



Letter from the Chairman

I was delighted when David Garnett and my fellow Trustees asked me to take on the role of Chairman for the next chapter in the history of the Fellowship. Zibby Garnett was a good friend.

Taking over from David was a daunting prospect, but it's a role which I find both stimulating and rewarding. I have been enormously impressed by our Scholars and by what they have been doing on their trips. Committed, imaginative and passionate about conservation, they so clearly benefit from their exposure to foreign culture and to differing approaches to conservation. Their presentations when they return are always thoughtful, sometimes provocative, and occasionally moving. I have no doubt that the students will go on to make a real contribution in their chosen fields of activities.

This year - our fifteenth - we awarded our 99th award so we are on the brink of a 'century'!

I am very much looking forward to helping our next 100 Zibby Garnett Scholars. To see all our student stories and to catch up on alumni news, I invite you to visit our new-look website at www.zibbygarnett.org and to follow us on Twitter @TheZGTF.

As ever, our work with students is made possible by generous donations by our supporters, and I extend a huge thank you to all of you.

Martin Williams

Martin Williams, Chairman of the Trustees



Francisca Lucero working on an Ottoman textile at the Abegg-Stiftung, Riggisberg, Switzerland.

Conserving Sudan's heritage with the Sudanese

My ZGTF journey took me first to Khartoum and from there a six-hour bus trip got me to Dangeil, a small village 350km to the north. I spent three weeks there working with the Berber-Abidiya Archaeological Project, a partnership between the Sudan Corporation for Antiquities and Museums and the British Museum.

Using traditional methods and materials, such as pointing with lime mortar, I participated in the conservation of the excavated structures of an Amun Temple. Dated in its last phase to the 1st century A.D the temple was part of a significant religious centre and is a place that is integrated within the local community. Ongoing conservation of this fragile site will rely on local skills and materials. Perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of this incredible experience was the teamwork with the local craftsmen. Despite the language barrier we managed to achieve a very fruitful collaboration.



Francesca Guiducci at the Dangeil archaeological site, Sudan where she worked with local teams using the local technology which is fundamental to the sustainable conservation of this important site.

My trip to Sudan has been a great opportunity in the technical, professional and frankly human aspects of conservation. I know I want to continue in site conservation, and there are good chances I may go back to Dangeil for the next conservation season.

Francesca Guiducci 2013 ZGTF Scholar



Melany Hoshun Wan working in Leh, India

Secular practice in a religious context

My host for my ZGTF placement was the Matho Museum Project (MMP). For two and a half months I was based at the Tibetan Buddhist Matho Monastery, 23 km away from Leh, the capital of Ladakh. I was mainly working with metal artefacts including a copper alloy mould for making clay statues, a silver water ewer and ladles for butter oil lamps. I also helped my colleagues with the conservation works on clay statues and clay masks.

During my stay I was trying to understand the relationship of the project with the monastery. The MMP are building a museum using traditional sustainable construction methods to provide care, curation and management of the monastery's religious collection. We provide professional skills and expertise and at the same time we aim to accommodate the monks' requests. These sometimes conflicted with our conservation practices, and we would have long discussions about the aesthetic qualities of an artefact or the historical integrity of its fabric. The religious value of an artefact, and often an aspiration for its pristine condition, would take precedence over other concerns. Our conservation decisions in Leh were greatly influenced by communications with the monastery.

This experience enhanced my conservation skills through working with a wide range of religious artefacts. It has also made me rethink the role of museums and conservation within different social contexts, such as this one with a living religious heritage.

Melany Hoshun Wan, 2013 ZGTF Scholar

An international conservation team

The ZGTF award gave me the chance to participate in a six-week intensive conservation workshop restoring the historic chapel Panagia Vlaherna located in the small rural town of Romiri on the Greek island of Zakynthos. Designed for graduating Archaeologists, Architects, Conservators and Civil Engineers, the project centred on the practical conservation of the chapel and involved a learning process of interaction between young professionals of different Conservation Science specialties.

This workshop was a wonderful opportunity to engage in hands-on conservation which allowed me to put into practice the knowledge I had obtained during my Undergraduate and Masters degrees. I was particularly interested in the survey and recording elements of the workshop as these were areas on which I had not focused during my MA.

The experience has been greatly beneficial to my career as a heritage professional. I found the accolade of being a Zibby Garnett Scholar and Romiri Project participant most helpful in finding work in the heritage field. Since returning from Greece, I have enjoyed two fascinating jobs, starting in North Yorkshire with Heritage Consultants PLB, and recently moving back to Dublin to work for a multi-award winning design practice where I am working as heritage interpretive planner.

*Heather Dowling, Martello Media,
2011 ZGTF Scholar*



Heather Dowling removing cement from the historic Panagia Vlaherna chapel, Romiri, Zakynthos, Greece. Heather is now working as a heritage interpretive planner.

ZGTF Scholars: Where are they now?

