

Accommodating the Past

Gloucester Cathedral Chapterhouse - Friday 4th October 2019

Programme

- 09:45 Registration with Tea and Coffee
- 10:20 Welcome address – *Sarah Jarron MA ACR, Chair of ICON SGG*
- 10:30 *Anthony Feltham-King RIBA GradDiplCons AA AABC
Gloucester Cathedral Architect
Gloucester Cathedral: Sacred Space/Common Ground: Recent works at the
Cathedral to widen community engagement*
- 10:45-12:15 Session One**
- 10:50 Keynote Presentation - *Leonie Seliger MA ACR
Mistaken Identities and the Need to See a Face*
- 11:25 *Emily Yates MA
Finding Faces*
- 11:50 *Katie Harrison MA
Problematic Past or Historic Value? The Impact of Previous Interventions
upon the St Cuthbert Window, York Minster*
- 12:15 - 13:00 Lunch**
- 13:00 – 14:40 Session Two**
- 13:05 *Chris Chesney ACR
If only they knew what we know now!*
- 13:40 *Linda Cannon AMGP ACR
A Case Study of a Case to be Studied*
- 14:05 *Finola O'Carroll MA MIAI MRPA and Katya Madrid
Shedding light on shady practices in conservation and archaeology–
lessons from Black Friary, a medieval Dominican Friary in Trim, Ireland*
- 14:30 Closing Remarks - *Sarah Jarron*
- 14:40 – 15:00 Tea Break**
- 15:00 – 15:55 Tour of Gloucester Cathedral Stained Glass – *Cathedral Guides*
- 16:00 - 17:00 AGM of the ICON Stained Glass Group**

Presentations at Gloucester

Leonie Seliger MA ACR

Mistaken Identities and the Need to See a Face

Missing faces in historic stained glass windows have been a knotty problem since the Middle Ages. Using the example of the Great East Window of Gloucester Cathedral, the issue of the 'honest repair' is explored through the responses from the 14th century onwards. What makes a successful repair changes according to the prevailing Zeitgeist. Looking at past examples, the talk will explore how our own perception of what is acceptable may be coloured by fashionable trends, and why treating the replacement of faces along exactly the same principles as other elements may have surprising and unintended results.

Emily Yates MA

Finding Faces

Emily Yates is an MA graduate from the University of York and currently works as a stained glass conservator at Naumburg Cathedral, Germany. In her presentation Finding Faces, she will discuss the treatment of eight featureless "cloud heads" which were introduced into Naumburg's medieval west choir windows during two previous restorations in the 1940s and 1960s. The case in Naumburg especially highlights the often complex issues of integrity and the designation of value when replacing lost detail where no original cartoon or archival evidence exists.

Katie Harrison MA

Problematic Past or Historic Value? The Impact of Previous Interventions upon the St Cuthbert Window, York Minster

Past interventions to monumental narrative windows present complex challenges for conservators. As the transmission of a specific story or message is often the primary function of narrative windows, their legibility and structure are crucial aspects of their significance. Consequently, they are particularly vulnerable to the loss of narrative structure, as a result of disarrangement and damage, which can render a window's subject incomprehensible. Yet attempts to retrieve 'original' narrative structures present additional risks to both the historic fabric and structure of a window, and to material from later interventions. The proposed paper will explore the challenges faced by conservators of monumental narrative windows, as well as the opportunities they present for new approaches, using the fifteenth-century St Cuthbert Window, York Minster, as a case study.

Chris Chesney ACR

If only they knew what we know now!

An insight into the various innovations in stained glass that have proved to do more harm than good ranging from the reactivity series of metals, use of Hydrofluoric Acid and how to avoid it, protective glazing systems both Utopian and working class. The lecture will present a brief summary of a study from St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow carried out 2017/18 on heat monitoring of external protection and the effect of high temperatures of the disassociation of water.

It is hoped that this will dispel some myths and enable young conservators and perhaps (some older ones) in the built heritage sector to understand modern conditions across mainland Britain and how they affect historic materials and architectural fittings.

Linda Cannon AMGP ACR

A Case Study of a Case to be Studied

Linda was commissioned in 2018 to restore and install the original Charles Rennie Mackintosh Salon-de-Lux doors, made in 1903 for the Willow Tearooms, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. The doors, well used by both staff and customers of the tearooms, have been removed, exhibited, stored and conserved by experts during their century-long lifespan. In their new setting, they are sealed into a hermetically-controlled, fire-proof, 15mm thick toughened glass, stove-enamelled steel case. Linda will delve into the project to explore the questions and challenges which arose during the conservation project.

Finola O'Carroll, MA, MIAI, MRPA and Katya Madrid, 2nd year MSc candidate in Conservation Practice at Cardiff University

Shedding light on shady practices in conservation and archaeology– lessons from Black Friary, a medieval Dominican Friary in Trim, Ireland

Current excavations of Black Friary, in Trim, Ireland, have yielded the largest repository of window glass fragments in any single medieval site in Ireland. Much of the glass bears grisaille surface decoration and some of it is pigmented. There is evidence of *Silver Stain* on a fraction of the samples analysed. The glass is currently undergoing conservation and analysis at Cardiff University.

Authors will delve into the complexities of archaeological conservation of freshly excavated stained glass. Conservation decisions impact research possibilities, as scholars and archaeologists will not have the ability to reverse a treatment to accommodate their needs without calling in conservators, which is usually financially prohibitive.

Archaeologists, conservators and scholars have different priorities, while genuinely caring about keeping cultural heritage in the best condition possible for posterity. The authors shed light on how the needs of each discipline impact the work of the other in order to strengthen multidisciplinary bonds and improve outcomes. The exciting benefits of cross training will be discussed.