

A letter from Lloyd Grossman OBE FSA

My passion for history, arts and heritage has involved me with a number of heritage organisations. High on my agenda is the issue of traditional crafts and the handing on of skills to the next generation.

I recently heard about the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship and the opportunities it offers to conservation students. Providing relatively modest grants to talented and motivated students to study practical conservation abroad, the Fellowship gives them hands-on experience and a chance to broaden their experience of life.

It is a lively premise for a conservation charity, and one which enjoys and builds on the idea of sharing and communication in the modern world. Heritage may be local but it is not hermetic. Students can compare culture and experience through the real, physical care of artefacts, buildings and landscapes, and as well make links in the global field of conservation.

This effective scheme has helped many students to date. To continue to do so it needs your support. I do hope you, like me, will contribute to enable the next generation of practical conservators to benefit from an award and the valuable experience it offers.



Julie Sommerfeldt, from West Dean College, conserved this parchment binding with Centro del bel Libro, Ascona, Switzerland.

Conservation in Afghanistan

Nearly three years ago I was packing my rucksack full of head scarves and long skirts, in preparation to fly to Afghanistan for my ZGTF funded trip to work with the Turquoise Mountain Foundation.

There I worked with local craftsmen and international conservators restoring a complex of buildings in the Murad Khane, the artistic quarter of Kabul's old city. Our work dealt with lime plaster walls, carved wooden ornament and traditional painted interiors.



Kimberly Reczek with fellow painters in the Murad Khane.

I had just begun my course at the City and Guilds of London Art School and this was a fascinating chance to see how ethics, as well as practical conservation skills taught in the classroom, fared in a place that had seen years of war and neglect. The buildings were being restored to house the new Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture. This institute was recruiting young Afghans and teaching the traditional crafts of their nation that were getting lost in the decades of conflict.

The experience honed my interest in historic surfaces and how traditional buildings adapt to modern purposes – issues I am exploring in two current projects: firstly, restoring the sgraffito facade on the Henry Cole Wing of the V&A Museum, and secondly, working at the UNESCO site of Gjirokastra in Albania. We are restoring galleries inside a medieval castle to create a small museum.

Kimberly Reczek *Freelance Conservator, ZGTF Scholar*

Letter from the Chairman

The Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship has launched into its second decade in fine fettle. Our 10th Anniversary gave us the opportunity to reflect on what had been achieved and to whet our appetite for more.

The Fellowship continues to grow, supporting conservation students in an increasingly wide and fascinating range of specialisms, and fostering contact all over the Globe. Since it began in 2000 the Fellowship has awarded 84 grants amounting to over £90,000. Our scholars have worked on artefacts and buildings in places ranging from Cairo to Tokyo, from Cape Cod to Eire. There is much in store for ZGTF over this next decade. Four new Trustees have been appointed, three of them our own Alumni now working as conservators. I am expecting they will lift the Fellowship to greater heights with new energy and ideas. Another Alumnus, Karen Lim, is to take on the task of uniting the Alumni with news, newsletters and events. Grant applications are growing in range and number. They are up this year thanks to our new online application system and their calibre is as high as ever. In 2012 the Trustees awarded grants to ten exceptional candidates.

Thank you again to our supporters whose valued help and generous donations make our work with conservation students possible.

We are delighted to publish letters from both Loyd Grossman and Alan Baxter, two of the heritage world's greatest champions. The Trustees would like to record a huge thank you to both of them.



Chairman of the Trustees

Award Winners

Grants each year are made possible through the generosity of individual donors and charities. A full list of awards can be seen on our website www.ZibbyGarnett.org. Recent recipients have travelled throughout the globe and have studied a host of subjects:

Therese Malme from Lincoln University worked on ethnographic and maritime archaeological collections

with the Western Australian Museum in Fremantle, Australia; Fiona Rutka from the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, learnt ground layer and media analysis in Tudor Britain paintings with the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage in Amersfoort.

As in the past, each Scholar is expected to write a report and give the Trustees a short presentation. These are always fascinating occasions which illustrate the value of the experiences and the enthusiasm of the Scholars.

Anyone who would like to sit in on future presentations should contact the Administrator, Clare Parker.



Isabel Gondar working on an indigenous terracotta glazed pot in the South African Institute for Objects Conservation

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Since our last newsletter two successful functions were held to celebrate the first ten years of the Fellowship and to set the scene for the next. One hundred and sixty-two guests attended the two events - one on Alan Baxter's capacious roof garden in central London and the other at Thoresby Hall in Nottinghamshire when four Alumni spoke about their study trips.

