

Using Museum Archives

A one-day workshop at the British Museum

Monday 13 July 2015

This workshop is aimed at doctoral students and other researchers using museum archives. We will discuss the great potential of these repositories, as well as their practical and intellectual challenges. The material present in museum archives can range from traditional documentary sources such as correspondence to administrative records such as day-books, accession ledgers and accounts, as well as three dimensional objects. We would welcome attendants from any disciplines, particularly those who are planning, undergoing or have completed a spell of research in a museum(s) archive. Our discussion will hinge on audience participation, interrogating some key questions:

- What is the anatomy of a museum's archive?
- Whose voices are heard and whose are lost? How do we deal with these absences productively?
- Do curators and archivists curate museum archives?
- How has a museum's history acted upon its archive?

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FREE ILLUSTRATED LECTURES January to April, 1952

ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS at 6.15 p.m.

Programme

WEDNESDAY

January 9

English Domestic Architecture of the 19th Century
Sir LEIGH ASHTON, F.S.A.,
Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

16

Giambattista Tiepolo

12

Painting of the 19th Century
OSBERT LANCASTER, Esq., Hon. A.R.I.B.A.

Windsor Castle

Sir OWEN MORSEHEAD, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.

Location: Sackler Rooms

- 10.00 - 10.30 Registration and coffee
- 10.30 - 10.40 Laura Carter and Sarah Longair: *Welcome*
- 10.40 - 11.00 **Francesca Hillier (British Museum):** *Managing the museum archive*
- 11.00 - 12.30 Spotlight papers (10 minutes per paper), followed by panel discussion
- **Chris Manias (Manchester University):** *Recovering old museum displays*
 - **Rebecca Coll (IWM/University of Cambridge):** *Integrating old and new archives: Animating the IWM's official museum records with oral history interviews*
 - **Caroline Cornish (RHUL):** *A lost chapter of education history in the Kew Museum archives*
 - **Laura Carter (University of Cambridge):** *What if you don't care about Samuel Johnson?: Using museum archives against the grain of the 'collection'*
 - **Amara Thornton (UCL) and Tom Kiely (British Museum):** *Ephemera in the archive*

Divide participants into Groups A and B, lunch break for those not in handling session

Archive material handling sessions led by Francesca Hillier

- 12.35 - 13.20 Group A
- 13.40 - 14.25 Group B

Location: Stevenson Lecture theatre (West foyer), all participants reconvene

- 14.30 - 14.45 Coffee served
- 14.45 - 15.45 **Kate Hill (University of Lincoln):** *Fossils and flashers: Tales from the museum archives*
- 15.45 - 16.00 Plenary discussion led by **Claire Wintle (University of Brighton)**
- 16.00 onwards Optional tour in Collecting gallery and pub

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