

# CODEX CONSERVATION



## SUZANNE PRESS & ASSOCIATES LTD

### INTRODUCTION

Working on collaborative projects for collectors and dealers in the past few years, we have felt that, as conservators, our specialist knowledge could have been more accessible to those who need it. At times, having more information about the damages and condition of the wonderful items that we are asked to assess and treat, might even have prevented harm. We are keen that the "hidden" skills and knowledge of the conservator are working to serve clients better and sooner. As such we are offering our services to help support you and your team.

Our approachable and friendly team includes Suzanne, an accredited conservator of flat works of art on paper and associated media. Suzanne's experience spans 29 years. Ann-Marie is an accredited book and archive conservator, of 19-years experience. She works on the full range of paper-based items and binding structures. These include western and non-western bindings ranging from incunabula, manuscripts, and photographic albums; alongside archival material such as parchment charters, correspondence, and ephemera.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION'S

We want to encourage as much participation as possible which necessarily includes hearing and responding to the typical questions we encounter.

Questions such as:

- Have the colours on this painting/ book been faded by light?
- Framing materials and the mount for flat works can cause staining and how to recognise this?
- How is it best to secure the loose parts of books when they become detached?

For the most effective learning, it is ideal to schedule a follow-up session as a recap, to consolidate knowledge and give people a chance to make use of the resources. They will most likely have more questions and feedback about further support that they would like. We have reduced our usual hourly rate in order, to make it as accessible as possible. We wish to assist those who are cataloging and writing condition reports to have more confidence in their work and know better when to ask for help and where to go. In terms of timing, the most fulfilling opportunity would be when the book and works of art department are beginning to catalog for the next sale so that as many diverse examples are available for discussion as possible.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### FLATWORK'S OF ART ON PAPER

- Terminology to use when writing up condition reports and when discussing disfigurements with potential buyers. Egs of terminology is what is paper discolouration; fox marks + possible mould; could the margins have orange mat-burn lines resulting from acidic mounts? Can undulations be re-pressed?
- Best handling methods for flat works.
- Discuss conservation treatment such as removing previous framers Sellotape hinges (often occur) and why it will be advantageous. and not such an obscure matter of insect damage being another example.
- Which disfigurements are straight forward for an accredited conservator to treat? Simple processes such as repressing and improving how the flatwork is mounted within its mount.
- Discuss more detailed conservation scenarios, and bring up where ethics of conservation and that unexpected risks can occur during treatments, as auction houses have Disclaimers as do most conservators.

#### BOOKS & PAPER-BASED COLLECTIONS

- How to be more aware of handling delicate pamphlets/ ephemera/ parchment with wax seals.
- Explaining the terminology of different types of repair and restoration.
- What is possible in terms of conservation treatments and what damages should raise alarm bells in terms of cost and achievability, such as staining, sellotape, and structural repair (for eg re-sewing).
- Simple repairs that an accredited conservator can help with, such as in situ paper repairs, consolidation of binding materials and when to apply leather polish to bindings.
- Where to find further conservation-restoration guidance

### COSTS

Cost £40 ph each, minimum of 4 hours, plus travel costs.

Content will be tailored to your need (We advise two training sessions to fully cover and help understand the handling) Payments to be made 5 days after course training.

### CONTACTS

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