



Terracotta Conference: 'Past, Present and Future'

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and
lecture synopses

Terracotta Conference: 'Past, Present and Future'



Tim Jenkins *Conference Chair*

Dr Tim Jenkins is a museums and historic built environment professional who has worked extensively in conservation and building restoration. Capital projects have included the restoration and redevelopment of Jackfield Tile Museum, the delivery of Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery and curated exhibitions at Coalport China Museum all of which have allowed him to indulge his passion for architectural and decorative ceramics. Tim studied Heritage Management at the Ironbridge Institute and gained his PhD from the University of Birmingham in the History of Technology, he is currently located in Ontario, Canada, working as a heritage and cultural consultant.



Alan Swale *Independent Researcher*

Dr Alan Swale is an independent researcher and writer concerned with various aspects of the British ceramic industry. A former designer in the domestic ceramic tableware industry, Alan lectured for many years at one of the leading courses in degree level ceramic art and design, that offered by the School of Art of the University of Wolverhampton. He subsequently headed the school's network of Masters degrees. The grant of sabbatical leave in the 1980's led to the development of his interest in architectural ceramics and involvement with the Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society (TACS). He has served this organisation as a former Chairman, is currently Head of Research, Production Editor of its *Journal* and joint coordinator of this conference. He also writes on these topics for TACS's publications. His PhD was based on a study of printed ceramic transfer manufacture for the British ceramic tableware industry.

Lecture 1 synopsis: *'Architectural Terracotta and Faïence: a historical perspective'*

Buildings and other structures bearing terracotta and faïence feature in many towns and cities in this country. Terracotta, especially in its buff-coloured manifestation, is frequently mistaken for stone and architects have frequently endeavoured to emulate the latter rather than accept the material in its own right. This paper critically examines the development and deployment of these ceramic building materials in Britain from the 18th century through to the present and provides insights into its distinctive qualities and occasional drawbacks.

Lecture 2 synopsis: *Terracotta and Faïence in the Present Age – a renaissance in progress?*

In the mid-1950's, the demand for architectural terracotta and faïence ceased. Fortunately, owing to the supply of these materials for refurbishment and repair, two suppliers remained in business, retaining their skills. This left them well placed to resume the manufacture of these materials for new-build structures. In recent years, owing to progressive architects working with the freedom of post-modernism, a renaissance in the employment of terracotta and faïence in contemporary buildings is taking place.

This lecture will examine the reasons for this revival and explore some examples of it in use.



Lesley Durbin *Emeritus ICon. Jackfield Conservation Studio*

Lesley Durbin began working in tile conservation in 1983 and is Senior Conservator in The Jackfield Conservation Studio. She has worked in the conservation of architectural ceramics for over thirty years. She holds Emeritus Membership of the Institute for Conservation (ACR), and has acted as a reviewer for the Getty Institute in Los Angeles. Lesley has regularly lectured on tile conservation throughout her career to a wide variety of audiences. She is one of the foremost authorities on the subject. She is author of *Architectural Tiles Conservation and Restoration* 2nd edition, Routledge 2015, ISBN 978-0-415-84058-3. The only standard industry text on conservation and restoration of tiles.

More information and help concerning conservation of architectural tiles can be found at www.jackfieldconservation.co.uk

Affiliations: Conservation Advisor to the Tiles and Architectural Ceramic Society - Emeritus the Institute of Conservation

Lecture synopsis: 'Terracotta - Common Causes of Degradation'

One of the opening talks of this two-day conference, this will cover common causes of degradation in external terracotta and faïence. Terracotta became a popular building material in the later 19th Century up to the beginning of the Second World War. It has proved to be extremely durable, but one hundred and fifty years on from the early uses of the material many of our buildings are now in need of restoration, conservation and refurbishment. The talk focusses on the problems encountered through neglect, pollution, unsympathetic repairs and manufacturing faults. Whilst not delving deeply into methods of repair, this talk will set the tone for discussion over the two days in which it is hoped speakers and delegates alike will benefit from a shared exploration of the way forward for the future of this extraordinarily varied material.

Lesley Durbin would like to thank Jon Wilson, Darwen Terracotta Ltd., for use of some of his photographs.



Joanne Hill *Director, Bonsers (Nottingham) Ltd*

Joanne Hill, as a third generation Bonser, has taken the company from its humble foundations as a cleaning company established in 1963 to one of the premier restoration companies in the business. Her drive and passion for the historic built environment is the cornerstone of the Bonser business ensuring that the highest standards are maintained for both the buildings the company is fortunate enough to work on and in the direct relationships with its clients.

Lecture synopsis: *'Conservation cleaning of terracotta'*

Joanne will speak on the cleaning of the various types of terracotta and faïence, the reasons for cleaning and the methods available. She will highlight the importance of using a reputable company who directly employ trained and experienced operatives and provide some examples of cleaning – good and not so good - of various projects, along with the importance of in situ trials and the pitfalls to avoid.



