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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Collection Grants 2016-17

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Collection Grants 2016-17

For the second year running this small grants scheme, managed by Yvette Shepherd, with expert input from Libby Finney, Regional Conservation Officer, was oversubscribed, with a total of 37 applications; 16 for the first, June tranche and a further 21 for the October tranche. In all 21 grants of approximately £500.00 were awarded over the two tranches to 19 different museums, with an additional 2 projects supported through the Regional Conservation Team programme as a direct result of their Collection Grant applications. A total of £10,162.12 was awarded through the 2016-17 Collection Grant programme. All the projects were completed to schedule and 9 of the 19 museums provided additional funds towards the final project.

What the grants were used for:

Projects to enhance collection care/housekeeping through purchase of equipment or materials.	10
Conservation or conservation assessment of objects	2
Projects to improve collection management through purchase of materials, digitisation, training etc	4
Projects to improve emergency preparedness	1
Projects to enhance environmental monitoring	4

Notable successes this year included a project to scan a portrait of Catherine Dickens, held in the Charles Dickens Museum collection, to determine its provenance. The scan revealed that beneath the layers there is indeed an original portrait of Catherine Dickens by the artist Daniel Maclise. This project generated considerable publicity for the Museum demonstrating that a £500.00 grant can go a long way. The Museum now aims to raise funds towards restoration of the original MacLise portrait.

Descriptions of each of the 2016-17 projects are given below.

Collection grants 2016/17

Guildhall Art Gallery

£ 350.00

Project: Purchase of new digital indicator for weighing bars in order to complete measurements for the collection.

What was achieved: Purchase and calibration of the ZM201 indicator was completed on schedule. The survey of the collection has started and is going well: Several volunteers have been recruited to assist with the input of data, taking of measurements and photographs. With their help nearly half of the Guildhall's frames conservation records have now been digitised, enabling the Guildhall Art Gallery to move forwards towards using our collections management system to its full potential.

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Alexandra Park and Palace

£ 500.00

Project: Purchase of conservation supplies and expert advice for newly discovered archives.

What was achieved: Alexandra Palace Park Collections Trust having no dedicated staff with conservation qualifications, decided with advice from the ACE Collection Care Development Officer, Collections care grant towards membership with the National Conservation Service. This included a brief conservation audit of the collections with snapshots for a report to provide a list of needs in the short term and an outline conservation strategy.

In the longer term NCS can support APPCT in working towards museum accreditation including drawing up conservation and collections management plans and future collections' digitisation projects. NCS membership also allows access to different disciplines of conservation expertise for objects of different media.

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Museum of the Royal Philatelic Society of London

Project: Project to improve storage of glass photographic plates. Grant covers cost of folders and spine boxes from PEL.

£500.00

What was achieved: This project enabled the Royal Philatelic Society to properly store its collection of 218 large glass plates using archival- quality materials. The large plates (typically 8x10 inches) are now stored in pHoton four-flap enclosures, which are then placed within Premier drop-spine storage boxes, by Conservation By Design.

This has enabled RPSL to concentrate on the most-at-risk items which are in greatest need of attention, preserving these historic items for future generations. Indeed, a number of them will feature in a publication due to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the RPSL in 2019.

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Museum of Army Music

£500.00

Project: Re-packing and storage of the well-used collection of concert programmes for Kneller Hall, with a view to future digitisation

What was achieved: The Summer concert programmes document the real beginnings of the Royal Military school of music and its engagement with the public dating from 1857 to the present day. With the grant the Museum purchased new boxes and see through sleeves to hold the programmes so that there is no direct contact with the objects when researching. Better arranged and organised the programmes have also been scanned and can now be used for research and reproduction with a view to generating income in future. The Museum would now like to scan and rehouse other concert programmes to have the same level of accessibility in future.

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Museum of Wimbledon

£ 480.00

Project: To address conservation needs of the social history collection at the Museum of Wimbledon

What was achieved: This project resulted in a review and report regarding the current state of the Museum of Wimbledon collections, current practice and procedures in collection care and conservation. The report will help the Museum to identify conservation needs and priorities and will provide a good basis from which to improve collection care and conservation procedures. The report will also raise awareness amongst Museum staff, Board and Committees, all of whom are volunteers.

