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Dr. Joyce Hill Stoner
ARTC-464
Fall 2018

Mount-Making

TITLE: Admiral Peary & the 1909 Discovery of the North Pole, Diorama -- Flag

IDENTIFYING NUMBER: ACP 1730

OWNER: Legacy Museum, Tuskegee University

DIMENSIONS:

Diorama: 38" x 54 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 22"

Flag: 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

This semester, I prepared an archival, sealed-package pressure mount for the shattered American flag from the Matthew Henson North Pole Diorama from the Tuskegee University Collections. The first step in preserving this flag was deciding what the safest type of mount would be for the flag, which I discussed with Laura Mina and William Donnelly. We decided to use a sealed-package pressure mount because it would not cause any changes to the object over time, and because it would be safe for both the storage and display of the object.

I began this project by creating a prototype of the mount to test the effectiveness of the pressure mount to hold up the shattered fabric by using samples of shredded silk. The sealed package contains a padded board mount, a piece of Optium Acrylic, and a piece of coroplast for stability, sealed with 1 inch JLAR tape. The package was then placed inside a shadowbox frame with 1 inch depth, the rest of which was filled out with two more boards of coroplast and then closed.

The padded board is made of three pieces of matboard glued together, which is then covered with polyester batting which is adhered to the back of the board using double-sided tape. The board is then covered with a blue, plain-weave cotton show fabric which is adhered to the board with BEVA film tape. The pieces of the shattered flag were carefully arranged on the padded board using tweezers and a microspatula before being placed covered with the Optium Acrylic and sealed into a package.

Optium Acrylic was chosen to mitigate the reflection of light on the glass that would interfere with viewing the object, and because it is less fragile. However, it does have a higher static charge associated with it which is a concern if the object is removed from the package. However, the object will most likely stay in the package for the foreseeable future.

Another part of this project involved making a reproduction of the flag to be installed into the diorama in the place of the shattered flag. The original flag was a 48-star flag, despite the fact that the event depicted took place when America used a 46-star flag. Using the website contrado.com, I was able to order a digitally printed 48-star flag on silk, which I then stained with ProFab Conservation Acrylic Dispersion Fabric paints using Buttercream and Colonial

Gold colors to match the color scheme of the diorama. The flag had to be cut from the larger piece of silk I ordered and then hemmed using a back stitch in red thread to match the original flag.



During the staining of the reproduction flag