Catherine Woolfitt *Architectural Conservator and Heritage Advisor*

Catherine Woolfitt is an architectural conservator and heritage advisor specialising in porous building materials and the cleaning and repair of historic masonry. Having trained in Canada in classical archaeology and art conservation and following international work experience in museum and historic building conservation, Catherine established her own consultancy practice in 2008. She provides technical guidance and training to public and private bodies in the UK and abroad and is Subject Leader for Building Conservation at West Dean College, West Sussex.

Lecture synopsis: *'Conservation of architectural terracotta: An analytical approach to remedial work'*

Catherine's case studies focus on the survey, investigation and repair of decorative terracotta masonry and sculpture, focussing mainly on the 16th century terracotta roundels at Hampton Court Palace (HCP) and the 19th century terracotta facades of the Natural History Museum (NHM), London. Her paper outlines the analytical and multi-disciplinary approach essential for project success, integrating input from conservators, conservation scientists, architects, structural engineers, and surveyors. The paper advocates an analytical approach to the conservation of architectural terracotta.





Andrew O'Donnell *Allford Hall Monaghan Morris*

Andrew O'Donnell joined Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) in 2006 bringing with him a wide range of experience in housing, education, arts, and urban design. Since then he has contributed to a number of completed landmark schemes for the practice. These projects include Chobham Academy in Stratford's East Village, Dagenham Park Church of England School in Barking and Dagenham, and the Knauf Building in Sittingbourne. More recently he has led the design and delivery of Willesden Green Library and Tower Hamlets Town Hall. Starting in late 2012, Andrew worked closely with AHMM Founding Director Peter Morris on the relocation of the Dorothy Annan Mural culminating in the official unveiling of the piece on 10 December 2013.

Lecture synopsis: 'Conservation Case Study: the Dorothy Annan Panels'

The relocation of a Grade II listed mural, designed by Dorothy Annan, from the former Central Telegraph Office on Farringdon Street to the highwalk between Speed House and the Barbican Centre is another chapter in the ever-evolving story of AHMM's interventions into the Barbican. Originally commissioned in 1960 by the Ministry of Works, the mural comprises nine large tiled panels arranged as a linear series depicting abstractions of the telecommunications industry that formed part of the 'white heat of British technology' referred to by Harold Wilson at the time. Each panel is a bespoke and handsomely-made object, composed of 40 individually textured, painted and fired ceramic tiles. This session will explore the story of the mural's relocation recognising significant contributions from a wide range of organisations including Lesley Durbin of The Jackfield Conservation Studio.





Jon Wilson *Director: Darwen Terracotta and Faience*

From an early career in architecture, house building and graphics, Jon joined the renowned ceramics manufacturer Shaws of Darwen in 1980. With changing architectural styles over the decades, Shaws original terracotta/faience production had ceased by mid-century and had become a floor and wall tiling company. The mid 1980's saw the start of a heritage revival commencing with the Hackney Empire theatre, a major milestone in the restoration of terracotta. This was thanks to the persistence of Robert Thorne at English Heritage and from the public inquiry that resulted in the reinstatement of the domes and pediment in the original material. This the first major terracotta contract for Shaws for some time, followed soon afterwards by internal and external restoration work at the Natural History Museum. In Jon's own words, it was a matter of being in the 'right place at the right time', and over the years he grew Shaw's business, supplying terracotta and faience for some of the country's finest buildings.

Shaws had many owners over the years, always from the kitchen/bathroom world and the latest owners, wishing to sell their sink business decided to close the terracotta division in 2015. With thirty-nine skilled craftspeople now made redundant, Jon met with former colleague Steve Allen and over a cup of tea decided to seek investment and start a new terracotta factory. Four and a half years on, with the support of the industry, Darwen Terracotta now employs fifty people at their 44,000 square foot factory in Blackburn, supplying to the UK, North America and Australia.

Lecture synopsis: *'How the process of manufacturing terracotta and faience works from design to build'*

Jon's talk will briefly explain the process of new-build manufacture from design to build, with recent project case studies and recently completed projects completed by the team at Darwen.

Further reading:

a selected list of books on the history and conservation of terracotta, faïence and tiles.

Buys, S. & Oakley, V. (1993) *Conservation and Restoration of Ceramics*, Butterworth-Heinemann

Durbin, L. (2015) *Architectural Tiles, Conservation and Restoration*, 2nd Edition, Routledge.

(2007) *Inform Guide: Ceramic tiled flooring*, Historic Scotland.

Godfraind, S., Henry, A., McCaig, I., Stewart, J., Willett, C. (2015) *Practical Building Conservation: Earth Brick and Terracotta*, Ashgate, Historic England.

