



The Association for Preservation Technology International
Association pour la préservation et ses techniques

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The *APT Bulletin*: 49.1

The newest issue of the *APT Bulletin: The Journal of Preservation Technology* highlights the diversity of the APT community. From iron bridges to bird excreta and oil springs, this issue has an article of interest for everyone. A microcosm of the APT community, the authors in this issue each come from different disciplines—there are professors, architects, engineers, business owners, and conservators. The articles in this issue are relevant not just to the preservation technology community but to society as a whole.

“Notes on the Design, Construction, and Sales Practices of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company” by Thomas E. Boothby discusses the history of the lenticular-truss bridges produced by this Connecticut company. Boothby analyzes several HAER records to gain a fuller understanding of parabolic trusses. He also devotes much of the article to the business tactics of the company, which reportedly would pay off town officials for signing contracts but fail to deliver a bridge that met the specifications of the contract.

Tiffani Simple and Jared M. Shoemaker’s article, “Restoration of Gottesman Hall at the New York Public Library,” is a case study of work done to restore the architectural

details of an ornate ceiling. The Renaissance-style ceiling is comprised of carved oak elements, many of which had become loose or fallen away over the years.

“Experimental Studies on the Impact of Bird Excreta on Architectural Metal,” by Dirk H. R. Spennemann and Maggie J. Watson, discusses the various studies that have been done to quantify the effect that bird excreta has on architectural metal and sculpture. The authors found flaws in all prior studies and concluded that more work needs to be done to accurately study the impact of bird excreta.

“Oil Springs, Ontario: The Living, Breathing Dinosaur” is by Charles Fairbank, the 2017 APT College of Fellows lecturer. The article describes the oil field that Fairbank and his family have been operating for 157 years. Unlike modern-day oil fields, Fairbank Oil Fields operates successfully using nineteenth-century technology.

James V. Banta’s article, “Facade Restoration of Richard Morris Hunt’s Clark Hall in Cleveland, Ohio,” is a case study of the work done to repair the loss of structural integrity to the exterior of an important college building. One of the challenges with this project was the difficulty of finding a good match for replacement brick.

In “Alternative Weather Stripping for Historic Window Sash at Mount Vernon, Virginia,” Steven Stuckey discusses some of the many U.S. patents awarded for weather stripping over the years. He writes about a creative solution designed to prevent air and water infiltration through the cupola windows at George Washington’s estate.

This special issue of the *Bulletin* also includes a new *Practice Point*, the 17th in the series, by Lori Ferriss and Michael J. Auren entitled “A Roadmap to Structural Alterations in the International Existing Building Code”; it discusses the alteration levels of the

International Existing Building Code and how they are applied to structural upgrades of historic buildings.

The book reviews for this issue were secured by book review editor Lesley Gilmore. *Palazzos of Power: Central Stations of the Philadelphia Electric Company, 1900–1930* by Aaron V. Wunsch and Joseph E. B. Elliot, with a foreword by David E. Nye, is reviewed by Rick Ortega. *The Adirondack Architecture Guide: South-Central Region* by Janet A. Null is reviewed by Wes Haynes. There is also an article dedicated to weather stripping in the Building Technology Heritage Library section by Mike Jackson in this issue.

The Association for Preservation Technology is the only international organization dedicated solely to promoting the best technology for conserving historic structures and their settings. Founded in 1968 in Québec as a joint venture between Canadian and U.S. preservationists, APT provides members with benefits that include publications, networking opportunities, conferences, training courses, and student scholarships.

As a benefit of membership, APT members can, at no cost, search, browse, download, and print full-text PDF versions of past *Bulletin* articles on JSTOR, an international online digital archive. Visit <http://www.apti.org> for more information. Non-APT members also have the option of joining JSTOR's "Register and Read" program, which involves signing up for a MyJSTOR account; this allows the user to read six articles without charge each month.

The *APT Bulletin*, a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, is a valued source for state-of-the-art information on preservation technology. Published three times a year by APT,

the *Bulletin* examines all aspects of preservation technology in feature articles and book reviews, keeping readers at the leading edge of the field.

Mount Ida Press, which edits and produces the *APT Bulletin*, specializes in high-quality publications on history, architecture, and building technology. For further information about the *APT Bulletin*, please contact the editorial office in Albany, New York, at 518.426.5935 or at info@mountidapress.com.

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