

## OBJECT AND MATERIALS CONSERVATION CONSERVATION OF LEATHER

M3D07322 11-14 DECEMBER 2017 (3 day course)

A wide choice of primary training is available in this country in aspects of object care. However, there are relatively few opportunities for conservation professionals to find specialist training in traditional skills and enhance their knowledge of materials and techniques. West Dean College has developed a series of short courses aimed at meeting this training need.

Leather can be found in association with a wide range of objects and has been used over many centuries and across the globe. The course is designed both to explore history, manufacture, chemistry and use of leather and to review current practice in its conservation. The format of the course includes demonstrations, practical sessions, lectures and case histories. It will be presented by two leading practitioners both working and teaching in this specialist area.

### Theory

Lectures and case histories include:

- Using wide range of examples to provide an overview and basis for understanding an approach to leather conservation.
- Discussion of diagnostic techniques and developing an appropriate methodology for solving conservation problems
- Conservation and restoration techniques, including choice of materials

### Techniques

The practical sessions are designed to give an opportunity for conservators to test a range of techniques and materials which they may be able to utilise or adapt for future projects. Although, due to time constraints, we cannot undertake a conservation project, **participants are invited to bring objects or details via photos/memory stick** for discussion and treatment tests.

All materials required will be supplied but participants are asked to bring **personal conservation hand tools**.

### Current practice

The course will encourage active participation from those attending, to foster the spirit of mutual exchange of ideas and experiences. There will be a focused emphasis on shared experience, encouraging the free flow of information and techniques, and participants will be given the opportunity to discuss their own work and give a short presentation. The forum created by the course will inform participants of other experiences with different projects, case studies and client types, and is an attraction in itself.

### Course Leader

Yvette Fletcher, Leather Conservation Centre. Yvette has a first degree in Art History and an MA in Conservation of Historic Objects from Lincoln. Following a six-month internship at the Leather Conservation Centre (LCC) she has been working in conservation since 2001, both at the LCC and in historic building conservation. In 2005 she was made Senior Conservator with the LCC and is now Head of Conservation.

### Course Tutor

Mike Redwood, Leather Conservation Centre. Mike is a Visiting Professor at the University of Northampton which has the only teaching tannery in Europe. He is also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glovers, a Freeman of the Leathersellers' Company and a Trustee of The Leather Conservation Centre. He maintains a free informational website covering some aspects of the history and manufacturing of leather and leather products.

### Participants

Participants are expected to be practical conservators or those with a hands-on role in collections care wishing to improve their skills and understanding of the history, technology and conservation of leather.

## OUTLINE PROGRAMME

|             |                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Day 1       | Monday                                                                                                                                      |
| 16.00-18.30 | Register at Reception Desk                                                                                                                  |
| 18.45       | Welcome Talk                                                                                                                                |
| 19.00       | Dinner followed by                                                                                                                          |
| Evening     | Presentation Talk. The Leather Conservation Centre                                                                                          |
| Day 2       | Tuesday                                                                                                                                     |
| Morning     | What is leather and how is it made?                                                                                                         |
| Afternoon   | What is leather (continued)<br>Preventive conservation<br>Dyes (Part 1)<br>Cleaning materials and techniques; humidification; consolidation |
| Evening     | Repair materials; adhesives                                                                                                                 |
| Day 3       | Wednesday                                                                                                                                   |
| Morning     | Species identification, tanning method identification and examination techniques pH/Ts                                                      |
| Afternoon   | Dyes (Part 2)<br>Tour of Book Conservation Studio<br>Finishing                                                                              |
| Evening     | Surface infilling and replacement techniques. Taking moulds                                                                                 |
| Day 4       | Thursday                                                                                                                                    |
| Morning     | An opportunity for student presentations, to share problems and solutions.<br>10 minutes each                                               |
| Afternoon   | Tour of Furniture and Metalwork Workshops<br>Issue of certificates                                                                          |
| 15.30       | Course ends.                                                                                                                                |

**Non-residential course fee: £453**

**Fully inclusive residential course fee:**

**Shared bathroom facilities £624**

**Standard room with private bathroom facilities £684**

**Superior room with private bathroom facilities £744**

## HOW TO BOOK

Please complete one booking form, or copy of form, per person per course and enclose a deposit for each course booked. On receipt of your booking, we will send all the further details you will need for your visit, including the course details and your final payment slip. Travel instructions will be sent to all students.

For further information about the course, please contact the Course Organiser: [cpd@westdean.org.uk](mailto:cpd@westdean.org.uk) or +44 (0) 1243 818219.

For further information about booking, please telephone the Bookings Office: +44 (0)1243 818300.

Website: [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)