

EINLADUNG

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VORTRAG

von

Prof. Dr. Norman H. TENNENT

Institute for Molecular Chemistry, University of Amsterdam, NL

Dienstag, 28. Juni 2005, 16:00 Uhr

Akademie der bildenden Künste, Schillerplatz 3

Vortragssaal R5 (Erdgeschoss)

Preparing Cinderella for the Ball: Current Research in Ceramics and Glass Conservation

Research into the conservation-restoration of ceramics and glass is one of the "Cinderellas" of the field. There are few conservation scientists specialising in these materials and consequently few publications appear in the conservation literature. In contrast, scientific research is flourishing in topics such as easel paintings, paper, stone, metals and preventive conservation.

This lecture will consider the field of ceramics and glass within the current "state-of-the-art" of conservation science. The definitions of the functions and skills of a conservation scientist, set out in the Bologna Document and elaborated in the EEC CURRIC Project, will be taken as a guideline to consider the relevance of conservation science research to practitioners. A survey of ceramics and glass articles cited in 30 years of Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts will be used to illustrate the need for more scientific research involving conservation methods and materials as opposed to archaeometry and technical art history.

Arising from this overview, a range of ceramics and glass conservation problems in need of further research will be proposed and the results of recent research projects on the following topics will be discussed:

- the degradation of polymers based on accelerated ageing and natural ageing
- the use of computer colour match prediction for the restoration of ceramics
- the optimisation of chemical cleaning reagents for the removal of medieval stained glass weathering crusts and blackening of Delftware ceramics

Biography

Norman Tennent studied chemistry at Glasgow University and as a post-doctoral researcher at Ohio State University. In 1975 he was appointed to set up a conservation science section within Glasgow Museums, where he was involved with the new Burrell Museum and other projects until 1987. He was recently appointed to the special Chair for Chemistry of Conservation and Restoration at the University of Amsterdam, a position which he combines with work as a freelance conservation scientist in Scotland. Research specialities include preventive conservation, polymer degradation and technical examination and conservation of ceramics and glass.

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