

Charles

TO A

Ken Macleod
 Director, Conservation Research Services
 CCI

FROM DE

R. Lynn Ogden
 Acting Regional Director
 ACC

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SECURITE
OUR FILE - N/REFERENCE ACC File No. 7030-1
YOUR FILE - V/REFERENCE
DATE 26 October 1978

SUBJECT / OBJET: PIGMENT SAMPLES ACC 7,000,550 JJ. AUDUBON'S "THE BIRDS OF AMERICA", Vol. 1.

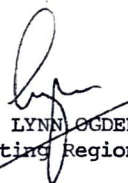
Charles Brandt and Bob McCarroll recently gathered together the pigment samples and 35 mm slides for the J.J. Audubon "The Birds of America", Vol. 1, ACC 7,000,550, hand-coloured engravings, belonging to the Legislative Assembly Library of New Brunswick.

This project was approved by the Atlantic Regional Advisory Committee. We are to do Volume 1 this year, Volume 2 next year and so on until all four volumes are completed.

We need the samples tested - even though it will take 30 to 40 hours machine time per sample - because the samples taken have been found by Charles to be the most fugitive in an aqueous solution. We hope that the identification of the samples will not only allow us to know what pigments were in the colourist's palette but also to know what fixative to use that is most likely to be reversible in any future treatment. We also need the information in order to accurately identify colours and pigments to know whether there has been any fading as a result of treatment.

The implications of this study are that it could greatly hasten the treatments of Volumes 2, 3, and 4 (some 336 works of art). If possible we would need the information for April 1st, 1979. Depending on the outcome of the tests this information may be publishable. As you will see by the bibliography there has been considerable interest at the AIC in these problems.

Thank you for your patience and assistance.


 R. LYNN OGDEN
 Acting Regional Director

RLO/ra

cc: John Taylor

Nature of Sample - Please include description of artifact, object history and pertinent documentation. Where applicable, indicate location of sample on artifact, suspected composition of sample and, on commercial materials, manufacturer's description.

38 Pigment (watercolour) samples mounted on the tips of fine glass rods by the use of an XRD mounting oil. The pigments were taken from the various hand-coloured engravings of J.J. Audubon's "The Birds of America", Vol. I belonging to the Legislative Assembly Library of New Brunswick. Each sample is contained in the appropriate numbered glass containers. Accompanying the pigment sample are a series of 35 mm coloured transparent slides, each slide numbered to correspond to the numbered pigment. The engraved plates were hand-coloured in the years 1827-30.

Specify Analyses, Tests or Information desired; if there are limitations on sample size, please specify:

Request identification of the pigments.

Purpose of the analyses:

To know what pigments were used on this work of art; to eventually correlate these pigments with pigments used on Vol. II, III, and IV, and to possibly correlate these pigments with the paint boxes used by the colourists, also to study the fading of the various pigments.

Explain any urgency required:

The project is under way.

Bibliography of Conservation Literature on above.

Pigment analysis of Early American Watercolours and Fractur - Janice H. Carlson & John Krill. Preprints. The A.I.C. of papers presented, the 6th Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, Texas 1-4 June 1978.

Conservation Problems of Audubon's Birds of America, Preprints, The A.I.C. of papers Presented of the 5th Annual Meeting, Boston, Mass. 1977.

October 10th, 1978

Date of Submission

Charles A.E. Brandt
Conservator, Paper.

Consultant Conservator