Newsletter

Winter 2017

News

Lynton at Buckingham Palace

In May we were lucky enough to be invited to London to deliver a CPD session on laser cleaning to a group of conservators, building surveyors and project managers at Buckingham Palace. The visit also included laser cleaning tests carried out on architectural and sculptural elements (Coade stone) on the west terrace, from which unwanted paint layers and black pollution crusts were successfully removed without any damage to the stone surface.

Compact Phoenix system arrives at Sardis archaeological site

One of our Compact Phoenix systems, complete with both NdYAG (1064nm) and ErYAG (2940nm) laser handpieces, has finally arrived at its destination in western Turkey: the important archaeological site at Sardis (capital of the Lydian empire in the 7th and 6th centuries BC and a major centre in Persian, Hellenistic and Roman times). The Archaeological Exploration of Sardis was founded in 1958 by Harvard University and Cornell University with the support of the authorities in Turkey. Each year's team consists of 50-60 scholars, students, and professionals from the United States, Turkey, and around the world, including experts in archaeology, conservation, art history and other disciplines. Over the past half-century more than 700 students and scholars from more than 100 institutions have worked at Sardis – we are excited that one of our laser cleaning systems will now be used at such an important archaeological site and are very much looking forward to working with the team.

©Archaeological Exploration of Sardis/President and Fellows of Harvard College

Lynton in Romania

In February we visited southern Romania for the first time to install one of our Compact Phoenix laser cleaning systems in the newly refurbished conservation studio at the Museum of Oltenia in the city of Craiova. We also carried out a training workshop which was well attended by conservators from the museum, Sibiu and Bucharest and are now looking forward to working with the museum and supporting laser cleaning in Romania for many years to come.

Lynton and Hirst Conservation return to St. Mary's church, Tutbury

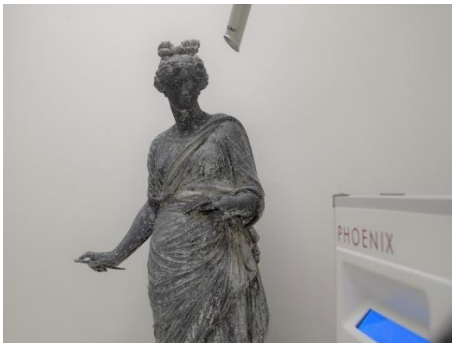
At the request of Hirst Conservation Ltd. we returned to St. Mary's church in Tutbury (Staffordshire, UK) in October to carry out further laser cleaning tests with Hirst on the 12th-century alabaster archivolt. The weather wasn't great but the results were very impressive and laser cleaning certainly seems to be the best method for removing the black pollution crust from the extremely fragile alabaster surface. Fingers crossed that conservation of this important element of the Norman doorway gets the go-ahead in 2018.

Laser cleaning at the Glyptotek museum

In the summer, conservators at the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek museum (Copenhagen, Denmark) made excellent use of one of our rental systems to clean its 'Naos with two kings' from Hawara, Egypt (1750BC). Conservators had been unable to remove the pollution layers with other methods of cleaning but found that our laser provided excellent selectivity and control to enable effective removal of the dirt layers without damaging the surface of the pink granite. The work attracted a lot of attention in Denmark and was featured in newspapers, social media and on Danish television.

Compact Phoenix system used to clean 19th-century cast zinc sculpture

Conservators at De Vink Restauratiewerken b.v. have used our Compact Phoenix system to remove unwanted paint and corrosion from the surface of cast zinc sculpture at Huize De Paauw, now the town hall in Wassenaar, the Netherlands. The use of cast-zinc for manufacturing sculpture and architectural elements was a short-lived fashion in the middle of the 19th-century and only a very few examples of "Berliner Zinkguß" can still be found in the Netherlands today.



Compact Phoenix system used in conservation work at St. George's Cathedral

Following successful tests carried out in 2015, Paye Conservation Ltd. has used our Compact Phoenix system during recent conservation of the important limestone panels at St. George's Cathedral (Southwark, London) attributed to Augustus Pugin. The motifs and inscription were in extremely fragile condition and laser cleaning has enabled very gentle removal of pollution crusts from a very friable surface, enabling much-needed consolidation work to be carried out effectively.

Research with Manchester University

We have teamed up with the world-renowned Physics department at Manchester University to conduct detailed research into ErYAG laser cleaning applications in conservation and, in particular, into the use of this wavelength for removing oxidised bronze paint from gilded surfaces including frames and furniture. We are delighted to welcome our new PhD student, Pawita Boonrat, to Lynton – Pawita started her research in October and will be dividing her time between our Holmes Chapel site and the world-class analytical facilities at Manchester University.

Training

Our laser cleaning training courses have again been well attended this year - dates for 2018 will be announced soon on the training section of our website. Bespoke training either at our newly refurbished workshop in Holmes Chapel or off-site can also be arranged – please contact us for further details.

Events

- Laser Cleaning in Conservation training workshops (1 day): Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, USA (spring 2018); Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, USA (autumn 2018). Dates to be confirmed.
- Introduction to Laser Cleaning in Conservation training course (1 day), Holmes Chapel (UK): Dates for 2018 to be confirmed – please contact us for further information.
- LACONA XII (Lasers in the Conservation of Artworks) conference, Paris, September 2018.

Please contact us for further information on any of the above or if you have any questions about training, testing, renting or purchasing one of our laser cleaning systems.