Teutonico, J. M. [Ed] (1996) *Architectural Ceramics. Their History, Manufacture, and Conservation*, London, James & James.

***Further reading:
a selected list of articles on the history and conservation of tiles.***

- Casey S. (2009) Tiled Murals: A new pre-conservation removal technique. *The Building Conservation Directory 2009*
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- De Vos, A., Vandevijvere, M., Caignie, F., Baeck, M. & Van der Snickt, G. 'Restoration of the Conversion of Saul: New techniques in the treatment of Flemish sixteenth century Antwerp tile panels.'
Journal of the Tiles and Architectural Society, Vol 24, 2018.
- Durbin, L. (2003) Victorian and Early 20th Century Tile Schemes. *The Building Conservation Directory 2003*
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- Durbin, L. (2015) Tile Work of the 17th and 18th Centuries, *The Building Conservation Directory 2015*, pp. 178-208
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- Durbin, L. (2014) 'Relocation and Restoration of Dorothy Annan Panels.' *Glazed Expressions*, No. 73, Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society
- Durbin, L. Approaches to Treatment for Common Causes of Degradation in Historic Tiles. *Journal of Building Survey, Appraisal & Valuation*, Vol. 8, No. 3, 2019-20
- Hall, D. (1996) The Manufacture of Replica Inlaid Medieval Floor Tiles. *The Building Conservation Directory*
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- Kampani, K. (2016) Mosaic Conservation at the Royal Garrison Church of St George. *The Building Conservation Directory*
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- Thompson, P. (2004) Victorian and Edwardian Geometric and Encaustic Floor Tiles. *The Building Conservation Directory 2004*
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>
- Watrobski, A. (2017) Encaustic Tiles at the Palace of Westminster. *The Building Conservation Directory 2017*.
<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>

Further reading:

a selected list of articles on the conservation of terracotta and faïence.

Ashurst, N. (2011) Cleaning Brickwork and Terracotta: Getting it Right. *The Building Conservation Directory 2011.*

<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>

Gibbs, P. (2002) The Preservation of Terracotta Buildings. *The Building Conservation Directory 2002*

<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>

Handforth, S. (2012) Guidance on Matching Terracotta. *The Building Conservation Directory 2012.*

<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>

Taylor, J. (1995) Victorian and Edwardian Terracotta Buildings. *The Building Conservation Directory 1995*

<https://buildingconservation.com/articles/articles.htm>

Further reading:

a selected list of books, articles and papers on the history of terracotta and faïence.

Books:

Lemmen, H. van (2008) *Architectural Ceramics*. Shire Library.

Physick, J. (1976) *The History of the Victoria and Albert Museum*. London: V&A Museum.

Stratton, M. (1993) *The Terracotta Revival - Building Innovation and the Image of the Industrial in Britain and North America*. London: Victor Gollancz.

Kelly, A. (1990) *Mrs Coade's Stone*. Worcester: Self Publishing Company.

Irvine, L. & Atterbury P. (1979) *The Doulton Story*. Stoke-on-Trent: Royal Doulton Tableware Ltd.

Girouard, M. (1981) *Alfred Waterhouse and the Natural History Museum*. London: Natural History Museum.

Articles:

Swale, A. (1987) "The Terracotta of the Wedgwood Institute, Burslem". *Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society: Journal: Vol. 2.*

Scott, G. (1998) "The Dream of City Architecture Expressed in Colourful Ceramics – the theories and architecture of Halsey Ralph Ricardo". *Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society: Journal: Vol. 7.*

Swale, A. (2000) "Architectural Terracotta and Faïence – a critical appraisal". *Tiles & Architectural Ceramics Society: Journal: Vol. 8.*

Manuscripts:

Swale, A. (1998) *Architectural Terracotta – a critical appraisal of its development and deployment*. MA Dissertation, Thomson Library: Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent .

Smith, A. (2011) *Architectural Terracotta: An Exploration of Transatlantic Opportunity*. Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship Report.
<https://www.wcmt.org.uk > files > migrated-reports>

Terracotta and faïence conservators and restorers based in the UK

Tiago Oliveira www.toconservation.co.uk | +44 (0)7780 931 980 New Cross, London:
Conservator-restorer.

Taylor Pearce Ltd Fishers Court, Besson Street, London SE14 5AS 07738 717646:
architectural ornaments conservation.

Hirst Conservation Ltd Laughton, Sleaford Lincolnshire NG34 0HE:
Surveys, consultancy, stone cleaning.

Stonewest Ltd 67 Westow Street, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3RW:
Specialist contractors in restoration and new build masonry.

Cliveden Conservation Workshop Ltd The Tennis Courts, Cliveden Estate, Taplow, nr Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 0JA
Expert in conservation of stone and terracotta.

DBR London 104A Consort Road, London SE15 2PH
Specialist works include facade cleaning, stone masonry, brick conservation.

