

OBJECT AND MATERIALS CONSERVATION CONSERVATION OF TRANSPORT AND INDUSTRIAL COLLECTIONS

M4D08207 25 FEBRUARY-I MARCH 2019 (4 day course)

There are relatively few opportunities for conservation professionals to find specialist training to enhance their knowledge of materials and techniques. West Dean College has developed a series of short courses aimed at meeting this training need.

This course delivers the fundamental information needed to understand the role and approach of the conservator involved in the care of a transport or industrial collection and to extend their knowledge of conservation principles. The programme consists of demonstrations, lectures and handling sessions, concentrating on conserving the many different materials encountered in transport and industrial collections. It also looks at preventive conservation, handling, storage and display and environmental monitoring and control. There will also be a visit to a local open air museum dedicated to preserving the industrial heritage and skills of the area with demonstrations of at least three different historic skills.

All too often the original surface and materials that make up transport and technology objects are lost due to over-restoration and inappropriate replacement, with disparity in the aims of treatment and the level of conservation/restoration of the objects. There may be no common approach available as a basis for management, treatment methods, documentation or consideration of ethics, with few opportunities to develop a more ethical conservation approach.

There may also be a lack of provision for conservation training. As it can be difficult for a conservator to learn the required engineering skills in a short time, transport and technology museum staff might be engineers first and become conservators-restorers second.

Topics will include

Recognising the properties of different categories of fabrics, leather, woods, paint and varnish finishes, metals, etc

Recognising the main causes and effects of degradation of the material

Identifying the major environmental parameters for safe handling, storage and display

Understanding the different roles of objects within private and public collections and the influences of these roles on treatment

Understanding basic passive techniques and housekeeping methods

Identifying and discussing the pros and cons of in-situ treatments and treatments involving temporary removal of one or more element of the object.

The course will encourage active participation from those attending to foster the spirit of mutual exchange of ideas and experiences.

Course Leader

Chris Knapp, Former Head of Conservation, Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridge

Tutors

Dave Morris, Curator of Aircraft, Fleet Air Arm Museum, Somerset

Mark Holloway, independent conservator

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Day I	Monday
16.00-18.00	Register at Reception Desk
18.45	Welcome Talk
19.00	Dinner
Evening	What is a museum?

Day 2	Tuesday
Morning	Conservation principles and aims Conservation ethics
Afternoon	RE Documentation and work recording
Evening	Student Project
Day 3	Wednesday
Morning	Storage and display requirements The conservation of the Fleet Air Arm Museum's Corsair
Afternoon	Visit to Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre
Evening	Student presentations
Day 4	Thursday
Morning	Environmental controls and checking
Afternoon	Case studies of a selection of industrial objects
Day 5	Friday
Morning	Metals conservation 'Caravans to Cars': A look at the decision-making behind the Conservation Treatment Plan
Afternoon	Wind up and issue of certificates

Non-residential course fee: £664

Fully inclusive residential course fee:

Standard room with private bathroom facilities £1,004

Superior room with private bathroom facilities £1,092

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 or +44 (0) 1243 818219.

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

Website: www.westdean.org.uk/College