



Object Treatment Record

Object Details

INVENTORY NUMBER	N/A
OTHER NUMBER	
LOCATION	St Mary the Virgin church, Shrawardine, Shropshire
OBJECT TYPE	Maiden's Garland
MATERIALS	Wrought iron, paint, copper alloy, gilding, (wood), paper
DIMENSIONS LxHxD of entire object	300mm x 250mm



SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Very thin sheet of wrought iron sheet cut into the shape of a heart and originally painted gloss black with the remains of gold lettering. The Heart was originally fitted to a polished oak panel secured with 6 no. gilded copper alloy nails in the form of a small cross. There were a number of additional small iron nails fixing the edges. Dedicated to Dolly Newcombe.

Conservator

*NAME OF CONSERVATOR	Peter Meehan ACR	*DATE	30 September 2021
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CONDITION before conservation treatment

NB the objects' overall stability, condition or treatment code is that of the most vulnerable element

*CONDITION CODE	*STABILITY CODE	*TREATMENT PRIORITY	RECOMMENDED TREATMENT TYPE
A - Excellent	i - Stable	1 - No Treatment Required	Preventive Remedial
B - Good	ii - Potentially Unstable	2 - Treatment Desirable	
C - Fair	iii - Unstable/Steady Deterioration	3 - Treatment Necessary	
D - Poor	iv - Highly Unstable	4 - Treatment Urgent	
D	iii	4	Remedial

The Maidens Garland heart was in a poor condition. It was dusty and dirty. Over 50% of the original painted finish was missing. The paint had heavily degraded, flaking and lifting from the iron surface exposing the metal beneath. There was a layer of rust to the exposed iron surfaces. The gilded copper alloy nails had some dirt and patches of green copper corrosion products present to their surfaces. The oak board had some old wood worm damage along its lower edge. The iron sheet had previously been folded and unfolded which had left creases and cracks to the thin iron.

Conservation Treatment Record

TREATMENT		
<p>TREATMENT REPORT:</p> <p>The iron heart was first very gently dry cleaned with very soft paint brush to remove loose dust and dirt. Areas of loose corrosion (rust) were carefully removed using a sharp scalpel and soft brush under magnification. The remaining paint layers were very friable so was consolidated using 2 coats of Paraloid B67 in white spirit applied with a fine paint brush laid onto the surface. After drying a second coat was applied in the same manner.</p> <p>After thorough consolidation, the heart was gently removed from its oak board by lifting out the 6 no. gilded, cruciform nails. To remove the remaining small iron nails each head had to be carefully drilled away using a fine drill bit under magnification. This freed the heart from the oak board and it was gently lifted clear and sat on a piece of acid-free tissue paper. The gilded copper alloy nails were gently cleaned using 2% non-ionic detergent in deionised water using a very fine Scotchbrite pad (white). The cleaned surface was protected with a coating of microcrystalline wax.</p> <p>The heart was turned over carefully and laid onto a padded acid-free tissue. The back of the garland was gently dry cleaned using a soft paint brush to remove dust and dirt. The back was then consolidated with 2 no. coats of 5% Paraloid B67 in white spirit applied by gently laying a paint brush on the surface.</p> <p>The oak board was dry cleaned using a soft brush and vacuum cleaner before being further cleaned using 2% non-ionic detergent in deionised water applied on swabs. Once dried the wooden surface was protected with a coating of beeswax polish. The remaining nail stems were gently dressed down into the surface of the wood to remove their sharpness.</p> <p>Once conserved, the Maiden's Garland was mounted in a 10mm thick clear perspex panel. The original gilded copper alloy nails were re-fitted into pre-drilled holes in their 'original' positions. They were held into the holes using a small amount of clear epoxy resin adhesive. Two extra copper nails with large heads, were fitted to the inner edges of the heart lobes in order to hold the lifted iron down onto the surface of the perspex. These were set into pre-drilled holes with the epoxy resin adhesive. The head of each nail where painted with a gold paint.</p>		
<p>TREATMENT MATERIALS USED</p> <p>2% Triton X100 non-ionic detergent in deionised water; 3M Scotchbrite Pads (7441); 5% Paraloid B67 in white spirit; Picreator Renaissance microcrystalline wax; Briwax beeswax polish; Megabond clear epoxy resin adhesive.</p>		
<p>Treatment actual start date: 12 August 2021</p>		
<p>Treatment actual end date: 29 September 2021</p>		
<p>Total Treatment time: n/a</p>		
POST TREATMENT CONDITION		
<p>POST TREATMENT CONDITION CODES:</p>		
<p>*CONDITION CODE</p> <p>A – Excellent B – Good C – Fair D – Poor</p>	<p>*STABILITY CODE</p> <p>i – Stable ii – Potentially Unstable iii – Unstable/Steady Deterioration iv – Highly Unstable</p>	<p>*TREATMENT PRIORITY</p> <p>1 – No Treatment Required 2 – Treatment Desirable 3 – Treatment Necessary 4 – Treatment Urgent</p>
B	i	1
<p>POST TREATMENT CONDITION:</p> <p>The Maiden's Garland was left in a stable clean and condition. It remains very fragile and will need to be handled with care.</p>		
<p>FURTHER TREATMENT PROPOSAL AND NOTE (IF RELEVANT)</p> <p>No further treatment is required. The outline of a capital 'D' and 'N' were seen on the back of the heart on each heart lobe.</p>		
<p>REQUIREMENTS NOTE (environmental and monitoring, preventative conservation or housekeeping notes)</p> <p>It is recommended that the Maiden's Garland is stored in an air tight polythene box with dried silica gel in order to keep the relative humidity (RH%) below 30% so that the iron does not continue to corrode.</p>		

Conservation Treatment Record

IMAGES



The Maiden's Garland before conservation.



The Maiden's Garland after conservation.



Detail of the surface of the heart showing the lifting paint, rust spots and small iron nails.



The gilded copper alloy cruciform nail before cleaning.



A detail of the cracked and lifted lobe section before treatment.



Lower gilded cruciform nail after removal and cleaning. Note the consolidate paint layer underneath.

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The iron heart after cleaning and during the process of consolidation with the Paranoid B67.



Several iron bands after cleaning, application of the rust conversion coating and application of two coats of acrylic lacquer.



The back of the heart after cleaning and consolidation showing the outline of the letters 'D' and 'N'.



The Maiden's Garland after conservation treatment and mounting on the perspex panel.

Peter Meehan ACR
30 September 2021