

The Scottish Conservation Studio

Museum Quality Collection Care



Winner of the 2007
Award for Conservation

Four documents written by David Livingstone c1870-71

Conservation treatment report

Client: Suzie Lamb, West Region Conservator, National Trust for Scotland

Scottish Conservation Studio No: P44/10

Museum Number: LXII, LXIV, 1120, & 297a

Treatment:

1. The four non-laminated documents from the collection were conserved to strengthen them before being handled during scanning. The four documents consist of an envelope that has been slit open (1120), a small booklet made from the top and bottom margins of book pages (297a), and two double-book pages from a dis-bound book where the text has been written over.
2. The many small edge-tears and weaknesses in all the documents were repaired using wheat starch paste and Japanese tissue. The opened book pages were strengthened along the lines of the central folds which were torn and weak.
3. An assessment was made of the booklet to see if the thread binding the pages together would need to be cut in order for the pages to be effectively photographed. It was found that after repair the pages are strong enough to with-stand the required degree of careful handling, and as it is ethically preferable not to disturb the original structure it was decided this was not required.
4. A protective folder was made from buffered acid free rag card to house the booklet. It is a three-dimensional object and smaller than the documents it is stored with, so required customised protection. The folder has a deep inset area that houses the booklet within a paper folder.
5. The documents were all photographed before and after treatment. Each page of the booklet was photographed after treatment, but only the outer pages before treatment when it was not strong enough to be handled safely.
6. The documents were packed in their original paper folders, the booklet in its new card folder, and all were replaced in the lidded archival box.

Recommended storage conditions	Recommended display conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the archival sleeves provided, flat, in an archival box.• Relative humidity: unfluctuating level between 45 and 65%.• Temperature: unfluctuating level between 16 and 20°C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limit display periods, for example to 12 months every 5 years.• Protect from light out of visitor hours.• Limit light levels to 50 lux (intensity) and 10 microwatts per lumen of ultraviolet radiation.• Relative humidity: unfluctuating level between 45 and 65%.• Temperature: unfluctuating level between 16 and 20°C.

Conservator: Helen Creasy, ACR

Date: 22 June 2010

Helen Creasy, BA, DipConsFineArt, ACR
paper and photographs

Will Murray, BSc, DipConsArch, ACR,
artefacts and preventive conservation

Tuula Pardoe, TextDes, DipConsText, ACR,
costume and textiles

The Scottish Conservation Studio LLP
Hopetoun House, South Queensferry,
West Lothian EH30 9SL

Telephone: 0131 331 5875
www.scottishconservationstudio.co.uk
info@scottishconservationstudio.co.uk

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