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Charles Dickens Museum

£500.00

Project: Investigation of the Daniel Maclise painting of Catherine Dickens by infrared scan and x-ray to resolve issues of provenance, inform conservation work and confirm whether an original work underlies the layers of paint.

What was achieved: The painting was de-framed, packed and driven to the Hamilton Kerr Institute in Cambridge where it underwent a full infrared scan and X-ray analysis. The Institute talked the team through the results. CDM are delighted with the results, which provide strong evidence that the original 1847 work by Maclise is underneath the overpaint. The next steps will be to discuss possibilities for a full restoration of the painting, a project that will require fundraising.

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**Society of Antiquaries of
London**

£495.00

Project: Full conservation assessment of the 7 William Cockle Lucas wax portraits of fellows of the Society.

What was achieved: The conservation assessment has been carried out alongside research into the historic display and storage of the portraits in order to ascertain their conservation history. Between 1911 and 1931, historic photographs of the Society's library interior show at least some of the wax profile portraits displayed above the fireplace (which had been removed by the early 1950s). This may have contributed to heat damage visible on the surfaces of some of the portraits as identified by the conservation assessment, resulting in distortion of some of the wax surfaces.

The conservation assessment provided a recommendation for each portrait in terms of cleaning and repair, with a full cost breakdown. This will enable the Society to pursue other fundraising options for conservation, having benefitted from professional assessment and support.

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Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art

Project: Digitisation of the Estorick's permanent collection following on from last year's project to assess the works.

What was achieved: The conservation of 5 works took place in August, after which the conservator focused on the digitisation of all of the 122 works in the Collection. The process went very smoothly but was very laborious taking long hours each day, from 9 am to 7 pm, in order to complete the project before the departure of the conservators on 5 September 2016.

A few discoveries were made when removing the works from their frames, including the presence of a publicity poster from the 50s on the back of a painting by Severini, one of the major artists in our collection.

The high resolution photographs were analysed and prepared in three different formats to be used by the Estorick Collection staff: low, medium and high resolution Jpegs, and two types of TIFFs for printing materials.

Digitisation of the Estorick Collection, is extremely important for all of the departments in the museum. The Curatorial, Education and Marketing staff will all be utilising the high resolution images to improve and develop their work and future projects.

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Bethlem Museum of the Mind

£ 493.90

Project: Purchase of items to make an off-site disaster kit.

What was achieved: The grant was used for purchasing a 'Just-In-Case' disaster kit from Preservation Equipment Ltd, as well as blotting paper and scissors. The kit is stored in a secured, outside area at the back of the museum building, which can only be accessed by museum staff or on-site Porters. Disaster response preparation can now be undertaken before any collection salvage might be allowed to begin.

The project objectives included purchasing suitable materials and equipment to be able to deal with small scale emergency situations such as flooding, leaks or small fires, which could directly impact upon collection material housed at the museum. This has been achieved with the purchases made. Another objective was to improve staff awareness of disaster response, and salvage procedures. The kit purchase clearly illustrated to other museum staff members where to access the kit, the type of materials and equipment they might be expected to use, and how to do so appropriately, through further training from the museum's conservator. This is ongoing and is important for the museum as the staff consists of 8 mostly part-time members, meaning everyone has a level of responsibility and duty of care in the event of an incident as the conservator might not necessarily be on site at the time.

