



CONSERVATION TREATMENT REPORT

OBJECT: Ship's bell, USS Staff 1942

CATALOG #: 67.382-J

DESCRIPTION: The ship's bell is a large brass cast bell with a fiber rope attached through the top opening. The side of the bell has a recessed inscription "USS STAFF 1942". The recessed lettering has remnants of red paint. There are two bands of concentric rings around the shoulder of the bell and around the base of the bell. The interior of the bell is painted red.

CONDITION: The bell is very dusty and dirty. It is difficult to determine the surface coloration of the bell at this point, but the metal appears variously oxidized. There is a length of silver colored duct tape on the side of the bell with catalog number. The duct tape is lifting from the surface and the adhesive residues of the tape remain on the bell surface. The top of the bell shoulder has yellow paint sprayed on the surface and the catalog number of the bell is marked on the yellow paint. The red paint in the recessed letters is fragmentary.

TREATMENT:

1. The bell was vacuumed to remove loose dust and dirt. The surface of the exterior metal was then cleaned with naphtha solvent. The duct tape and adhesive residues were removed with naphtha.
2. The yellow paint did not have any particular purpose other than as a base for numbering the bell. The yellow paint was removed with acetone solvent on cotton pads. The red paint in the lettering was cleaned with water on cotton swabs. The paint appears fairly stable and was not lifting.
3. The brass of the bell was cleaned to provide a consistent, polished appearance to the metal. The cleaning was done with commercial brass polishers (MAAS) as well as mild abrasives (calcium carbonate).
4. The bell was laid on its side for cleaning of the interior. The interior painted surface was lightly cleaned with water dampened cotton cloths. The fiber rope passing through the central hole was vacuumed to remove dust and dirt.
5. The metal was thoroughly rinsed with naphtha solvent on cotton cloths to remove all cleaning residues. The surface was lightly coated with a synthetic microcrystalline wax on the exterior and buffed when dry with soft brushes and cloths.

Digital images were taken before, during and after treatment.

May 2014