

THE ZIBBY GARNETT TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

Report by Emily Hick



**Paper Conservation
At the Heritage Conservation Centre, Singapore**

30th July – 7th September, 2012

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Introduction

My name is Emily Hick. I am a 27 year old British student studying for a Masters degree in 'Conservation of Fine Art' at Northumbria University, specialising in paper conservation. I am particularly interested in Asian artworks and in the future I hope to gain employment in a museum or gallery in the conservation department in this field. I heard about the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship from the Head of Department at Northumbria University, Jean Brown, who sent an email to all conservation students at the beginning of 2012.

For my internship I went to the Heritage Conservation Centre in Singapore to work with traditional and modern Asian works of art on paper. Since I intend to focus in this area in the future, the aim of the trip was to gain experience working in an Asian conservation studio and to work with a wide range of paper artefacts, which are not easily available in the UK. I also hoped to gain contacts in this part of the world that may be beneficial in my future career. I was in Singapore for a total of 8 weeks. I arrived in Singapore on the 14th July and had two weeks in which to orientate myself in Singapore and also take the opportunity to visit Malaysia. My internship at the Heritage Conservation Centre began on the 30th July and ended on the 7th September.

Costs

The total cost of my trip came to approximately £1346. I was awarded £850 from the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship. The rest of the money

was raised from working at a part time job. The Heritage Conservation also generously offered a bursary of SD \$1000 (around £500) per month during my internship to help with basics such as accommodation and food.

Singapore

Singapore is a small country on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. It is highly urbanised and densely populated. It is only roughly 700 square kilometres, however it has a population of just over 5 million. It sits one degree north of the Equator, therefore it has a tropical rainforest climate with year round temperatures of 23 - 30°C and 80% humidity. Singapore is a multi cultural society with a mix of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian residents resulting in a diverse and fascinating country.



Figure 1. Map of South East Asia. Courtesy of <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore>



Figure 2. Map of Singapore. Courtesy of www.greenwichmeantime.com

