Appraisals, Restoration and Conservation FAQ

- Who can use the San Diego History Center Research Archives?
- How can I find out the value of a map, book, document, artwork, and its provenance or attribution?
- Where would I go to have an artwork restored?

Who can use the San Diego History Center Research Archives?

In-person Library and Research Resources are currently unavailable until further notice. While we are currently working on providing our visitors and researchers with digital access to our collections, under special circumstances, we are able to answer some questions via email or phone. Please email our Collections Department at collections@sandiegohistory.org for any questions related to the photo collection, document archives, and 3-D object collection, which includes historic clothing, fine art, and ephemera, furniture and objects of everyday life.

How can I find out the value of a map, book, document, artwork, and its provenance or attribution?

Museum staff are not able to provide monetary fair market values for maps, documents, books, artworks nor their exact provenance or attribution. Please find a list of reputable organizations that help people with those questions:

National Institute of Appraisers

73450 Country Club Dr. #181
Palm Desert, CA 92260
Phone: (800) 676-2148
www.appraiseroffineart.com
American Society of Appraisers
P.O. Box 17265
Washington, D.C. 20041
Phone: (800) 272-8258
www.appraisers.org

Appraisers Association of America
386 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016
Phone: (212) 889-5404, ext.11
www.appraisersassoc.org

Art Dealers Association of America
American Society of Appraisers
11107 Sunset Hills Rd, Suite 310
Reston, VA 20190
www.artdealers.org

Auction Houses

Bonhams
7601 W. Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90046
Phone: (323) 850-7500
www.Bonhams.com

Christie’s
20 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 636-2000
www.christies.com
Sotheby’s
1334 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (541) 312-5682
www.sothebys.com

While the San Diego History Center does not provide authentications or appraisals to third parties, as part of the History Center’s educational mission, museum staff may discuss general parameters of connoisseurship, relative importance, quality and condition. To the extent any third parties obtain Connoisseurship Information, they acknowledge and understand that it may not be relied upon, and neither the History Center nor its staff have any liability arising from its use.

Where would I go to have an artwork restored?

If you are interested in museum-quality conservation treatments, investigative technical imaging and analysis for paintings and works on paper, please contact the Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC) www.bacc.org

For other media please refer to the following reputable organization:

American Institute for Conservation
AIC and FAIC
727 15th Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

www.culturalheritage.org

Phone: (202) 452-9545
Email: info@culturalheritage.org