

**The real thing.** The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia recently completed



Holly Maxson

*Lois Price, associate conservator at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, washes a page from a draft of the Declaration of Independence. The center recently completed conservation treatment of the four-page document.*

the conservation treatment of a draft of the Declaration of Independence, written in Thomas Jefferson's hand. The document was probably written on July 3, 1776, and represents the Declaration as the drafting committee presented it to the Continental Congress. Jefferson may have made the draft copy for his fellow committee member George Wythe, and Jefferson underlined the passages deleted by Congress in the final version. To preserve the four pages of the document, the conservation center washed, deacidified, and mended the pages, repaired them with Japanese-type Kozo tissue, placed each leaf in polyester film and then between Plexiglas. For details, contact the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 260 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102.