

substance. These must be selected from “name brand” sources that would be accessible to a wide range of framing companies.

We also recommend that the mats selected be standardized as far as possible. They should include a double-white solution (to indicate substance and formality) or a white top mat with a gold or bronze (1/4 in.) liner mat option.

All mats should be acid-free and custom-sized (equal all around or equal with a wider bottom mat. Trendy colors and cute “special” decorative touches will not convey a timeless, institutional look and should be avoided.

Plaques

We recommend that all explanatory “plaque” information be printed on plaque paper (compatible with the mat color) in a window in the bottom mat.

The alternative, brass plaques, are difficult to read, difficult to match, and expensive to produce. They should be avoided.

Another alternative, “museum” cards (usually placed on the wall at the lower right side of the picture frame), inevitably cause problems as the pictures get relocated and the cards get mixed up or lost. Often they are replaced looking *worn and tilted* when the original display supplier is no longer involved.

Special Problems

Expensive, heavy-duty security installations in the public areas are inevitably damaging to walls in historic buildings and risk public criticism and/or conflict with historic regulations.

This can be avoided by using photographs with a picture hook installation, instead of originals with a high-security installation.

Sometimes older corridor walls in historic buildings are not drywall and crumble when normal security installations are used.

Again photographs of the originals could be installed with normal picture hooks and the problems avoided.

Art Selection Guidelines

Historic Wall Displays for Office Settings

Location

Experience suggests that Historic displays have the most impact when aggregated together in one area or on one wall.

This avoids the inconsistent, hodge-podge and disorganized look that occurs when historic objects are scattered throughout a facility.

They should be framed in substantial frames (Not budget frames) and grouped in numbers of 8 or more.

Most historic objects in office settings consist of small photographs and small text documents which alone (or as small groups), are not large enough to command an important wall. Thus, only large groupings (8 plus) will convey an appropriate sense of substance.

Where possible, valuable historic objects should be displayed in showcases or on walls in the secure executive reception and conference areas. The wall displays should be “security” installed.

Framing should be to museum “archival” standards.

Public (less secure than executive areas) displays should be of photographed objects only.

As much as possible, the image sizes should be standardized size modules (8x10, 11x14, 16x20...). Fewer, large images will provide the best look.

Building Standards for Framing

It is strongly recommended that a family of 3-5 timeless frames and mat solutions be required to evoke a sense of orderliness and