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The impact of climate change on historic libraries

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LIBER Annual General Conference 2006

The Impact of Climate Change on Historic Libraries

Sarah Staniforth

Historic Properties Director



The National Trust : key facts

- Founded 1895
- 250,000 hectares and 800km coast
- 5,000 staff
- 40,000 volunteers
- 3.5 million members
- 300+ historic houses and gardens
- 150 registered museums
- Libraries in majority of houses

Impact of climate change on historic libraries

Examples of climate change that have *already* occurred include:

- the 1990s were the warmest decade since records began
- earlier onset of spring flowering
- the growing season has lengthened by about a month since 1900
- frosts have declined to almost zero in SW England

Impact of climate change on historic libraries

Examples of climate change that have *already* occurred include (cont):

- annual summer rainfall has fallen by about 20% since the late 19th century
- the 4 wettest winters in SW England since records began have been in the last 10 years
- a larger proportion of winter precipitation falls as heavy rainfall than 50 years ago
- Britain has become twice as stormy in the last 50 years

Storms

Petworth Hurricane
October 1987



Storms

Kingston Lacy storm
19 January 1990



Floods

Blickling basement flood
September 2001
(and again August 2004)



Blickling Hall : key facts

- Located in North Norfolk
- Tudor house belonging to Boleyn family
- Built 1622-1626
- Jacobean Long Gallery became Library in about 1745
- Books from Sir Richard Ellys of Nocton













Floods

Water ingress after heavy rain:

- Blickling Long Gallery - 1990s
- Hughenden Manor - August 2004
- Coughton Court - August 2004
- Wimpole Hall - August 2004







Climate change impacts

- higher RH levels resulting from flooding (from rivers and streams or from run-off after heavy rainfall)
- higher RH levels resulting from water penetration following heavy rain
- lower RH levels in hotter, drier summers
- higher light and UV levels, more sunshine
- increases in gaseous air pollution levels
- increases in dust levels
- shift in habitat range of insect pests
- increases in numbers of pests

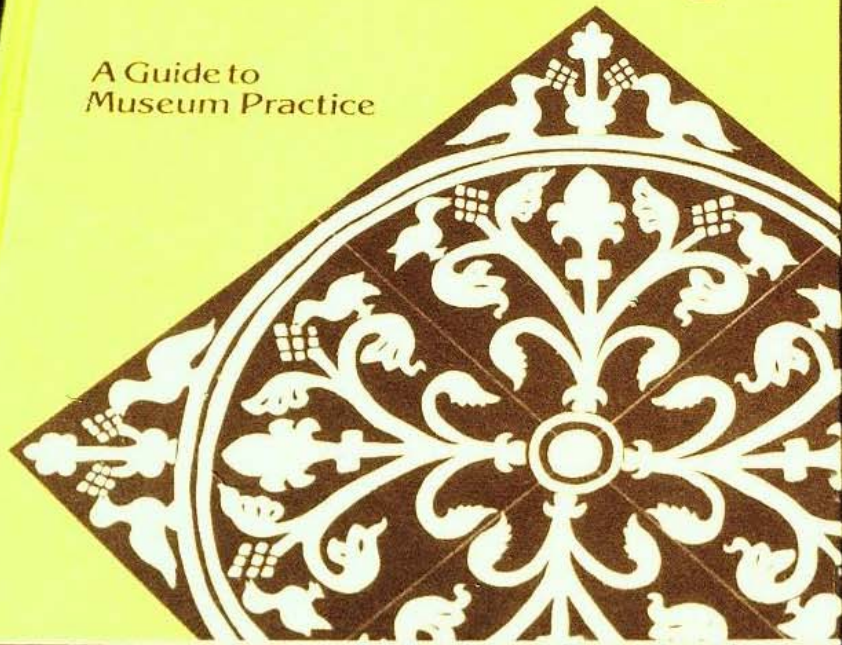
Reducing damage by light

- Eliminate ultraviolet (UV) radiation
 - less than 75 microwatts per lumen
- Reduce illumination level
- Reduce time of exposure