Since it was founded in 2000 the ZGTF has awarded 99 grants. Ruth Stevens, ZGTF Scholar in 2005 and now a freelance book conservator, has volunteered to be the Alumni Contact for the ZGTF and she has assembled a database charting the career movements of our scholars. The count shows that almost all the alumni are now working in conservation, some in established practices and some forging their own freelance paths.



Ciaran Lavelle, seen here in 2010 at the Agora Excavations in Athens, has gone on to work in central Asia, the Middle East and Europe, and has also participated in big projects in Britain such as the Staffordshire Hoard and Museum of Bristol.

Our alumni page on the website shows the spread of careers. A number of scholars are now working with the organisations where they spent their placements.

Many continue with specialist practical conservation. Andrea Walker, a freelance conservator working mainly with Cliveden Conservation, was part of the small team who rebuilt, conserved and restored Painshill Grotto in 2013. Julie Sommerfeldt's projects at the Bodleian Libraries include rebinding a fifteenth century illuminated French Book of Hours. Others such as Heather Dowling have moved over to the heritage management sector. Heather is currently leading the interpretation of Thomas Hardy's birthplace in Dorset.

Ciaran Lavelle maintains that "the Zibby Garnett Trust funding kick-started my conservation career". Let us hope that it can continue to do so for many more talented conservators.

Scholars' Presentations

Each ZGTF Scholar is expected to write a report and give the Trustees a short presentation. This year interested parties, including specialists in the relevant fields, have also attended these presentations. These show-and-tell events vividly convey the value of the student experience, and stimulate conversations that many find inspiring.

Anyone who would like to sit in on future Scholars' presentations is asked to contact our Administrator, Clare Parker.

Trust News

A new chapter of the Zibby Garnett Travel Fellowship has begun. We have welcomed a new Chairman and two new Trustees to the Board. Four Trustees have retired.

We thank Sally Machin and Anne Riches for the immense contribution they made to the Trust, and for their long-standing, perceptive and critical support.

We also thank Michael Stock and Fernando Caceres for their shorter but valuable stints as Trustees.

We warmly welcome as new Trustees Tony Carter, Principal of City & Guilds of London Art School, and Ellen Leslie, a historic buildings researcher. Both bring a high level of conservation expertise to the Board and we look forward to working with them.



Ffion Howells, 2013 ZGTF Scholar, studied icon conservation in St Petersburg at The State Academic Institute of Art. Copy painting was an integral part of the every student's training whether fine artists, architects or conservators.

Funding

The ZGTF is the only UK charity giving grants directly to individuals to support their study trips overseas in the conservation of historic buildings, gardens and artefacts. We have a proven track record in that the work carried out by the ZGTF Scholars is helping to preserve cultural heritage for generations to come.

The Trust is delighted to announce that we have appointed Penny Bendall, a renowned ceramics conservator, and her assistant Valerie Kohler as development advisors to help us raise money for future scholarships.

The ZGTF receives no government funding. Full information on the Fellowship's financial status is provided on the website, including the need for funding support and details of how to donate.

Many of our readers have already given generously over the years. Please consider helping us again by making a donation or provision for a legacy in your will.

Financial Overview

Year on year, the Fellowship continues to fund students with grants which, though modest, give them significant career opportunities. The Fellowship does this where necessary by drawing on limited capital, but critically through the generous annual help of donors and sponsors.

This year, the Trustees awarded grants to seven applicants totalling £8,000. Together with running costs of £6,700, and the printing and mailing cost of this newsletter (£2,000), the Fellowship's costs will amount to £16,700. Investment income is expected to total no more than £1,500, and so far this year, we have received £3,500 from charitable trusts and foundations. A much smaller sum has been received from individuals so please be as generous as you can.

The Trustees and our new fundraisers are now fundraising energetically to meet the shortfall and we would be exceedingly grateful for your help.

Origins of ZGTF

The Zibby Garnett Travel Fellowship was set up in 2000 in memory of Zibby Garnett who was admired by those who knew her in the field of conserving decorative arts. The purpose of the ZGTF is to help students make short visits abroad to widen their conservation experience, a project initiated by Zibby before her early death in 1999.

The study subjects sponsored by the ZGTF reflect Zibby's own interest and work:

- Historic buildings
- Historic man made landscapes and historic gardens
- Artefacts
- Allied trades, techniques, skills and crafts

To be eligible for an award, candidates should be studying in the United Kingdom or be craftspeople or apprentices here. They do not have to be British. There is no age limit.

For donations, please make cheques payable to The Zibby Garnett Travelling Fellowship and post to:

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 @TheZGTF

Newsletter edited by Anna Joynt *ZGTF Scholar & Trustee*



Glass plate negative of 'Dyak Chief', before and after treatment, conserved by Emily Hick at the Heritage Conservation Centre, Singapore.

Trustees:

Martin Williams (Chairman), Anthea Bisson, Tony Carter, David Garnett, Anna Joynt, Ellen Leslie and Dr John Lord

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