

Textile Conservation Notes
courtesy of Ilona Pachler, Textile Conservator
May 2008

Rodents , mice packrats dogs and cats and moths etc can do considerable damage.

An effective prevention to moth damage is a light vacuuming 2 to 4 times a year. (you should not use an upright, but a canister vacuum and place a piece of gauze or cheesecloth over the suction rod that is held in place with a rubber band).

Keeping the textiles clean (moths are attracted to food and dirt in fiber) and regularly inspecting and gently moving them is the best thing you can do. Cedar wood and certain dried herbs will deter, but not kill moths. Mothballs are harmful to humans and are no longer recommended to be used. There are sticky traps and pheromone traps and they are good ways to prevent damage, but not without fail.

When the textile gets infested with moths the best way to treat it is to freeze it.(freezing will kill the larva). To do that , you should wrap the textile in two plastic garbage bags (to avoid condensation in the process). Seal them well and freeze the textile for 48 hours. Then take it out for 24 hours and refreeze it for another 7 days. Do not open the bag for another 24 to avoid damage from water condensation and fugitive dyes. Do not spray chemicals onto textiles, they can change the colors of dyes or the inherent structure of the fibers.

Cleaning :

Dry : Is a gentle vacuuming, with a cheesecloth stretched over the nozzle, or a screen placed over the textile, to prevent loss of fibers. textiles mounted on frames can be vacuumed from both sides. also gentle brushing is possible. If the textile is too brittle, or delicate , refrain from vacuuming.

Wet cleaning, should be only attempted by a professional.

Sources for Materials:

Archival paper, boxes, tubes etc. :
Talas, NYC at www.talasonline.com

Builders for display stands:

Melded Matter, Dixon NM Philip Ginn (505) 852-9619 or 660-0637

Basswood frame stretchers:

Wilkinson Framing (small stretchers) Keith Wilkinson 982-2535
VA Stretchers NY.NY Victor Anchissi (718) 204-7292

Cleaning:

Textival Rufus Cohen ABQ, NM (505) 242-9889 or 235-9493

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.