Edited by John M. A. Thompson

Manual of Curatorship

A Guide to
Museum Practice



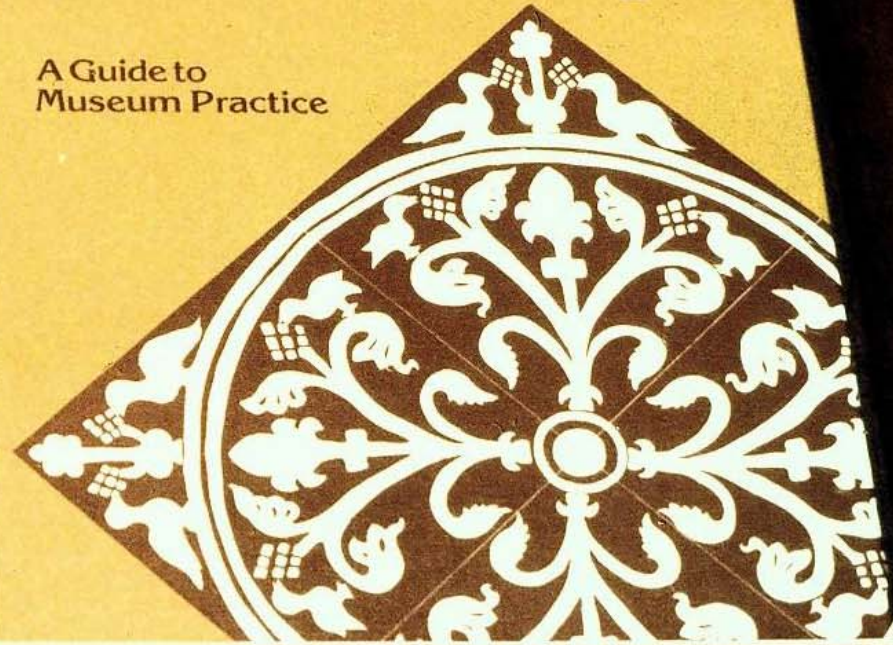
Butterworths

The Museums Association

Edited by John M. A. Thompson

Manual of Curatorship

A Guide to
Museum Practice



Butterworths

The Museums Association

Manual of Curatorship

A Guide to Museum Practice

Edited by John M. A. Thompson

The Manual of Curatorship is the first work of its kind to be produced in English and is the definitive statement on museum practice. The material for sixty-one chapters was commissioned from a wide range of specialist contributors and edited by the Editorial Board of the Museums Association.

The Manual of Curatorship examines, from a multidisciplinary perspective and from the viewpoint of the practising curator, the key functions assigned to museums: the management of, and research on, the collections they hold, and the presentation of those collections to the visiting public. Conservation and storage are dealt with on both subject and material bases, with the emphasis on sound curatorial care, the rise of the museum as a social institution and the way in which its ethical and philosophical foundations have developed.

A further section details the administration of museums and describes their relationships to other similar institutions, focusing in particular on the relationship between museums and their controlling bodies, personnel management, premises management (including security), financial management and legal aspects.

All museum and art gallery professional staff at all stages of their careers will find this book, with its extensive coverage and depth of treatment, of immense interest and benefit.

Contents

Introduction
Section 1: The Museum Context
Section 2: Collection Management
Section 3: Visitor Services
Section 4: Management and Administration
Appendices
Index

*The cover shows a tracing of a Medieval tile discovered at Guildford Priory, Surrey. The pattern of the tile is picked out by an inlay of white clay against a red background.
Reproduced by kind permission of Guildford Museum*

The Museums Association

Butterworths

London, Harlow, Sydney, New York, Boston

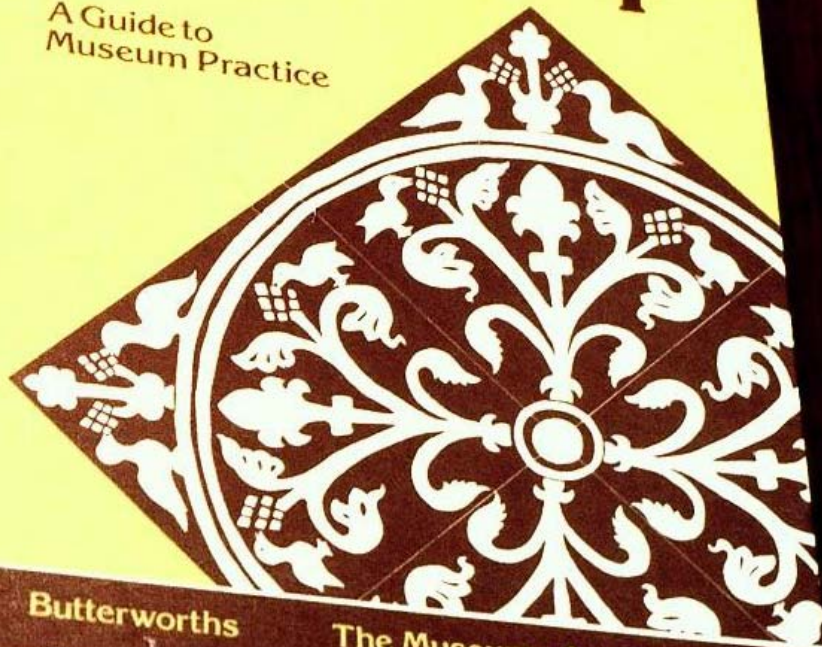
Thompson

Manual of
Curatorship

Edited by John M. A. Thompson

Manual of Curatorship

A Guide to Museum Practice



Butterworths

The Museums Association













Integrated pest management

- Increase vigilance in monitoring for pests
 - Traps
 - Inspection for damage
- Make habitat as inhospitable as possible
 - High standards of housekeeping
 - Unfavourable T/RH conditions
- Use pesticides as a last resort





