

REFERENCE COLLECTION

The Reference is essentially a working collection that is meant to be handled. It is from the collection that our students get their introduction to historic textile techniques and practical conservation including the handling and storage of textiles in a museum environment.

For the purpose of getting the collection to function efficiently as a History of Textile Techniques Study Resource, the work involved is planned in stages.

The stages may overlap from time to time because of the need for continued usage of the collection for teaching and demonstration and for other reasons.

Members of the T.C.C. staff and the Embroiderer's Guild have been involved with the preliminary organisation for more than 2 years and have provided an overview of the content to provide plans for the layout of the collection as shown in the attached plans.

The stages in the preparation of the Resource are:

- I Preliminary organisation of Collection.
- II Selection of objects for each category.
- \*III Labelling each piece with numbers and simple description of technique and presumed function.
- \* IV Finding relevant illustrations in Postcard Collection and a method of cross-referencing.
- V Listing significant shortfalls in collection.
- VI Setting in motion a search for missing techniques samples or the making of copies of these.
- \*VII Linking T.C.C. Conservation Reports and Photographic Records to collection.
- VIII Linking Embroiderer's Guild collection and records to T.C.C. collections.
- IX Preparing bibliographies for each technique.
- X Providing a card index for each tray with keywords for the retrieval system chosen for the Centre.
- \* XI Verifying preliminary dating and purpose of objects by analysis and documentation of their fibres, dyestuffs and techniques.
- \*XII Setting up a system for the self-teaching of basic techniques - with supervision by Centre staff - of students who wish to become familiar with special techniques for the purpose of embarking on a course of studies at the Centre or elsewhere.

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- \*XIII Setting up a system of teaching short courses with invited specialists as well as a staff input for the Friends of the T.C.C. whether for professional or just greatly interested people.
- \* XIV Setting up a system of giving case histories and demonstrations by Centre staff using examples from the collection. This should heighten interest in our activities and bring in more Friends to support the T.C.C.

The interest in historic textiles is growing very fast and the provision of this resource will help to keep the Centre in the forefront as a teaching institution able to give instruction on a factual level of knowledge and research.

The work should at all times be tied up with the students need to do practical laboratory and analysis exercises and the parts where they or the staff can play a significant role are marked with a star. By constantly involving both staff and students in the development of the resource, we should ensure maximum growth and interest both in the individual projects and in the subject as a whole. This will also facilitate the increasing understanding of the significance of technical and cultural history on the study of textiles and its influence on our approach to textile conservation.

Notes prepared by Karen Finch, Founder, for the Meeting of the Executive Meeting of the T.C.C. on August 19, 1986.

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