



THE ZIBBY GARNETT TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP
Practical skills and a world view for the next generation of conservators

NEWS

SIXTH EDITION

Appeal from the Chairman

This is a time of reckoning for the ZGTF. The Trust has celebrated fifteen years of grant-giving, we have awarded our 100th Scholarship, and we have launched into a second 'century' of awards. These are substantial achievements by our small charity of which we can all be very proud.

Our 15th anniversary celebrations at Lambeth Palace last year reminded us again of the value of the ZGTF awards. The Scholars' talks perfectly illustrated how even a short exposure to a new culture and approach greatly benefits the conservation student's experience. In this newsletter we focus on this, the ZGTF's special contribution to conservation education.

Through the ongoing generosity of our many supporters, the Trust has far exceeded initial expectations in the number of students it has helped over the years. However, without a significant input of funding each year, the Trust's future is not guaranteed.

My heartfelt thanks to our loyal supporters, without whose generous assistance none of the Trust's work would have been possible. And a heartfelt appeal to the many who know of and appreciate the ZGTF: please donate and help us to continue the Trust's valuable work.

Martin Williams

Martin Williams, Chairman of the Trustees



Medieval Italian parchment document which uses azurite over ultramarine - mediaeval pigments which Puneeta Sharma learned how to make on her ZGTF scholarship.

Our 100th Scholar

Puneeta Sharma was awarded the ZGTF's 100th Scholarship to study mediaeval pigments in Italy. Puneeta's first degree in Fine Art and her interests in history and in story-telling led her to an MA in Conservation. She has focused on paintings executed on paper, particularly illustrated manuscripts and Indian miniatures, and she explains "I am increasingly fascinated by the pigments and processes used to create these exquisite works of art".

The ZGTF Scholarship enabled her to explore this specialist area. On her return to Britain after her field trip, Puneeta secured a conservation post with the Royal Collection Trust.



Puneeta Sharma, the ZGTF's 100th Scholar, studied mediaeval pigments at the Seminario Barbarigo, Montefiascone, Italy.

Conservation Education Gets Real

Artist Tony Carter, former Principal of the City & Guilds of London Art School (2000-2014) and a recent addition to the ZGTF Board of Trustees, writes about the ZGTF's significant input to conservation education.

The Zibby Garnett Trust provides invaluable support, by way of its annual travel award scheme, to aspiring professionals in the fields of object conservation and the conservation of architectural heritage. Dependent on donations, the Trust's financial resource is modest. But despite this constraint, a combination of exemplary management and the high level of dedication shown by its Trustees, has enabled the ZGTF to punch considerably above its weight in the interests of its student beneficiaries.

However, the question might still be asked: what can a small charity do which cannot be done as well - or better - by educational institutions endowed with vastly greater resource? To answer this, one needs firstly to understand the extent to which Higher Education today has become big business. Some institutions do indeed offer programmes in Conservation Studies but not very many and they are relatively expensive to run, given the necessity for much teaching by demonstration and of supervisory presence to safe-guard the often valuable objects on which the students hone their skills. By current expectations these programmes are not seen as cost-effective; they teach high-level skills for a specialist market in which employment opportunities are limited.



Tom Vouwen, 2015 ZGTF Scholar, worked with The Glass Studio, a leading practice in Mumbai, India, conserving stained glass windows. Tom's ZGTF experience expanded both the practical skills he had acquired as an HLF-funded intern in York Minster, and gave him the raw material for his Masters dissertation.



Ceilidh Colburn 2014 ZGTF Scholar, applying mortar to the edges of damaged plaster at Qano Lani House, Gjirokastra, Albania

The courses are usually very well conceived but they are necessarily intense. They can also be somewhat insular in character, teaching a particular model of conservation.

Practice on the other hand offers the student valuable but unpredictable experience in the problems that might arise, the compromises that need to be made, and the challenges often created by time-pressures. Seeing these issues in a foreign context seems to further highlight the contrast and to stimulate the learning.

Practice placements are seen as invaluable experience, but their availability does not always coincide with the curriculum structure. It is in filling this crucial gap, that the Zibby Garnett Trust makes its main contribution.

The Trust also recognises that the skills for heritage conservation do not always require Masters or Doctorate level qualifications. The Trust's encouragement of craftsmanship embraces a wider demographic, offering opportunities to those excluded by, for instance, European conservation legislation which could be seen as elitist in its demand for academic qualifications. The Trust has a commendable record of helping both the prospective leaders in the field and members of the 'supporting cast', each to find their own particular niche.

The ZGTF travel awards have facilitated student placements at cultural heritage sites worldwide. In all cases the experience will have been 'educational' in the fullest sense of the word. The context will be collaborative and the discourse varied across the spectrum, from the mundane to the visionary. Through the essentially technical interventions of restorative conservation the students can begin to appreciate the artistry which went into the artefact. Through hands-on practice, the Zibby Garnett Trust helps to promote creative excellence in the discipline of conservation.