Both evenings were thoroughly enjoyable and successful, sharing the work of ZGTF with interested people. The Trustees are very grateful to Alan Baxter and Hugh and Ranji Matheson for generously offering such beautiful places for these memorable events.

Britain's leading role in Conservation

Following the Grand Tour tradition, the Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship students travel abroad to study and experience a country's culture. The ZGTF scholars do this through conservation of its heritage. The skills and understanding the scholars bring back to Britain add to our repository of conservation knowledge.

Our island nation, subject to waves of invasion and settlement, and once the centre of a wealthy empire, has an enviably rich heritage. Our great houses and museums, which house our collective memories and creative works, are filled with the cultural fruits of our global trade network. Our cities are built of materials, technologies, ideas intellectual and exotic; the home-grown woven with those seen and appreciated abroad. Britain's conservation of its heritage is an important basis of our prosperity now and in the future. In fact, to this end it is little known that, while many countries practice and teach conservation, Britain is the primary world repository of knowledge and teaching of conservation. The Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship fosters our pre-eminence in the field, with students seeking and bringing back foreign expertise to augment our own.

Alan Baxter

Alan Baxter CBE



Cerys Fry, from the City and Guilds of London Art School, working on a polychrome altarpiece in the church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição in Conselheiro Lafaiete in Brazil, with the Grupo Oficina de Restauro.

Textile Conservation Down Under

I spent five weeks in Wellington at Te Papa Tongarewa, Museum of New Zealand, between my first and second years of study. I wanted to work with textiles that were compositionally different to those that I was used to in the UK. I'd had a glimpse of Maori textiles and culture on a recent visit to New Zealand and I wished to find out more.

At Te Papa Tongarewa, I worked on a variety of Maori and Pacific artefacts for a forthcoming exhibition, but spent much of my time completing a complex stitched treatment for a 'titi' – a Samoan dance skirt which was made for Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor, to commemorate his visit to Samoa in 1920.



Detail of the 'Titi' a Samoan dance skirt.

The internship developed my sewing skills and improved my problem-solving abilities when treating textiles. It also gave me an insight into preparing textiles for exhibitions. In contrast to my student work, it is not always possible to thoroughly treat and repair textiles, as many objects are required for brief periods of display and at short notice. So instead, minimal work is carried out to stabilise them so that they can withstand display. The internship has given me unique practical experience to support me when I seek employment in the textile conservation sector when I graduate.

Nikki Chard

*MPhil Textile Conservation student at University of Glasgow
ZGTF Scholar*

Trustees and Patrons

Emma Hulme and Roger Peters retire from the Board this year. The Trustees would like to thank Emma and Roger for their immense contributions and to welcome the four new Trustees; Anthea Bisson, Anna Joynt Fernando Caceres and Martin Williams. We very much look forward to working together.

The Trustees are sorry to record the death of the painter, Mary Fedden, who was a Founder Patron of the Fellowship and a great supporter of its work.

Funding

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.

We have a proven track record in that the work currently being carried out by ZGTF scholars at national and international heritage centres around the world is helping to preserve decorative arts for generations to come.

We receive no Government funding. Full information on the Fellowship's financial status is provided on the website, including the need for funding support and details of how to donate.

Please help us continue our work investing in the skills of those committed to conserving for the future.

Many of our readers have already given generously over the years. Will you help again? We know how every charity is pushing for money, but could you make a donation or make provision for a legacy in your will?

The Trustees would be hugely grateful.

Financial Overview

Early this year, so many promising candidates applied for grants that the Trustees decided to make ten awards totalling £12,630, in the full knowledge that to meet

these they would have to fund-raise energetically which they are doing. Nonetheless, at the time of going to press, only £190 has been raised from individuals, plus £6,500 from charitable trusts. The position is therefore critical.

These grants, together with running costs of £8,000, plus the £2,000 cost of this newsletter, amount to £22,630 this year. Investment income is expected to be no more than £1,500.

Origins of ZGTF

The Zibby Garnett Travelling 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 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 ZGTF reflect Zibby's own interest and work:

- Historic buildings and gardens
- Allied trades, techniques, skills and crafts
- Artefacts

To be eligible for an award, candidates should be studying in the United Kingdom or be craftsmen or apprentices here. They do not have to be British. There is no age limit.

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