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NSCG Newsletter

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be to remove if it needs replacing; if it will react with human sweat or survive the wear and tear of people touching it. Even the best way of cleaning the surface without scratching or abrading the film is unknown, and ordinary glass cleaning fluids are no longer usable. However common sense suggests that abrasion may eventually wear the film away or alter its transparency.

When the film was applied to some older cased mounts, labels had to be removed from the outside of the glass. There is some debate over a suitable method of attaching new labels, i.e. if a label needs replacing again how can it be removed without damaging the film. One suggestion given was that only *blu-tack* could be used to attach labels, this is not an option.

The run off from excessive spraying of water has entered some cases at the glazing beads. This has caused some water streaks on the inside of glass, a temporary increase in internal humidity and a very slight staining of some background materials. Specimens were not removed from cases during the application, however there is no evidence that any have been damaged.

A more noticeable affect is obvious where the area of glass has required more than one sheet of film to cover it. Sheets of film have been applied with an overlap up to 5mm at the join. This has left a visible and distracting line at eye level on several cases.

While the work has improved the safety of the galleries, and brought us in line with health and safety regulations, more detailed consultations with staff directly concerned could have lead to a much more satisfactory outcome.

David J. Lampard
Keeper of Botany

Ipswich Museums and Galleries



Natural Science Conservation travelling lectures

The Natural Science Conservation Group is particularly concerned with educating institutions and individuals with its work. Natural science conservation is not a familiar discipline nor is it fully understood. One aim of the NSCG is to promote the work of the group through visiting schools, colleges and Universities. Through talks, lectures and slide shows the work of natural science conservators around Britain can be brought to the individual.

There are many more courses in conservation being established which is in relation to the rise in demand. However, natural science conservation courses are still poorly represented and so the NSCG felt it would be worthwhile to speak to students and lecturers alike to inform them of this particular area of conservation that they could enter into after qualifying. Once the awareness and interest is generated then the demand for more information and therefore training should follow.

The University of Derby has recently embarked upon a conservation science course that is linked to the chemistry department. It is in its first year and was instigated by Dr Trevor Brown, a conservation scientist. A member of the NSCG spoke to a group of students and lecturers from this discipline about the work of natural science conservators within the UK and the influence of NSCG on natural science collections. The lecture was well received with a good deal of feed back afterwards.

Through this communication the wide and varied work actually carried out by British natural science conservators is made easily accessible, and the NSCG can be represented first hand.

Vicky Purewal
NMGW

