

GLASS

Introduction

When working with antique or rare modern glass, the rules listed below should be strictly followed.

Handling

1. Work areas should always be kept well ventilated and dust free. All work surfaces should be covered with felt to cushion the surface.

2. Always make careful notes on the condition of the objects when they are received. Look for defects such- as weeping (sweating), stains, fine cracks, breaks, or missing pieces. All these defects require the immediate attention of a conservator.

3. When working with broken pieces, always make sure that none of the pieces is misplaced or becomes separated. Adhesive tape can be used for holding the various broken pieces together until a trained conservator can take over or for temporarily holding pieces together for measuring **or** for photographing.

4. Never pick up an object by its intended handle as this is usually its weakest point. Always be sure to have a firm hold on the base of the object and support is with both hands.

5. Broken glass is one of the most difficult materials to repair adequately. It sometimes requires the use of heating, abrasives, and special resins, and still the repairs are almost always visible. It is, therefore, best left to the experts.

Cleaning

1. Cleaning should only be attempted on objects that are in good condition and not in need of conservation.

2. Glass objects can be washed in warm water to which a small amount of detergent has been added.

3. Always use a plastic dishpan when cleaning glass, and never have more than one object in the pan at One time. Use wood lattice liner for sink if object is too large for pan. Objects that have been washed can be rinsed in cool water but be sure that the temperature change from the washing solution to the rinsing

solution is not too great.

4. Glass objects should be allowed to drain dry- and then should be wiped with a linen cloth or soft chamois.

5. Do not use cotton cloths to dry glass.

6. After a glass artifact has been cleaned, it should be put away immediately to avoid accident.

Storage

1. All glass objects can be adversely affected when exposed to damp conditions for prolonged periods of time. Keep the relative humidity level low at around 40%.

2. Keep the room free of dust and dirt and well ventilated.

3. Never wrap glass articles in tissue or other paper for storage. These papers can harbor moisture that will adversely affect the glass.

4. Glass objects should be stored on wooden shelves that are covered with felt. Whenever possible~, these shelves should have glass sliding doors.

5. Never have glass objects touching each other while in storage.

6. Make sure that the work surfaces in the storage room are covered with felt to cushion all glass objects.