

10th International Symposium on Wood and Furniture Conservation

Restoring Joints, Conserving Constructions

8 and 9 October 2010 at De Rode Hoed, Keizersgracht 102, Amsterdam

Friday 8 October

Registration at 8.45 AM, symposium starts at 9.30 AM

Word of welcome by the chairman

Through, sliding or blind. The dovetail joint in furniture history

Clive Edwards, Professor of Design History, Loughborough University, United Kingdom

This paper will consider the origins of the dovetail from ancient Egyptian cabinetwork, through its development as a builders' and joiners' joint, to becoming the symbol of refined cabinet making. The development of this simple, though sophisticated, joint and its many variations will be a fascinating story.

'Expect the unexpected'. Constructional details revealed during the conservation treatment of a commode by Fiedler

Jurgen Huber, Senior Furniture Conservator, The Wallace Collection, London, United Kingdom

A specific type of dovetail was found in the work of Johann Gottlob Fiedler, a successful 18th-century Berlin based cabinetmaker. The find initiated a research and it was attempted to trace this construction method to a wider circle of German cabinetmakers.

'No progress without experiment' (Gerrit Rietveld, 1950). Joints in the work of Rietveld

Marijke Kuper, art historian and Rietveld expert, the Netherlands

Dutch designer Gerrit Rietveld considered original interpretation of construction methods and materials essential for his designs. This will be illustrated by Rietveld's specific use of the dowel-joint and application of other construction methods.

"More than decoration - the joining of Peder Moos 1924-1968

Bodil Stauning, Furniture Conservator, The Royal Danish Court, Copenhagen, Denmark

This presentation examines the production of Danish cabinetmaker Peder Moos. Special attention will be given to the designs he made with decorative joinery and his use of lamination techniques.



Restoring the joints of picture frames – maintaining function at the expense of aesthetics?

Claire Daly ACR, Conservator of frames and gilded furniture, painted and decorative surfaces, Belgrave Conservation and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, United Kingdom

The corner joints of frames; what they tell us about the origin of the frame, the assessment of their condition, later modifications, the fragility of the decorative surface and how all this affects treatment.

In short; this paper deals with the complex joinery issues of frame conservation practice.

Joints in medieval picture frames

Hubert Baija, Senior Conservator of Frames and Gilding, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Some exciting results of a research and cataloguing project of the paintings and frames collection at the Rijksmuseum collection will be presented. Measured, drawn and analyzed, the original frames and triptychs give important clues on late medieval joinery methods.

The conservation problems of painted furniture in Portugal of the 18th century

Daniela Coelho, doctoral grant researcher of the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), associated with the Portuguese Catholic University (UCP) and the Research Center for Science and Technology in Art (CITAR), Portugal

As part of their restoration a technical study of four pieces of painted furniture was done at the Institute of Museums and Conservation of Portugal. Their specific treatment regarding the joinery concerns will be discussed.

Stereo-radiography

Andrea Coerdts, Senior Conservator of Furniture, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The advantages of making 3D x-ray pictures of objects for a better understanding of their structural characteristics will be presented and illustrated with case studies. The audience will be able to experience the 3D effects.

Rehabilitation of the judges' chairs in the supreme court of Canada

Alastair Fox, Furniture Conservator, Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, Canada

After their adaptation in the sixties with swivel bases, the nine judge's chairs designed by Ernest Cormier for the Supreme Court of Canada were treated by the author. This paper outlines the challenges of the restoration, to their original configuration, through a process of experimentation and rebuilding.

Saturday 9 October

Reception at 9.30 AM, the symposium starts at 10.00 AM

Opening of morning session by the chairman of the day

A structural approach to a complex conservation of two late 17th-century cabinets-on-stand in the collection of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam

Iskander Breebaart, Senior Conservator of Furniture, Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, the Netherlands

During the conservation of two cabinets that represent the highlight of the early Dutch marquetry furniture their construction details were extensively studied. Treatment details of the doors will be focused on the presentation.

(This project is at the core of a prolonged research by the Rijksmuseum's furniture conservation department. See also the master class organised there in the week preceding the symposium.)

Structural consolidation and reinforcement of broken furniture

Adrian Smith, Nigel Goldsmith, Furniture Conservators, Workshops of the Master of the Royal Household's Department, United Kingdom

This paper will illustrate the approaches, techniques and materials used in the workshops of the Master of the Royal Household's Department, of Great Britain, in their work to repair and strengthen failed furniture structures in a working collection.

Structural characters of Piedmont's 18th-century cabinet making. Historical documents, restorations and new technologies

Stefania De Blasi (art historian), Carla Enrica Spantigati (scientific director), Massimo Ravera (chief furniture restorer), Marco Nervo (physicist), Thierry Radelet (multispectral analyst)
Centro Conservazione e Restauro “La Venaria Reale”, Turin, Italy

By focusing on the work of the 18th-century cabinetmaker Pietro Pifetti, a team of specialists from the Centro Conservazione e Restauro “La Venaria Reale” threw light on the construction methods of some of the best Piedmontese furniture designs. The study project merged different approaches: historical research, technical observations and new scientific techniques like computed tomography (CT) and digital radiography.

Preserving historic integrity while addressing structural concerns: three case studies

F. Carey Howlett, Conservator of Furniture and Historic Interiors, F. Carey Howlett & Associates, Callao, USA

Three recent architectural woodwork projects presented a range of structural and joinery problems. The author will briefly describe the challenges faced in each project, the options for treatment, and the innovative solutions that best preserved the historic integrity of the materials while ensuring their structural stability.

1.00 PM Departure excursion

Return to Amsterdam in the late afternoon

This programme is subject to change.

Registration and payment

If you wish to attend the symposium, please register via our website www.ebenist.org.

The price for the two-day symposium is € 230. This includes coffee, tea and lunches as well as the proceedings, which will be sent to you upon publication. For students there is a reduced rate of € 195. Please be prepared to show your student card at the door. Upon registration you will receive information on the method of payment. The closing date for registration is 24 September.

We hope to see you at the symposium.



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