

Curriculum Vitae - (academic and professional) for Robert M. Kelly

Robert M. Kelly has been working with wallpaper as paperhanger, researcher, consultant, and writer since 1976, when he attended the U. S. School of Professional Paperhanging. After a large wallpaper installation at Lindenwald, Martin Van Buren's retirement home, he began editing and publishing a quarterly newsletter, Wallpaper Reproduction News (ISSN 1065-3317).

He hung scenic wallpaper at the Nightingale-Brown House in Providence (Architectural Digest, Feb., 1992) and worked at Prestwold Plantation (The Magazine Antiques, Jan., 1995). During travel for historic house installations he read at research libraries and began collecting documentary references to paperhanging and wallpaper. In 1993 he attended the Attingham Summer School in England on a half-scholarship. He read a paper at Interiors II (National Park Service conference) and has contributed a half-dozen articles to the Wallpaper History Society Review (Manchester, England) and has recently written about Canadian wallpaper for the Material Culture Review.

He led the wallpaper installation in the Blue Room at the White House in January, 1995 and has returned there for consulting and installations a half-dozen times. He has overseen multi-room installations at Lanier Mansion in Indiana, the Villa Louis in Wisconsin, Andrew Jackson's Hermitage in Tennessee, Washington Place in Hawaii, and the Governor's Residence in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

installations: (a list of over thirty in historic buildings is available on request).

workshops, demonstrations, lectures: (a list of over thirty is available on request).

awards, scholarships:

1986, Harold Laffer Award for founding the Berkshire Chapter of the non-profit National Guild of Professional Paperhangers (NGPP).

1989, special award for creating and furthering the office of public relations, NGPP.

1994, craftsmanship award from the Maryland Historical Trust for the re-installation of a Chasse de Compiègne French scenic in the library at Riversdale, Riverdale Park, Maryland.

1993, awarded a half-scholarship for Attingham English Country House Summer School.

1995-2005, awarded multiple Winterthur Fellowship stipends for independent research.

selected consulting projects 2002-2018

2002, research and report on replicating mid-19th century battening and canvas methods at Washington Place (Queen's Residence), Honolulu, HI.

2002, reports on condition of reproduction wallpapers at Martin Van Buren's Lindenwald.

2002, research and report on interpretation of early 19th century wallpaper bills and correspondence for Dumbarton House, Washington, D. C.

2002, research and reports on early 19th century wallpaper bills. correspondence, document borders and reproduction borders for Adena, Chillicothe, OH.

2003, Gracie Mansion, New York City: analyzed existing problems, conducted research on original wallpaper fragments at Cooper-Hewitt Museum and wrote reports for suppliers, design house and curators, resulting in successful reprinting of reproduction wallpaper.

2003, research and report (with Chris Ohrstrom) on mid-19th century invoices and documents for French Decors installed at Tower Grove (Shaw's Garden), St. Louis, MO.

2004, research and report on varnished tile wallpaper and ingrain wallpapers for Edith Wharton's Mount, Lenox, MA.

2004, specifications for repairs to Chinese scenic and installation of reproduction wallpaper at Blair House, Washington, DC.

2005, testing, reports and installation guidelines for Adelphi Paperhangings blockprinters, Sharon Springs, NY.

2005, Metlife Boardroom: alternate proposal for a leather-hung boardroom at One Madison Avenue. The proposal laid out research, testing, and specifications for installations. The room was disassembled, 400 new embossed and painted gilt leather panels were created by Lutson of France, and the new leather installed in the recreated boardroom on the top floor of the Metlife Building (formerly the Pam Am building) above Grand Central Station.

2005, managed the creation of three reproduction wallpapers for the William Cullen Bryant Home, Cummington, MA.

2006, drew up plans and specifications for wallpaper paneling: field, borders and corner blocks, Lincoln Sitting Room, White House, Washington, D.C.

2006, examination, research and report on wallpaper fragments at Peter Jay House, Rye, NY.

2007, appraisal report for a set of War of Independence (Zuber) at Connecticut State House, Hartford, CT.

2009, research report and specifications for installation at the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion, Norwalk, CT.

2010, research report and specifications for installation at the Salem Towne House hallway, Old Sturbridge Village, MA.

2011, research and report for Leavengood Architects for wallpaper restoration at San Juan Island National Historic Park.

2012, restoration work and report for bedroom at Edith Wharton Restoration, Lenox, MA.

2013, report on "Brazil" scenic wallpaper for the Brazilian Embassy, Washington, DC.

2014, lecture at Schuyler Mansion about c. 1765 installations of landscape papers (Albany, NY).

2015 - ongoing, production of a 35-page report for The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) concerning wallpaper needs of the Old Manse in Concord, MA.

2016, production of a 20-page report for the Morris-Jumel House, New York City concerning wallpaper needs.

2017, 12-page report "Wall Decoration at the Geisel House" (Dr. Seuss) for Springfield Art Museums.

writing and editorial work:

1990-1998, Wallpaper Reproduction News, editor and publisher

1993, "Historic Techniques and Modern Guidelines," a chapter of the print version of the Interiors Conference for Historic Buildings II (1993), Historic Preservation Education Foundation, Washington, DC

1995, author, The Showroom Handbook For Wallpaper Installations

1995, "A Short History of Hand-joined Paper," a paper read at the Early American Wallpaper seminar at Eastfield Village, East Nassau, New York

2001-2005, editor, Master Paperhanger Magazine, trademark registration # 5,551,368

2005, "The Paperhanger, Ancient and Modern," a paper read at the Early American Wallpaper seminar at Eastfield Village, East Nassau, New York

2011, "Historic Paperhanging Techniques: A Bibliographic Essay": this paper for the International Preservation Trades Workshop can be accessed at the Social Science Research Network (SSRN): http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1986522

2013, "Merging the 21st Century into a Gilded Age, Fortune 500 Boardroom" (co-written with paper conservator Alexandra Allardt for the 9th North American Textile Conservation Conference)

2013, monograph, "The Backstory of Wallpaper: 1650 - 1750"; more information at:
<https://www.amazon.com/Backstory-Wallpaper-Paper-Hangings-1650-1750/dp/0985656107>

2015, "Toward A History of Canadian Wallpaper Use: Mechanization 1860-1935." *Material Culture Review/Revue de la culture matérielle* 80 ; to access this paper:

<https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/MCR/article/view/25553/29620>

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