



1. Welcome to the Boppard Project Blog

Research and Conservation of the 15th-century Stained Glass Windows from the Carmelite Church at Boppard-on-Rhine

The Burrell Collection contains one of the most important museum collections of medieval stained glass anywhere in the world. One of its most significant parts is the group of three large medieval windows that came from the Carmelite Church at Boppard-on-Rhine.

Sir William Burrell acquired these windows in 1938/39 from the collections of the American tycoons William Randolph Hearst and Robert Goelet

2. So what is the “Boppard Conservation Project”?

This 2-year conservation research project is funded by a generous grant from the Clothworkers’ Foundation.

It consists broadly of two stages:

Year one will involve a careful study of the windows to determine their condition in detail. Past restoration work will be recorded as well as the condition of all the components that make up a stained glass window such as the glass, vitreous paint, lead and putty.

In year two of the project the conservators will concentrate on cleaning the stained glass and making it safe for future display.

3. Introducing Marie and Megan

Marie Stumpff is a Senior Conservator for Glasgow Museums with a specialism of stained glass. She was awarded the Fellowship by the Clothworkers and she will be the main conservator for the project.

Megan Stacey has been appointed as Junior Fellow and Assistant Conservator for the duration of the project to work with Marie on the Boppard windows and to gain valuable experience working as stained glass conservator for the Museum service.





LIFE OF THE VIRGIN AND CHRIST

4. Getting started...

At present, one window has been taken off display. This comprises the “Life of Christ and the Virgin” consisting of three lights, and a single panel, “Siegfried von Gelnhausen and his wife”. This stained glass was purchased by Sir William Burrell from the collection of the bankrupt William Randolph Hearst. The “Life of Christ and the Virgin” was made around 1440 to 1446 for the Carmelite church at Boppard-am-Rhein (just south of Cologne). It was part of seven enormous windows each in praise of the Virgin Mary. Siegfried von Gelnhausen and his wife were the donors of another window at the church, the “Life of Christ Tree”, now in California. Lots more information to come, but if you have questions or comments, please fire away!

SIEGFRIED VON GELNHAUSEN AND HIS WIFE