Scholars at Lambeth Palace

As a condition of their award, the ZGTF Scholars are asked to prepare an account of their study trip and to present this to Trustees. Often, interested guests with expertise in the field are also invited to the presentations. This year, a special event was held at Lambeth Palace, by kind permission of the Right Reverend Nigel Stock, The Bishop at Lambeth and a Patron of the ZGTF. An invited audience of 40, which included a number of leading conservation professionals, listened to short presentations by three 2014 ZGTF Scholars.



Martin Nadvornik, 2014 ZGTF Scholar, studied wood graining and marbling in Furniture Conservation in Gers, Southwest France with master grainer and marbler, Michel Nadaï.

The Scholars, Samantha Cawson, Martin Nadvornik and Sally Higgs each gave an illustrated talk about their experiences at, respectively, the Teylers Museum in Haarlem, the Atelier Nadaï, Southwest France, and the Nishio Conservation Studio, Washington D.C. The Scholars are to be congratulated on their engaging presentations, and their thoughtful responses to good questions from the audience. The afternoon finished with a reception fuelled by delicious refreshments provided by the Palace catering team.

Trust News

The Trust has appointed two new Patrons - Professor James Stevens Curl and Gill Hill

Professor Stevens Curl is an architectural historian, architect, and author. Gill Hill is the sister of Zibby Garnett, in whose memory the Trust was set up, and has been one of the Trust's strongest supporters since it was established 16 years ago.

Trustee and alumna Anthea Bisson has stepped down from the Board. We thank her for her work on the Scholars' reports and wish her well with her growing family and new conservation business.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Campbell Norman-Smith as a new Trustee. Campbell was course leader for the MA in Furniture Conservation, Restoration and Decorative Arts at Buckinghamshire New University. He is now running his own company, Granary Conservation. He brings a wealth of experience of both conservation and education to the board.

The Trust's founder, David Garnett, has retired as a Trustee. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the enormous contribution that David has made to conservation. The Board has asked David to become a Patron of the Trust, and we are delighted that he has accepted.

In summer 2015, Clare Parker retired as ZGTF administrator after 6 years. The Trust would like to record our fondest thanks for her hard work and good company. We warmly welcome Mandy Gosling as our new administrator.



Erin Murphy, 2015 ZGTF Scholar, participated in the conservation of Buddhist wall painting at Chbairo Gompa, Nepal. Erin learned the traditional fresco technique, and about the artist monks' different approaches to renewal and renovation.

Funding

The ZGTF is the only UK charity giving grants directly to individuals to support their study trips overseas in the conservation of historic buildings, gardens and artefacts.

The ZGTF receives no Government funding. Full information on the Fellowship's finances is provided on the website, including the need for funding support and details of how to donate.

Origins of ZGTF

The Zibby Garnett Travel Fellowship was set up in 2000 in memory of Zibby Garnett who was admired by those who knew her in the field of conserving decorative arts. The purpose of the ZGTF is to help students make short visits abroad to widen their conservation experience - a project initiated by Zibby before her early death in 1999.

The study subjects sponsored by the ZGTF reflect Zibby's own interest and work:

- Historic buildings
- Historic designed landscapes and historic gardens
- Decorative arts and artefacts
- Allied trades, techniques, skills and crafts

To be eligible for an award, candidates should be studying in the United Kingdom or be craftspeople or apprentices here. They do not have to be British, but applicants are invited to show how the knowledge they will gain on their trips will benefit British cultural heritage. There is no age limit.

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 The Zibby Garnett Travel Fellowship

Financial Overview

Every year, the Trustees award grants to between 5 and 10 applicants, usually totalling between £8000-£10,000. In 2015, in addition to the awards the Trust's running costs amounted to £5,985. A significant part of these costs goes towards supporting students during and after their secondments. In all, including the £2,000 printing and mailing cost of this newsletter, the Fellowship's total costs this year will amount to £18,000. The figures are modest, but the benefits to conservation students and their education are very high.

When necessary, the Trust draws on limited capital to cover its costs, but critically relies on contributions from our loyal supporters. To all of you, our very deep gratitude.

This year especially, we call on ALL of those who have seen the benefits of the Trust's work to donate and to help us continue it.



Laura Martin conserving an ancient Greek fish plate during her placement with the Balkan Heritage Fund.

Trustees:

Martin Williams (Chairman), Tony Carter, Anna Joynt, Ellen Leslie, Dr John Lord, Dr Campbell Norman-Smith.

Patrons:

Alan Baxter CBE, Geoffrey Bond OBE DL, Dr Peter Burman MBE, Jane Fawcett MBE, David Garnett, Gillian Hill, Dr John Martin Robinson, Hugh Matheson DL, Dr Dick Reid OBE, Anne Riches OBE DL, Prof James Stevens Curl, Prof Vincent Shacklock, The Right Revd Nigel Stock, Bishop at Lambeth

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