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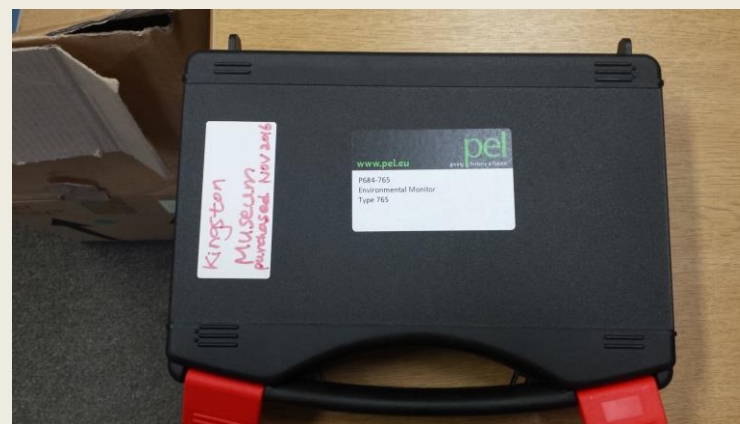
Kingston Museum

£ 500.00

Project: Purchase of an environmental meter to measure temperature, RH and light levels.

What was achieved: The recent purchase of a high museum standard spot-check hand-held environmental monitoring device (Elsec Environmental Monitor), funded by Collection Grant, allows Kingston Museum to measure the environmental elements (e.g. temp, UV, light) more efficiently. The monitoring device will help the Museum to quickly recognise environmental problems and issues. The use of the monitor will also provide informative environmental data for the temporary exhibitions as well as for objects on loan.

Interns and volunteers are to be trained about the theory and



practice of the museum environment, using the purchased environmental monitor.

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Valence House Museum

£ 500.00

Project: Purchase of an environmental monitor for use within the gallery.

What was achieved: Further to purchase of the monitor volunteers and interns were trained on the effects of temperature, humidity and light levels on the portraits and frames of the Fanshawe Collection by Gerry Alabone from City and Guilds London Art School.

Having been trained Valence House Museum volunteers organised projects around one particular portrait for which the Museum is raising money to have professionally conserved, Sir Richard Fanshawe, 1643, painted by William Dobson. They used the environmental monitor in conjunction with tiny tag data loggers to monitor the conditions for the portrait both in storage and on display in the gallery throughout the year. Volunteers shared information, about what they were doing and its importance, with museum visitors.

Volunteers are now actively fundraising towards the conservation of the portrait through a number of initiatives from selling badges to family trails and talks.



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Keats House

£ 462.00

Project: Purchase of tinytag monitors, and one hand held device, to monitor cases in new exhibition space.

What was achieved: The project has had a range of benefits: Firstly the tiny tags will improve public access to the collection as they will allow the Museum to monitor fragile items more closely and thus allow these fragile objects to go on display.

The new exhibition space will allow Keats House to put items in the collection on display outside the main story of Keats's life and look at other characters or stories that are represented in the collection that currently are unable to be displayed.

The readings will allow the Museum to apply for loans to

supplement collections and to put on high profile exhibitions that will hopefully gain new visitors and boost visitor numbers.

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Museum of the Order of St John

£ 500.00

Project: Following on from last year's award and resulting recommendations for care of medical charts - a project to improve their storage.

What was achieved: 25 charts of 45 charts, have been repacked. The charts have been rolled around tubes, interleaved with acid free tissue and/or Tyvek, wrapped in Tyvek and suspended in the boxes with plastazote ends. Some charts are not suitable for being supported by the tubes, and have smaller rolled acid free tissue supports.

In all cases, the boxes afford the charts physical protection, consistent conditions, and enable safe storage on shelves. The project objective was to achieve safe storage for these fragile items.

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Freud Museum

£500.00

Project: Improvements to storage of rugs - support and re-packing.

What was achieved: Once awarded the grant to buy materials to improve the storage of the rugs, The Freud Museum happened to have textile conservator Poppy Singer and also regional conservator Libby Finney visiting. They both advised that in order to store the rugs properly and safely the Museum needs a rack. They helped to identify a space for this within the store, and the museum plans to build the racking soon. The Freud Museum purchased storage materials and the smaller rugs have been re-wrapped.

Even the process of wrapping them properly has been extremely useful – one was found one insect infestation so will be treated, the others are now wrapped and less vulnerable.

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Guildhall Art Gallery and Museum

£500.00

Project: Purchase of environmental data logger in line with the Gallery's Conservation and Collection Care Policy.

