Protecting Your Family's Treasures

Vicki Lee Director of Conservation and Preservation Maryland State Archives

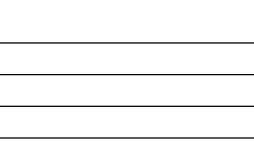
What Dangers Are There?

- Environment
 - Temperature
 - Humidity
 - Light - Air Pollution
 - Pest
- Poor Handling Dirt & Fingerprint
 - Folds
- Poor Storage Material - Acidic boxes and paper - Framing without mats – Tape • Disaster - Hurricanes
 - Floods
 - Fire

Environmental Problems

- Keep your treasures where you are: in a regulated environment
- All light is damaging over time and it is irreversible
- Keep screens on open windows and change your air filters
- Cool, dry and low light are the best conditions





Poor Handling

• Dirty Hands

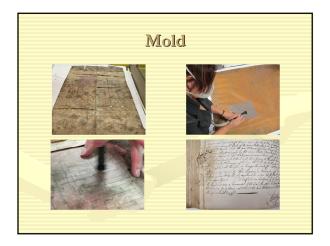
- Wash your hands before you handle materials
 Gloves should always be used when handling any photographic materials or
- Fingerprints are permanent
 Try not to touch your face
- Try not to touch your face while handling materials the oil from your skin will transfer
- Don't Pick up Materials at their Edges
- Always support the material with both handsFolded items
 - When possible store materials flat.If paper begins to crack when
 - If paper begins to crack when you unfold it stop and see a conservator
 Pad clothing or large textiles
 - Pad clothing or large textiles that must be folded with tissue or cotton batting.

Poor Storage Materials

- Use acid free materials when storing any of your heirloomsUse unbuffered materials
- with some color photographic materials and animal based materials like wool, silk or leather
- Use a box with a lid that is the correct size for your piece
- Make sure the box is not too heavy to lift safely









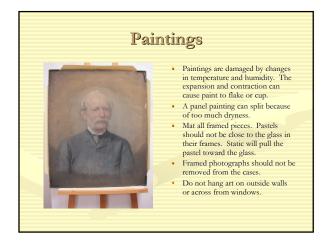








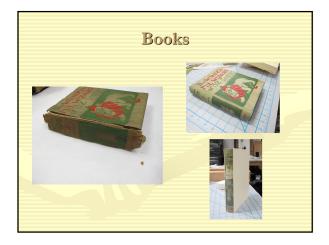






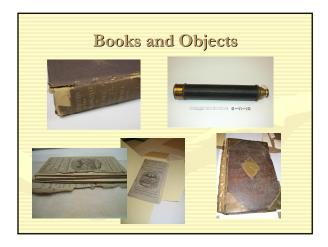










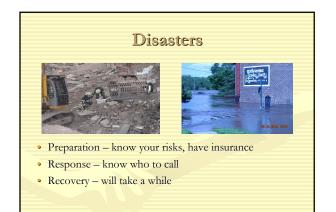


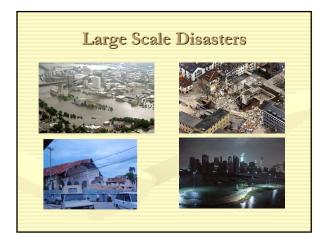




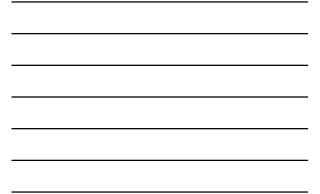












Resources and Supplies

- Please don't be fooled any thing can be called "archival". There are no regulations on what can be called archival.
- Acid free & Lignin free are your best options.
- Pick up a handout before you leave.

