and the wings are spread and angled backwards. The wings were carved separately and attached to the body. The body has a protruding breast, sharply angled knees, and a blunt tail. There are four, long plain talons on each foot. The feathers are delineated on the face and back of the wings and tail. The front and back of the body from head to legs, are finished with a carved, crosshatched surface. The mound is painted dark green and the bird is painted black with a yellow talon and beak, and red comb and eyes.

Woods (visual inspection): Pine

Previous Treatment: The proper right wing had broken off in 1995. The wing was re-attached with yellow glue. The pieces of filler which had broken off at the wing/body joint were glued into place also using yellow glue. Many voids still existed and these were filled with gesso. Black acrylic gesso was then brushed over the fills and acrylic (Magna) paints used for inpainting. The damaged leading edge of the preopr left wing was restored in the sme fasion. The paint losses of the base were inpainted with acrylic colors over shellac. Paul Koenig, Furniture Conservator (retired) September 25, 1995.

Condition: Over the eagle is in fair condition.

According to a Change in Condition form filed on 11/1/2018, Mary Walton reported that a guide noticed that the proper left wing of the eagle figure was damaged. It is unknown how this damage occurred.

The proper left wing of the eagle appears to have been accidentally knocked or pushed out of

place, possibly by a visitor, according to the Change in Condition form. The finger joints that attach the wing to the body are intact, but have been pushed out of alignment. Small areas of gesso have been lost along the joint on both the front and back of the eagle.

The previous conservator, Paul Keonig, used gesso to repair the losses, which makes it hard to distinguish between original material and repairs. "Yellow glue" was used to repair the proper right wing when it broke in 1995.

"59.2363" is written in red on the back of the proper left wing. "B&11" or "B+11" is written in red on the back of the proper right wing.

Proposed Treatment: 1 - Before and after treatment photography will be taken by Jim Schneck.

2 - Sturgeon Glue (cold-setting fish glue) will be introduced into the joints to provide additional stability. The wing will be manipulated back into place with the help of Associate Objects Conservator, Lauren Fair and clamped in place to set, if necessary.

3 - Small areas of loss will be filled with Flügger (acrylic spackle composed of calcium carbonate in a butyl methacrylate binder. Manufactured by Flügger A/S, Denmark. Available from conservation suppliers) over a barrier of 15% Paraloid B-72 (clear colorless thermoplastic acrylic resin composed of an ethyl methacrylate (70%) and methyl acrylate (30%) copolymer. Manufactured by Rohm & Haas and available from conservation suppliers) w/v in acetone or 2% Aquazol 200 (adhesive composed of poly(2-ethyl-2-oxazoline); soluble in water and polar organic solvents (acetone, ethanol, etc.); molecular weight = 200,000; kinematic viscosity = 18-24 cSt. Manufactured by Polymer Chemistry Innovations. Available from conservation suppliers) w/v in deionized water based on the results of testing.

4 - Areas of loss will be inpainted to visually integrate them into the surrounding surface using Golden Acrylic paints in Golden Matte Medium or Primal WS-24 (also known as Primal WS-24 or Rhoplex WS-24, a polyacrylic acid emulsion mixed with acrylic co-polymers; pH 7; dries to a relatively hard, clear, shiny film and is often used to increase gloss in inpainting. Manufactured by Rohm and Haas; available from art conservation suppliers) matted with fumed silica (colloidal form of silica made by hydrogen-oxygen furnace combustion of silicon tetrachloride. This type is hydrophilic and is for instance used as a matting and bulking agent for epoxy colorfills. Available from Conservation Emporium) if necessary.

Proposal By: Madeline Hagerman

Proposal Date: 11/16/2018

Authorized By: Lauren Fair

Authorization Date 11/26/2018

Comment: Depending on solubility of original surrounding paint, watercolors or Qor colors (G

Authorized By: Josh Lane

Authorization Date 12/05/2018

Treatment: 1 - Before and after treatment photography will be taken by Jim Schneck.

2 - With the help of Elizabeth Terry Seaks Senior Furniture Conservator Mark Anderson, the wing was removed with mechanical pressure. Parts of a wood and plaster historic fill covering the wing joint broke off during the removal process.

3 - Solubility tests revealed that the original paint was not sensitive to water or denatured alcohol, but was sensitive to acetone.

4 - Sturgeon Glue (cold-setting fish glue) was introduced into the joints to provide additional stability. The wing was manipulated back into place and clamped to set with wood clamps cushioned with Volara. A stretchy fabric bandage was used to provide further stabilization during the setting process.

5 - Areas of loss were coated with barrier of Sturgeon glue thinned with water based on the results of testing. Sturgeon glue was chosen because of its compatibility with wood and its different solubility from the fill material.

6 - After testing a variety of combinations of adhesives and bulking agents, 20% Butvar B98 (Polyvinyl butyral resin, soluble in alcohols, acetone, and aromatic hydrocarbons. Manufactured by Solutia Inc.; available from conservation suppliers) w/v in denatured alcohol bulked with glass microballoons was chosen for its ease of application, low shrinkage, solubility in denatured alcohol, and workability.

7 - Areas of loss were inpainted to visually integrate them into the surrounding surface using Golden Acrylic paints in Golden Matte Medium.

Treated By: Madeline Hagerman

Date Completed: 06/12/2019

Treatment Hours: 31.00



1959.2363 OR NL BT 11 2018



1959.2363 detail NL BT 11
2018



1959.2363 detail OF NL AT 6
2019



1959.2363 detail OR NL AT 6
2019



1959.2363 OF NL AT 06 2019



1959.2363 OR NL AT 6 2019