What was achieved: The project was instigated by the recent loan request for a group of 19 paintings from the collection for display in one of the offices of the City of London. Following the request for the loan the location's environment, which is not a museum controlled environment, was assessed using the monitor as a spot reader. The paintings were prepared for loan in January and February 2017 and were hung in the location in early March 2017. The Elsec monitor will be installed in the display location and used as a continuous datalogger to enable Guildhall conservators to further assess the environment and respond to any adverse conditions.

The monitor will be in constant general use throughout the gallery and external borrowing locations. For example during the forthcoming loan exhibition Nature Morte, opening in September 2017. The monitor will also be used to set the lighting program for this and all future exhibitions.



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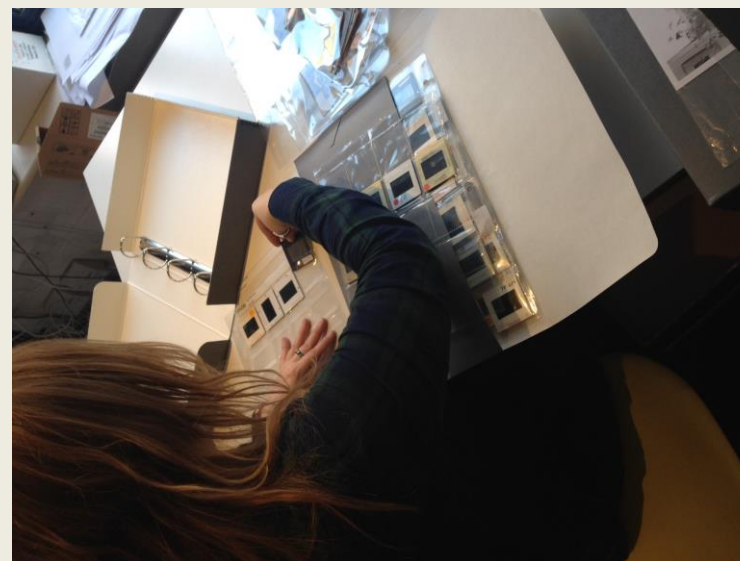
The Garden Museum

£488

Project: Storage materials for re-packing and storage of the photographic collection. The project included re-packing of the important Joy Larkcom collection.

What was achieved: The Garden Museum's photographic collection was stored in archival ring binders and polyester album pockets. These were too full and the overcrowding was damaging the binders and the photos within. The Museum purchased additional binders and transferred some sleeves to additional albums, making them more suitable for handling and ensuring greater preservation of the collection. Photographs were also removed from sleeves that were not a suitable size and re-housed.

The gardener and journalist Joy Larkcom donated her notes on gardening and a large body of slides to the museum. However, these were still stored in the slide sleeves that Joy Larkcom had donated them in. The slides were removed from their existing holders, placed in new sheets which were inserted into new ring binder boxes to give greater support.



Staff can now locate slides easily and provide access to visiting researchers. Once the museum re-opens the collection, including notes from Joy's extensive travels throughout the world, will be used as part of the education programme to explore food and healthy eating and the seasonality of food, along with activities that promote the exploration of food from different cultures.

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The Freud Museum

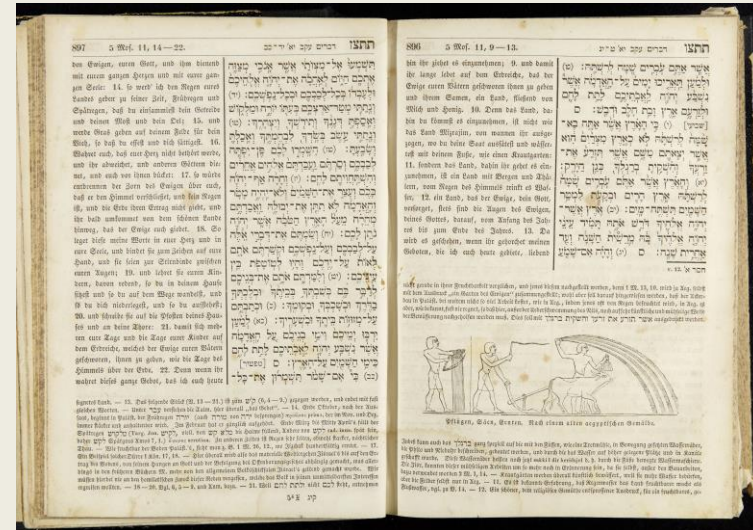
£500.00

Project: To digitise the most significant books from Freud's library, in partnership with Townsweb archiving, resulting in high quality images and pdfs.

