

SARAH DOVE

CONSERVATOR OF WORKS OF ART ON PAPER

November 4, 2004

**Artist:** Madame Elizabette Shumatoff

**Title of Work:** Mr. and Mrs. William R. Coe

**Lab No.:** 2004.80-.81

**Date:** 1959

**Dimensions:** H: 12 1/2" W: 10 5/8"

**Description:** finely painted watercolor on illustration board consisting of thin wove watercolor paper solidly adhered to multi-ply wood pulp cardboard.

**Distinguishing Marks:** Mrs. Coe: Signed by the artist in graphite lower right corner: "Elizabette Shumatoff" Mr. Coe: initialed by artist lower left.

**Condition:** The illustration board is showing signs of age. While the top layer of good quality paper is in fairly good condition the lower layers of cardboard are brittle and fragile. Additionally, a poor quality (acidic)

Window mat has been glued to the margins of the top sheet. Acid migration from the bevel cut of the window mat has caused mat burn (a brown band of discoloration).

**Summary:** In order to preserve the watercolors the poor quality cardboard materials should be removed from both the backing board and facing window mat. Delaminating each with a scalpel and reducing the adhesives with the appropriate solvent or poultice will be carried out. If necessary, and to add strength the watercolors could be lined onto thin Japanese paper. The window mats should be reproduced using 100% rag matting materials.

**Proposed Treatment:**

1. Reduce cardboard layers of backing board and window mat.
2. Reduce adhesives with the appropriate solvent or poultice.
3. Humidify and flatten or if necessary line onto Japanese paper to add strength to sheets.

**Total estimated conservation cost: \$2,000.00**

**Estimated framing cost: \$300.00**

Reframing would include replicating the French window mats using museum quality rag mats. Use of UV filtering glass and acid free backings. The package would be passé-partout sealed with Marvel Seal to slow moisture exchange and impart a stable microclimate.

Signature of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

*Richard W. Coe for Planting Fields Foundation*

Signature of Conservator: \_\_\_\_\_

*Sarah Dove*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*4 Nov. 04*