DO NOT TOUCH

MUSEUM
TRAP
601222
398943



Insect Monitor

Marginal glosses in Latin script, likely from the Vulgate or similar biblical text. Includes phrases like "Et factum est" and "Et factum est." The text is dense and written in a historical Gothic script.

Main text of the manuscript on the right page, consisting of several columns of dense Latin text in Gothic script. Includes various headings and sub-sections.

Continuation of the main text from the right page, with dense Latin script. Includes a list of entries at the bottom, possibly a table of contents or index, with some entries like "M...", "N...", etc.



30 cap. 39 extrem.
multifidus, multibibus, multicola, multum
composita vide mox in *Multus*.
indumenta minutissimis filis contexta, vel
multis filis, ac propterea tenuibus, sic ap-
peidet von fleiner leinwand. Erant fœmi-
nalis ea Cretico objicit fat. 2 v. 66

sed quid
um tu *multitia* sumas,
Et paullo post v. 76
deceant *multitia* testem?
bla, &c. Multo, Ære, quære in *Multus*, *Mul-*

mus de, vel e, vel ex *multis*, Horat. 3 od. 11
Nimis, nimium multi, Cic. 4 fam. epist. 14.
Idem lib. 5 ad Attic. epist. 4. *Multa no-*
ctis ad die nacht. Tacitus 2 Histor. c. 44
pressus, i. e. cum multum adhuc de die su-
35 *Qui ubi rursus missos Novesium frumen-*
ingressi accepit. Et, *Multa opinio*, id est,
apud Gellium lib. 3 cap. 16. *Multus est in*
er macht viel worte davon. *Multus est in*
lib. 25 cap. 2. *multus est in labore, studio,*
to an mit arbeit, &c. Sallust. Jugurth. c. 96
mine, atque ad vigiliat multus adesse, scil.

Solin. cap. 18 p. 172
traditur.
¶ *Multifariam*, idem. Liv. lib. 3 cap. 5 *Hostes carpere multifariam vi-*
res Romanas aggressi sunt. Et lib. 33 cap. 18 *Multifariam disjecta præ-*
sidia. Cic. de Orat. 2 cap. 41 *aurum multifariam defossum*. Plin.
lib. 18 cap. 18 *Multifariam in Italia octoni boves ad singulos vomeres*
anhelant.

¶ *Multifer*, a, um, ferax, fertilis, fruchtbar. Plin. 16 cap. 8 *genere*
multifero.

¶ *Multifidus*, in multas partes fissus, vielspaltig; ut, *Pedes multifidi*,
Plin. 11 cap. 37. *Dens multifidus*, de pectine, Martial. lib. 14 epigr. 25.
Multifidus Ister, Lucan. 3 v. 202.

¶ *Multifluus*, a, um, vielsüßig. Juvencus in Matth. cap. 6
Multifluisque diem verbis ducendo fatigant.

Arator in Act. Apost. cap. 26 *cunctosque rigari*
Multifluis sermone jubet.

¶ *Multiflorabilis*, e, viellochericht. Apulejus sub fin. lib. 10 Met. Jam
multiflorabiles cantus Lydios dulciter consonant.

¶ *Multifloratilis*, e, idem: ut *multifloratiles*, apud eundem A-
pulejum Florid. lib. 1. *Multifloratiles*, apud eundem A-
pulejum lib. 8 epist. 9.

¶ *Multiflorus*, idem. Ovid. 12 Met. v. 153
multiflori delectat tibia buxi.

¶ *Multiflorus*, idem. Agamemnone v. 348

Tibi

Summary

Long term management actions:

- Mitigate climate change by reducing emission of green house gases
- Undertake flood prevention measures eg 'make space for water'
- Adapt buildings to withstand impacts of climate change eg increasing capacity of rain water goods

Summary

Short to medium term management actions:

- Ensure drainage in land around buildings is maintained - culverts and ditches
- Ensure building maintenance standards are high - resilient to wind and rain
- Ensure emergency plans are in place
- Ensure preventive conservation and housekeeping standards are high
- Monitor and control environment and light

Further information

- National Trust Manual of Housekeeping, Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 2006
- www.nationaltrust.org.uk
- 'Forecast? Changeable!'
- Engineering Historic Futures dissemination workshop: Glasgow, London, September 2006