Recessia Ltd Unit 3 St Ives Way, Sandycroft, Chester CH5 2QS
Specialises in the conservation and restoration of churches, historic buildings and ancient monuments.

Stonehealth Ltd G4/5 Draycott Business Park, Cam, Dursley Gloucestershire GL11 5DQ
Supplier of specialist equipment and a wide range of products for the conservation and restoration of many types of historic surfaces.

Mark Taylor marktaylor.tiles62@gmail.com 07799337444 Leeds and the North.
Specialist tiles and faïence restoration.

Rieveley Ceramics, Rhwng y Ddwryd, Waunfawr, Caernarfon, Gwynedd. LL55 4EZ
Specialist in tiles and faïence restoration.

Richard Rogers Conservation Ltd, Unit 2 Mole Business Park Randalls Road Leatherhead Surrey KT22 7BA
wide range of conservation and restoration services.

These lists are by no means comprehensive more useful addresses can be found at <https://buildingconservation.com/directory>

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Terracotta and faïence manufacturers and suppliers based in the UK or supplying the UK

Boston Valley Terra Cotta, 6860 South Abbott Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127, USA:
manufacturers of architectural terracotta and faïence supplied to the UK.

Darwen Terracotta Ltd, Building O, Ribble House, Ribble Business Park, Challenge Way, Blackburn, Lancs. BB1 5RB:
manufacturers of architectural terracotta and faïence for restoration and new-build.

Froyle Tiles Ltd, Unit 1&3, The Old Coal Yard, Hambledon Road, Hambledon, Surrey GU8 4DR:
Faïence and tile manufacturers.

Hathern Terracotta (part of Michelmersh Brick Holdings PLC): Old Station Close, Charwood, Shepshed, Leics. LE12 9NJ:
manufacturers of traditional hand pressed architectural terra cotta & faïence for restoration purposes.

Lambs Brick and Stone, Pitsham Brickworks, Pitsham Lane, Cocking Causeway, Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 9QH:
manufacturers of architectural terracotta.

NBK Architectural Terracotta, NBK Keramik GmbH, Reeser Straße 235, D – 46446 Emmerich am Rhein, Germany:
manufacturers of architectural terracotta and faïence supplied to the UK.

Prelude Stone, Unit 2, Westerham Trade Centre, Flyers Way, Westerham, Kent TN16 1DE:
suppliers and fixers of terracotta and faïence.

Priory Architectural Terracotta, Wham Lane, Little Hoole, Preston, Lancashire PR4 4SY:
hand pressed terracotta for architectural restoration and new build projects.

West Meon Pottery, Lippen Hill, Church Lane, West Meon, Petersfield, Hants. GU32 1JW:
manufacturers of architectural terracotta and faïence for restoration and new-build.

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which promotes the study and
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Conservation Grants.

The Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society offers grants of up to £2,000 in support of specific conservation projects.

TACS Conservation Grants are offered primarily to museums and ecclesiastic establishments. Though other charitable institutions may be considered.

Grant funding can be used to enable conservation projects which may encompass accessioning, recording, and preparing for storage, conservation and restoration repairs and exhibition.

All applications must be accompanied by a conservation condition and treatment report carried out by a professional. In respect of larger projects, the grant may be used to prepare such a report.

Projects offering matching funding to the TACS Conservation Grant will be looked upon with favour.

Preference will be given to projects which are aimed at conserving important or rare collections of tiles and architectural ceramics.

Those interested in applying should submit an informal application by email in English as a Word document and send it to info@tilesoc.org.uk. If you prefer to apply by post, you may send it to TACS Conservation Grants, postal address as per TACS website. One conservation reference is also required, which must be no longer than a single page and must be submitted by your referee directly by email to info@tilesoc.org.uk.



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Research Grants.

The Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society offers grants of up to £1,000 in support of historical research into aspects of tiles and architectural ceramics. Please note that specific conservation projects (of objects or buildings) are not eligible unless a significant research element is included.

TACS Research Grants are offered to assist with travel, subsistence and other research costs. They may be used to visit collections, libraries, archives or historic sites in the UK or abroad, in connection with research into British-made decorative tiles and architectural ceramics. They are not offered to assist with conference attendance. They are offered to students and researchers already engaged in study or research concerned with or related to the history of tiles and architectural ceramics. Projects offering matching funding to the TACS Research Grant will be looked upon with favour.

Those interested in applying should submit an informal application by email in English as a Word document and send it to info@tilesoc.org.uk. If you prefer to apply by post, you may send it to TACS Research Grants, postal address as per TACS website. One reference is also required, which must be no longer than a single page and must be submitted by your referee directly by email to info@tilesoc.org.uk.



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Historic England is the public body that looks after England's historic environment and champions historic places to help people understand, value and care for them.