



CARDIFF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVATOR WINS 2010 PLOWDEN MEDAL

David Watkinson has been awarded the Royal Warrant Holder Association's 2010 Plowden Medal in recognition of his significant and innovative work in archaeological conservation. The medal will be presented to him by The Duchess of Northumberland at the Royal Warrant Holders Association Lunch in London on 1st June 2010.

The Plowden Medal recognises David Watkinson's outstanding contribution to archaeological conservation through his teaching, research and science based work. He has worked unstintingly to develop and deliver conservation training and education at Cardiff University for over 30 years. His research work on controlling corrosion in archaeological and historical ironwork is highly regarded and has been widely published gaining him international recognition. This has culminated in his groundbreaking work on S.S. Great Britain, and his contribution towards controlling the environment surrounding the ship thereby reducing its corrosive effects.

The gold medal, inaugurated in 1999, is awarded by the Royal Warrant Holders Association in memory of the late Hon. Anna Plowden CBE, the leading conservator who was Vice-President of the Association at the time of her death in 1997. The Medal is presented annually to the individual who has made the most significant recent contribution to the advancement of the conservation profession. It can also be awarded to recognise a lifetime of commitment and achievement.

David Watkinson was elected a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation at the age of 29 and has had a life-long interest and commitment to conservation. He attaches great importance to the sharing of knowledge and research, as is demonstrated by his active participation in conferences and research projects and through serving on many boards and committees for the benefit of the greater conservation community.

He has written more than fifty publications exploring heritage conservation and has been involved in training several hundred conservators at Cardiff University who now occupy posts across the globe from Australia through Japan and Korea, to Greece and Scandinavia, through America and Canada. Many Cardiff graduates occupy important positions with a significant influence on preservation of world heritage.

His many media appearances have enabled him to bring the importance of conservation to a wider audience through television news slots commenting on events such as the burning of the Cutty Sark in 2007; in depth programmes that have explored details of the Llandeilo wall paintings and SS Great Britain to popular programmes such as "Flog It".

Ends .../.

7th April, 2010

Further information:

David Watkinson: Tel: – Email:

Shelley-Anne Claircourt (RWHA Press): 020 7854 1827 – Email:

info@pressoffice.co.uk

Richard Peck (RWHA): 020 7828 2268 – Email: richard.peck@rwha.co.uk

Photographs will be taken of David Watkinson receiving the Plowden Medal at the Royal Warrant Holders Luncheon on 1st June 2010. Copies will be available from Shelley-Anne Claircourt at info@pressoffice.co.uk or 020.7854 1827.