

National Museums Canada

Musées nationaux Canada

Canadian Conservation Institute

Institut canadien de conservation



November 18th, 1976

Mrs. Jacqueline S. Olin, Secretary, American Institute for Conservation Conservation Analytical Laboratory, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Mrs. Olin,

This letter is written on behalf of Father Charles Brandt who is requesting membership as a Fellow in the American Institut for Conservation. At present Father Brandt is a member of my staff and heads the Paper Laboratory Section of the Atlantic Conservation Centre.

Father Brandt has had a broad experience in the field of books and paper conservation over a period of 20 years. Prior to his joining the staff of the C.C.I., he spent a year in Europe studying and working in several outstanding conservation centres.

Without question, in my opinion, Father Brandt is the foremost Book Conservator currently practicing in Canada. In addition to books and in accordance with his present job description with the C.C.I. he works with prints and drawings, parchments and manuscripts, falling into the category of National Treasures.

An example of his recent work is the restoration of the three volume work of the Atlantic Neptune belonging to the Provincial Archives of Nova Scotia. It is to be noted that many of the plates of this work are aquatints and that the cleaning, washing, bleaching, and deacidifying, and sizing of the prints required careful examination and fixing of the colours prior to the restorative treatment.

Currently Father Brandt is completing the restoration of an extremely valuable - one of its kind - National Treasure. This is Rudyard's Book of Fortifications belonging to the Citadel in Halifax. This is a MS book of water-colours. The same careful treatment was required here as with the Atlantic Neptune. Again careful testing and fixing of the coloured drawings was a necessary prerequisite to the stabilization and buffering of the paper.

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Post Office Box 645 236 St. George Street Moncton, N.B. E1C 8M7

Atlantic Conservation Centre Centre de Conservation de l'Atlantique c.p. no. 645 236, rue St. George Monoton (N.B.) E1C 8M7

Since Father Brandt is submitting a Curriculum Vitae covering not only his past work but his present work in great detail it is unnecessary for me to repeat that here.

It is my opinion that Father Brandt is qualified in every respect for admittance as a Fellow to the American Institute for Conservation.

Sincerely yours,

ROGER ROCHE

Regional Director

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