

# HOLLY SMITH MA ACR

## BOOK AND PAPER CONSERVATOR & BOOKBINDER

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### HOLLY SMITH BOOKS & HOLLY SMITH CONSERVATION

SINCE JANUARY 2018

##### *Owner*

In January 2018 I established a private book conservation & bookbinding practice. In this time I have carried out conservation work for private owners and institutions including the Rambert Ballet Archive and the Brighton Design Archive.

I've opened an Etsy shop to sell some of my bookbindings and in 2019 was invited to take part in the Christmas Artist Open House as well as MADE Brighton. I have also completed some special commission books for individuals.

I have begun turning my experience to teaching bookbinding classes, including more recently bookbinding workshops at Roedean School and the Phoenix Art Centre.

#### TATE MUSEUMS

SINCE MAY 2019

##### *Freelance Conservator*

I work as a freelance conservator for Tate Museums helping their team of conservators on a variety of tasks including: condition assessment of artworks before loans, completing loan administration, locating and photographing Artworks as well as exhibition installations.

#### THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION

SUMMER 2018 – 2020

##### *Chair - Book & Paper Group Events and Training Subcommittee*

As the chair of the E&T Subcommittee I was responsible for overseeing a team of 6 committee members, organising quarterly meetings and delegating tasks to the team to ensure the implementation of a regular schedule of training opportunities for Book & Paper Conservators in the UK.

In this role I also managed the budgets & eventbrite booking pages for workshops, lectures and conferences. I have also purchased equipment that has enabled the committee to live stream some of its events to help improve accessibility which we used during lockdown in 2020 to offer a lecture series for conservators called Conservation at Home.

## THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW

2020 - 2025

### *Senior Conservator- Book and Paper Archives*

I worked as part of a busy Collection Care Department on a variety of different projects both as a team member and team leader. Conservation treatments ranged from remedial repairs, making documents accessible to readers, to in-depth research projects around the collections' most damaged books. I also had responsibilities to supervise interns and organise outreach activities to educate staff and the public about the work of Collection Care.

I organised a research project to survey some of the oldest limp parchment bindings in the archives' collection focusing on the latest data management processes and issues, in line with Linked Data which included a research trip to study over 300 bindings at the State Archives in Florence.

2014 - 2020

### *Conservator- Book and Paper Archives*

I worked as one of two book conservators in the Collection Care Department. Carrying out a range of conservation treatments from minimal to interventive. Planning and overseeing projects in collaboration with staff and other stakeholders. Supervising interns.

I was routinely responsible for Customer Enquiries: answering calls to staff and readers when they require the advice or guidance of a conservator. I was recently the book and paper conservator consulted and filmed for Blue Peter as part of their 40th Anniversary Time Capsule Project.

2016 - 2017

### *Conservation Manager - Exhibitions and Loans (maternity cover)*

Technical Competencies: Managed a team of 3 to ensure the success of a busy external loans and exhibitions programme. In this time I oversaw the loan of one of the volumes of the Great Domesday Book to Lincoln Castle.

I was also responsible for training new members of the team in mounting, framing and loans administration. I also trained several other members of the department to work as couriers to ease pressure off of the loans team during particularly busy periods.

## PZ CONSERVATION CIC

2012–2014

### *HLF/ICON Trainee in Lizzie Neville's private book conservation studio*

Worked as a trainee in a busy private conservation studio in Penzance. The work involved treating books owned by a mix of national institutions in London including the Imperial War Museums, National Gallery and Wellcome Collection, as well as privately locally owned books. My outreach work involved developing and implementing a series of practical training days for employees and volunteers of local heritage institutions, and working to promote conservation in the local community.

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## EDUCATION

### - WEST DEAN COLLEGE

MA IN CONSERVATION STUDIES, SPECIALISING IN BOOKS AND LIBRARY  
MATERIALS

2010–SEPT 2011

A self-directed survey and practical research project was conducted at the Victoria & Albert Museum, examining techniques and materials which could be used for infilling losses in 20th Century coated paper materials. Conservation work was carried out on 20th Century magazines from the National Art Library and technical surface examination and replication was analysed with the use of a glossmeter.

### - POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA, BOOKS CONSERVATION

2010–2011

### - GRADUATE DIPLOMA, BOOKS CONSERVATION (DISTINCTION)

2010

### - UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

2008

BA (HONS.) IN ENGLISH LITERATURE (UPPER SECOND CLASS HONOURS)