



BIO



PAMELA HATCHFIELD

Henderson Head of Objects Conservation Emerita
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

phatchfield@mfa.org

Pamela Hatchfield is the Emerita Head of Objects Conservation at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the 2023 Judith Praska Distinguished Professor of Conservation and Technical Studies at New York University. She also serves as the Project Coordinator for Held in Trust, a collaboration between the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) and the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) to chart the future of preservation and conservation in the United States. She co-developed the related project Climate Resilience Resources for Cultural Heritage, a suite of free resources to plan for and respond to climate change impacts. She holds degrees from Vassar College, the Institute of Fine Arts, and The Conservation Center, New York University, with post graduate work at Harvard University. Her conservation experience includes the Metropolitan Museum of Art, several Smithsonian Museums, and the Grenada National Museum, West Indies. Pam serves as a consultant to the Acton Collection at Villa La Pietra in Florence, Italy. Her archaeological field experience includes sites in Egypt and Sudan. In addition to numerous publications on a wide range of subjects in conservation, she also authored the seminal book: *Pollutants in the Museum Environment*. Pam is a Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, the International Institute for Conservation, and the American Academy in Rome. She served as President of the American Institute for Conservation and in numerous other leadership positions. In 2006, she received the Rome Prize, and in 2021, the AIC Robert L. Feller Lifetime Achievement Award.

ABSTRACT

From Permanent to Portable: A Chinese Stele's Journey from a Garden in Maine to the MFA

In 1926, landscape designer Beatrix Farrand designed a garden on Mount Desert Island, Maine, for John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. A Chinese sandstone votive stele dated 576 AD (MFA 1980.678) was featured at a key site overlooking Little Long Pond. A promised gift to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the fragile sculpture was removed from its cement footing, transported to the Museum and remounted for easy portability and installation, using an innovative combination of scaffolding, rigging, garden equipment, off-the-shelf hardware, fillers and adhesives. A sandstone replica of the original was fabricated and installed in the garden location using a reversible method.