What was achieved: Researchers at the Freud Museum London often consult Sigmund Freud's collection of books. Many of the books have leather bindings and are stored as Freud stored them, in his library, which is now the main room of the museum. They serve as museum objects and also set the scene in his study.

Due to their brittle bindings the museum wanted to digitise as many as possible. With the help of the Collection grant and an award from TownsWeb Archiving the museum was able to choose a number of volumes, suitable for digitisation that are often consulted. The result is a number of high quality images and pdfs that can be used online, in exhibitions and in print. The aim is to put them online once the museum's new website is developed.

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World Rugby Museum

£500.00

Project: Object move and storage project as part of the relocation of the museum to the South Stand of Twickenham Stadium.

What was achieved: Timescales for building works meant the museum closing its East Stand location before the completion of new premises. It was therefore necessary to pack and move the entire collection in a timely manner and to implement some temporary storage solutions for the interim period.

Taking a hands-on approach, the World Rugby Museum team ensured that every single one of the 38,000 objects within the museum collection was repackaged appropriately, placed into large boxes for transportation and updated in the CMS, Vernon, prior to the move. This ensured that all records were up to date and no mistakes would be carried forward to the new museum. A new trolley enabled the movement of large boxes, ensuring health and safety of the team as well as the safe transport of objects.

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Museum of Richmond

£393.22

Project: To re-pack the handling collection which was in need of attention after many years of use.

What was achieved: The Museum purchased new fit for purpose boxes and packing material for the entire handling collection and Discovery Loans Boxes. The handling objects are now properly and safely packed, in chronological order which makes them easier and safer to access. The audit and repack was completed by March 2017. The store room is now much easier to keep tidy and organised to a high standard.

Two work experience volunteers assisted in the process of creating records and a basic catalogue to help with the continued care and storage of the objects.

The Discovery Boxes now look more professional as the Museum's branding is up to date, broken and worn put packing materials have been replaced, and information packs have been updated. This combined with the production of new marketing material and updated information on the website, makes them a much more attractive resource for schools and groups to book and use.



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Burgh House

£500.00

Project: Purchase of a Canon camera to digitise the collection and facilitate effective collection management.

What was achieved: A new camera was purchased to photograph the collections. The photography project is central to Burgh House addressing its ongoing documentation backlog. Having full, up to date, visual records of the collections will help the Museum to improve the overall management of the collection, by minimising object retrieval times, as well as facilitating object research and temporary exhibition planning. Having complete collections photography will also help the Museum to identify objects in need of conservation or special care, and minimise the need for object handling, contributing towards the House's collections care plan.

Having more of the collection available for the public to see online is helping Burgh House to create more interest in the

museum and its holdings, and to enable remote users to undertake their own autonomous research.

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Dorich House

£500

Project: Adlib training was held at the museum, colleagues from Brent and Hillingdon also attended.

What was achieved: Axiell delivered a full one day introduction to Adlib Museum at Dorich House Museum on 15 March 2017. Three members of the Museum's staff attended the training and two places were offered to colleagues from Hillingdon Local Studies and Archives and Brent Museums services.

The session covered all of the basics of the Adlib Museum programme and was supported with training packs to take away. The trainer also sent a follow-up email directing participants to a user support network and relevant resources.

Dorich House Museum staff now have the skills and confidence to work on the museum catalogue. The training will significantly improve record keeping and collections management and will allow staff to train volunteers to work on the catalogue, thereby addressing the museum's cataloguing backlog and increasing public access to the collections via the museum website.

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