

# Hahnemann Monument Restoration Project

## Ninth Report

April 27, 2005

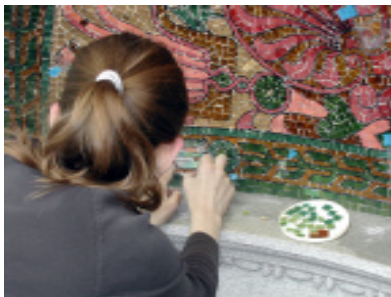
by Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT



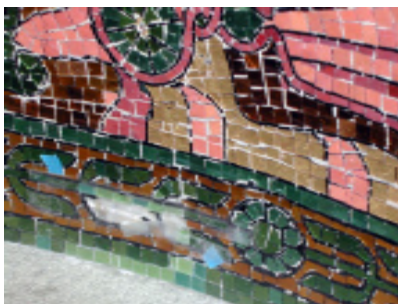
On Wednesday, March 23, 2005, Karen Cucurullo of the National Park Service called the office of AIH Trustee and Chairman of the AIH Hahnemann Monument Preservation Committee Sandra M. Chase, MD, DHT, to alert her to the fact that Senior Conservator Judy Jacob would be returning to DC to work on the Hahnemann Monument either the week of April 11 or the week of April 25. On Monday, April 18, Ms. Cucurullo called again to inform her that Ms. Jacob would be in Washington the week of April 25 working on the monument, particularly the mosaic, and that the best days for her to visit the monument to observe the progress would be April 26, 27 or 28. As Wednesdays are the days on which Dr. Chase devotes half of the day to organizational matters anyway, she arranged with office manager Christina Caffi to drive in to DC together.

When they arrived in the late morning, they found Senior Conservator Jacob and her assistant, pictured at left, up on the scaffolding working on the mosaic repair.

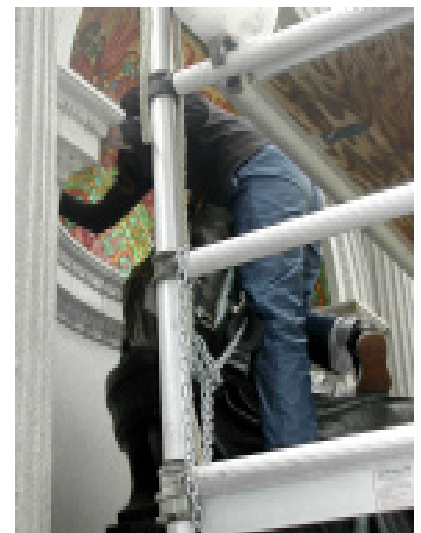
After climbing down to greet Dr. Chase, Ms. Jacob ascended the scaffolding again followed by Dr. Chase who wished to obtain close up shots of the work and of the workers. This spring Ms. Jacob has contracted with another assistant, Lara Kaplan, Object Conservator, who is also working at the new museum of African art and the Museum of Native Americans.



The climb up the scaffolding afforded Dr. Chase the opportunity of photographing Ms. Kaplan as she worked on the mosaic, pictured to the left. In order to get close enough to work successfully, Ms. Kaplan had to perch on the lap of Hahnemann as pictured at the right.

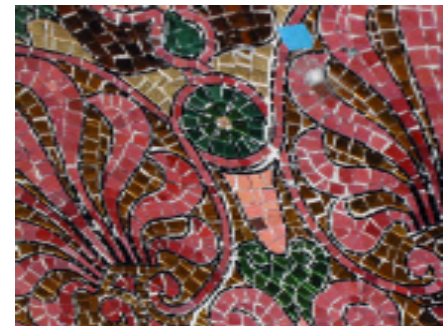


The close up photograph on the left shows an area on the right lower border of the mosaic



arch in which glass pieces are missing and replacement pieces will need to be selected for color and cut to fit. Because of the varying sizes of the repair pieces required, Ms. Jacob had to order larger squares of the specially manufactured glass. She has a generator at the site to power the glass-cutting machine. The pieces are then mounted with specially mixed grout. One can see that the line of green glass pieces at the very bottom margin do not match precisely in color the green colored glass pieces that had been used originally. It is the closest match that Ms. Jacob could find. There are other areas in the repaired mosaic in which the color is not matched exactly but, viewed from the ground, the part of the mosaic that has been repaired looks fine.

In the photograph on the right, one can see a piece of tape in the right upper quarter, which in a color photograph would show up as blue, marking an area to be repaired. There are some spots within the mosaic in which the glass piece has partially crumbled. Senior Conservator Jacob is reluctant to remove the remaining glass for fear of further damage to the surrounding area. When asked how long she thought her repairs would hold up, she responded that she thought that the repaired areas would hold up longer than the original parts that remain.



Senior Conservator Jacob expects to complete the repairs to the mosaic by the end of this week. Thereafter, the work will begin to clean the bronze statue of the seated figure of Hahnemann as well as the bronze entablatures that flank it. There will also be masonry repair performed on the floor of the monument. Lastly, attention will turn to the covered fountain at the rear of the monument.



In discussions today with Ms. Jacob, Dr. Chase learned that she had tested various environmentally safe methods of cleaning the granite when she had come down in the fall. She found, however, that none of them really worked. She is loathe to use more caustic measures for fear of damaging the granite of the memorial and expressed the opinion that cleaning the bronze statue and entablatures will bring them out and cause the appearance of the granite to recede to the

viewing eye.

An arborist will complete the work on the park in which the monument stands. Dr. Chase and Mrs. Caffi noted happily that the oak tree planted last fall to replace the one missing to the right of the monument was sprouting spring leaves.

Dr. Chase, pictured at right on the scaffolding at the Hahnemann Monument, will continue to monitor the progress of the renovation.

