

# Salvage of Photographic Materials

# Consulting services

- ▶ Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts
  - ▶ 264 South 23rd Street
  - ▶ Philadelphia, PA 19103
  - ▶ 315-545-0613
  - ▶ Provides advice about recovery of collections
  - ▶
- ▶ Northeast Document Conservation Center
  - ▶ 100 Brickstone Square
  - ▶ Andover, MA 01810
  - ▶ 978-470-1010 (24 hours)
  - ▶ Conservators are available for consultation

# Sort by type of media

## **Color photograph (48 hrs)**

- Damp/Wet

## **B/W photograph (72 hrs)**

- Damp /Wet

## **Color film/slide (72 hrs)**

- Damp/Wet

## **B/W film (72 hrs)**

- Damp /Wet



# Photographic salvage (20<sup>th</sup> Century)

- **Remove from enclosures/ frames**
- **Record all information** with photograph on clean white paper  
(Collection #, photo #, name, date and etc.)
- **Rinse** with clean water until clean (Plexiglas or Reemay for support, rinse with water)
- **DO NOT touch or blot image area**
- **Drying Methods**
  1. Air dry: hang with clips/lay flat (image/emulsion face up)
  2. Freeze/ thaw and air dry
  3. Vacuum freeze dry
- **DO NOT stack until dry**
- **Keep visual and written records of salvage procedures**

# What do I do? (20<sup>th</sup> Century only)

## If there are too many photos

- **Keep photos in a container of clean water no more than 48 hours.**
  - **Exceptions: 19<sup>th</sup> Century photos need to be air dried within 24 hrs.**
- **Record all information**
- **Interleave**
  - Interleave each photo with Reemay<sup>®</sup> (polyester fiber: allows water to pass through and will not stick) wax, or freezer paper

## Wrap

- **Freeze**
- **Thaw in cold water**

# Framed photograph

- Place glass side down on blotter paper on the table
- Remove backing materials
- Place Plexiglas over back of the frame, use two hands and invert so glass is facing up.
- Remove frame and then glass
- **Air dry photograph with information**

# Photo album:

- **Dismantle / Interleave album**
  - Interleave each page : blotter paper and Reemay<sup>®</sup>(polyester fiber)
- **If you cannot dry immediately**
  - **Record all information** (Collection #, name, date and etc.)
  - **Wrap** with: plastic wrap, wax or freezer paper
  - **Freeze**
- Thaw and air dry later



# Resources used

- ▶ Heritage Preservation  
[www.Heritagepreservation.org](http://www.Heritagepreservation.org)
- ▶ Northeast Document Conservation Center  
[www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org)
- ▶ Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts  
[www.ccaha.org](http://www.ccaha.org)
- ▶ The Association of moving image archivists  
[www.amianet.org](http://www.amianet.org)
- ▶ Minnesota Historical Society  
[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)
- ▶ The Library of Congress Preservation  
[www.loc.gov/preserv](http://www.loc.gov/preserv)
- ▶ International Federation of Library Associations  
[www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)
- ▶ Kodak Disaster Recovery Program  
1-800-EKC-TEST (24 hrs)



# Lynette Lundin's Experience

- Preservation of rare materials since 1992
- Associate Degree in Photography
- Trained in:
  - Disaster Management
  - Preservation and Salvage of:
    - Paper
    - Photographic
    - AV materials
- Manages the Special Collection Division Preservation Lab
  - Trains graduate and undergrad students
  - Stack Manager of Manuscript & Rare Books
- Presented at workshops:
  - Salvaging Wetted (Photographic) Materials (from disasters)
  - E Z Archives at Home Basic Skills and Methods for Preservation and Conservation of Personal Collections, Basics of Photographic Care and Display