HOLDEN CONSERVATION LTD

Walker Monument
St Mary, Bow

Cleaning Trials and Further Treatment Options

by
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1.0 Condition of the Monument prior to any Conservation Treatment.



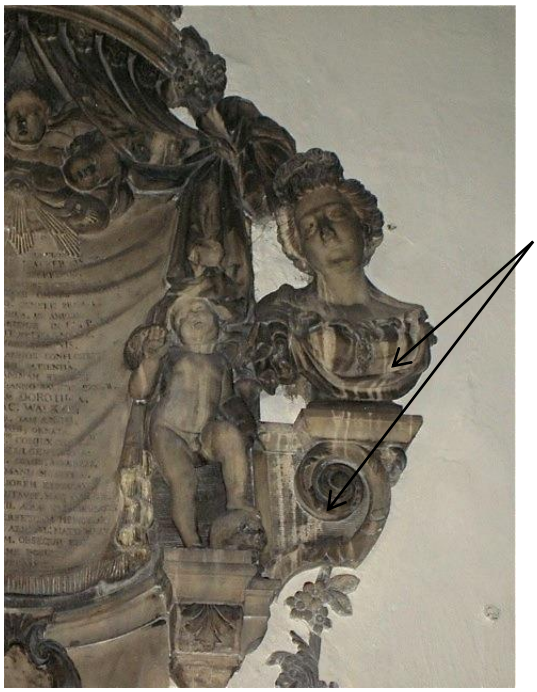
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The monument had a thick coating of both surface and ingrained dirt. A number of run marks could be seen on the marble possibly where water had been running over the surface of the marble in the past.

The type and level of soiling on the Walker monument appears to be similar to the Coburne monuments in the Nave, indicating that similar methods of cleaning would probably be required to achieve the same results on these monuments.

2.0 Condition of Monument after Initial Conservation Treatment.

The monument was cleaned with a solvent solution of white spirit, water and detergent (Synperonic A7) using small bristle brushes and cotton wool swabs.



The surface dirt was removed but the ingrained dirt remained. While the monument was cleaner and less blacken the removal of the surface dirt enabled more of the run marks to be seen over the marble.

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3.0 Cleaning Trials.

Two Laponite water poultices were applied to the marble. The first poultice was left on for seven hours and the second poultice was left on overnight. Once the poultices were removed the marble was cleaned with water using small bristle brushes and cotton wool swabs.



The monument before any cleaning was undertaken.

The first poultice (in contact with the surface of the marble for 7 hours) would be placed on the left hand shoulder of the male bust.

The second poultice (in contact with the surface of the marble overnight) would be placed on the right hand shoulder of the male bust.

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The bust after the first poultice was removed and the marble cleaned.

The bust after the second poultice was removed and the marble cleaned.

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The result of the application of the first Laponite water poultice (in contact with the surface of the marble for 7 hours) revealed that the ingrained dirt was partially removed, but the clean was uneven and some of the marble remained dirty.

The result of the application of the second Laponite water poultice (in contact with the surface of the marble overnight) revealed that most of the ingrained dirt could be removed. Some dirt remained within the pitted surface of the marble.

Examination of the cleaning trials a few days after the poultice application seemed to indicate that the poultice had not mobilised any minerals within marble, which might have appeared as stains on the surface of the marble.

4.0 Treatment Options.

4.1 The whole of the monument will be poulticed with a Laponite and water poultice, to be left in contact with the marble overnight. Only sufficient poultice will be applied to the marble that can be removed and the marble cleaned the next day.

4.2 Immediately after the removal of the poultice the marble will be cleaned with small bristle brushes and cotton wool swabs. Steam cleaning will also be used in places were the dirt remains in the pitted surface of the marble.

4.3 An allowance will be made for a second poultice application on areas of persistent or very blacken dirt.

4.4 Any visually distracting run marks that remain will be toned with acrylic paint to match the marble.

4.5 The monument will be given a coat of microcrystaline wax.

4.6 The distemper wall paint around the monument will be made good.

5.0 Costs for the works as outlined in the treatment options.

(solvent clean took 10 days)
poultice clean, incl. steam - 15 days
2nd poultice - 1½ days
touch out, tone, wax - 2 day
set up and removal of scaffolding tower - 1 day
materials - minimal except Laponite

All in the sum of £4,000.00

All costs are shown exclusive of VAT.