

CONDITION REPORT – 2015.5.108

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Item details

Accession number	2015.5.108
Artist/maker/origin	Unknown
Title/Description	Taxidermy, American Toad
Date	
Item type	Taxidermied toad specimen
Dimensions (L x W x H)	3.5 in x 1.75 in x 1.5 in

Client details

Owner or collection	Iron Hill Nature Center
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Student details

Student name	Vivien Barnett
Student ID number	702212082
Creation date (of record)	Edited 2/25/19
Name of supervisor	Mariana Di Giacomo

VISUAL DOCUMENTATION

IMAGES

Top view of Toads:



Bottom View:



Side View from Proper Left:



Side View from Proper Right:



DESCRIPTION

PRIMARY MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

- Keratin (toad skin)

OTHER MATERIAL/S DESCRIPTION

- Cotton
- Glass/Acrylic (eyes)
- Metal wire

MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUE – STRUCTURE

- The skin is stuffed with cotton.
- A wire armature is present on the interior and can be seen on the back feet of the toad.

CONDITION

Condition Summary:

The toad is in overall poor condition due to the brittleness of the skin. There are multiple tears and missing pieces resulting in poor structural integrity in the object.

Identifying marks/ inscriptions	N/A
Condition Summary Handling Specifications	

Overall Condition:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☒ Poor
- ☐ Unexhibitable

Stability:

- ☐ Intact
- ☒ Broken Missing Piece(s)

- ✓ Unstable
- ☐ Stable

Condition Details:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ✓ Abrasion | <input type="checkbox"/> Indentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tear | ✓ Split/Crack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crease/Fold | <input type="checkbox"/> Cockling/Deformation | ✓ Accretion of Dust | <input type="checkbox"/> Mold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Damage | ✓ Embrittlement | ✓ Discoloration |
| ✓ Fading | <input type="checkbox"/> Hole | ✓ Scratch | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Damage |

STRUCTURE CONDITION

- First digit missing from proper right front and back feet.

SURFACE CONDITION

- Skin is dry and brittle, exhibiting multiple tears and splits.
- The largest tear is on the bottom/belly of the toad, where the stitches have become stretched and stuffing is spilling out.
- There is a large split on the proper left side of the toad's torso with stuffing spilling out of it.
- There is a split on each of the front "elbows" of the frog with stuffing visible through it.
- There are splits on the back legs of the frog near the joint of the leg.

TESTING

- XRF Testing confirmed the presence of Arsenic on the surface of the toad.

TREATMENT PROPOSAL

- Mechanical cleaning of the skin using cosmetic sponges.
- Humidification of the skin in a humidification chamber.
- Removal of excess stuffing.
- Repositioning the skin with japanese tissue paper and Beva.
- Reinforce the seam on the underside with japanese tissue paper.
- Tone the missing skin on the proper left eye.

Environment, Health and Safety Considerations

List any Environment, Health and Safety issues involved with the proposed treatment. (eg mould, dust, solvent use, repetitive tasks...)

- Arsenic is present on the surface. Wear gloves, a dust mask, and a lab coat when handling the object.

TREATMENT

- Photographically documented the condition of the toad before treatment.
- Mechanically cleaned the skin of the toad using cosmetic sponges.
- The toad was tested in a humidification chamber with water for 48 hours, but the skin was not significantly humidified. (3/11/19-3/13/19)
- Tested a steamer to reduce the brittleness of the skin, which was successful.
- After humidifying the skin, excess cotton was removed from beneath the tears to relieve the tension on the skin.
- Painted japanese tissue paper patches with acrylic paints.
- Attached the patches to the inside of the skin on torn areas using Beva film and a tacking iron.
 - Areas which received patches include:
 - The proper left side of the torso
 - The proper left front leg and shoulder
 - The underbelly along the seam
 - The proper left eye
 - The proper right back leg
 - The proper right front under-arm
- Photographic documentation of the toad after treatment.

AFTER TREATMENT

IMAGES

Top View:



Top view (close-up):



Bottom view:



Side view:

