

# Leather On Exhibit

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- Project Goals
  - To examine the collection of historic leather horse harness and saddles on exhibit at the Delta Museum and Archives
  - Report on the current condition of the objects on exhibit
  - Research the current methods of conservation and treatment
  - To share in class the results so that we can learn about leather conservation in both practice and theory

# Environment

- Jim Druzik of the Getty Conservation Institute Scientific Program identifies two causes of object deterioration: internal and external influences. Of the two, he says, *“the external influences on an object are vastly larger than the internal instabilities. Things that have existed for half a millennium have very little residual internal instability—so when they begin to deteriorate, it’s purely an environmental effect.”*

# The Exhibit Environment

- The exhibit resides in the basement level of a 1912 Tudor style brick and wood frame building
- Radiant hot water heating and electric baseboard heaters are the source of heat during the cooler weather months
- There is no climate control in the warmer weather months
- Temperature and humidity are ongoing threats to the collection

# Harness Shop Exhibit

- The Harness Shop Exhibit is a mixture of leather harness, collars, saddles, and bridles
- All are composite pieces
- None of the artifacts were excavated
- It is a “historical” collection

# Resources for Project

## Delta Museum and Archives

- Exhibit materials
- Registrar / Technician

## Internet & Library sources

## Other Institutions

# Procedures

- Inspect each piece on exhibit and record the current condition
- Report on the current environmental conditions of the exhibit area
- Research recommended treatments
- Discuss requirements, benefits, and issues for using new procedures and treatments

# Schedule

- Recording the temperature and humidity of the exhibit over a 30 day period using a hygrothermograph
- Documentation of the objects on exhibit with photos: before and after
- Manual inspection of each artifact and condition reports
- Research sources
- Consultation with the Registrar / Technician
- Prepare written report

# Current Status

- Hygrothermograph readings have been taken over a thirty day period
- Have contacted other institutions requesting information on treatments and conservation measures- waiting for responses
- Research and reading of library and online sources continues