Disciplines in motion;
The changing roles of curators and conservators

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Conserving the arts: Task of the curator and the conservator?
Conserving the arts: Task of the curator and the conservator.

to conserve:
“to keep from harm, decay, loss or waste, especially with a view to later use; to preserve with care”
Conserving the arts: Task of the curator and the conservator.

- collection care
- conservation/restoration treatments
- loan traffic
- technical research
I.

two treatments from the past
1816: sale to Nieuwenhuys
1817: sale to Edward Solly
1821: sale to Prussian State, to Gemäldegalerie in the Altes Museum
1816: sale to Nieuwenhuys
1817: sale to Edward Solly
1821: sale to Prussian State, to Gemäldegalerie in the Altes Museum
1823: Waagen’s rediscovery of the quatrain; Coxie copy acquired
Pictor hubertus eyck · maior quo nemo repertus

Incepit · pondus · que johannes arte secundus

Frater perfectit judoci vyd prece fretus

Vos collocat acta tueri
1. Pictor hubertus eyck · maior quo nemo repertus
2. Incepit · pondus · que · johannes · arte · secundus
3. Frater perfectit · judoci · vyd · prece · fretus
4. Versu · sexta · mai · vos · collocat · acta · tueri
April 5, 1893

Aloys Hauser

Wilhelm von Bode

Hugo von Tschudi
1893/94: six panels split lengthwise into twelve, cradles applied
Reverse of *Singing Angels*

George Bisacca, Ray Marchant, Michael Alan Miller, José de la Fuente, Jean-Albert Glatigny
Aloys Hauser  
Wilhelm von Bode  
Hugo von Tschudi
Max Friedländer
(1867-1958)
Philip Hendy (1900-1980)

Max Friedländer (1867-1958)
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Max Friedländer (1867-1958)

Helmut Ruhemann (1891-1973)

X-radiograph of detail, circa 1930

Alan Burroughs (1897–1965)
Rogier van der Weyden, *St Luke Drawing a Portrait of the Virgin.*
Oak, 138 x 111 cm.
Boston, Museum of Fine Arts.

Alan Burroughs (1897–1965)

X-radiograph of detail, circa 1930
uncleaned

half cleaned (gray layer)

totally cleaned

half cleaned

gray repairs
The ‘new’ Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, built in 1927.
Rogier van der Weyden, St Luke Drawing a Portrait of the Virgin. During treatment, summer 1932.
Letter of Edward W. Forbes to Edward J. Holmes, August 30, 1932.
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston archives.
Philip Hendy (1900-1980)

Max Friedländer (1867-1958)

Helmut Ruhemann (1891-1973)

Edward Forbes (1873-1969)
Yale University Art Gallery: the Jarves, Griggs, and Rabinowitz collections of Early Italian paintings.
Filippino Lippi (workshop), *Christ on the Cross*, before (left) and after treatment. Tempera on wood, 33 x 25 cm. New Haven, Yale University Art Gallery 1871.56.
Giovanni Bellini (follower), *Madonna and Child*, before (left) and after treatment. Tempera on wood, 33 x 27 cm. New Haven, Yale University Art Gallery 1959.15.11.
Early Italian Paintings: Approaches to Conservation
II.

areas of shared tasks:

- collection care
- conservation/restoration treatments
- loan traffic
- technical research
Curator
Registrar
Conservator/restorer
Education
areas of shared tasks:

- collection care
- conservation/restoration treatments
- loan traffic
- technical research
Conservator/Restorer
Scientist
Curators and other stakeholders
technical art history
art technological research
thank you!