

12 Restoring the Rounding Boards

The Dentzel carousel has two sets of rounding boards.

The inner rounding boards surrounding the drum include 18 rectangular mirrors, 18 cherubs, 18 sets of flowers, and 18 sets of scrolls.

The outer rounding boards surrounding the canopy include 18 oval mirrors, 18 jester heads on shields, 18 princess heads, and 18 pairs of oak leaves.



The rounding boards are made of wood with plaster decorations attached and are a common design element for Dentzel carousels of this era. Because of their size and fragility, the National Park Service required that the rounding boards be restored on site. The rounding boards had several layers of paint and metallic decoration. The last layer was peeling and flaking and there were chips and cracks in the plaster. Much of the paint contained lead.

Rosa established procedures for photographing the restoration process as well as for protecting workers and the environment: daily cleanup, restricting access, making first aid available, and disposing of waste products.