



April 2003

PAINTINGS CONSERVATOR FROM SCOTLAND

AWARDED PLOWDEN MEDAL

Clare Meredith, a leading paintings conservator from Scotland, has been awarded the Royal Warrant Holders Association 2003 Plowden Medal. The award has been made in recognition of Ms Meredith's tireless and selfless commitment to helping others and striving for the highest standards in the conservation profession. She will be presented with the Medal by The Lord Chamberlain, The Lord Luce, at the Royal Warrant Holders Association lunch in London on 3 June.

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 awarded 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.

Ms Meredith studied at University College, London, and the Courtauld Institute of Art before becoming an independent private paintings conservator. She moved to Edinburgh and, in 1984, established a studio at Hopetoun House in West Lothian. This highly respected private practice, the largest and longest-established of its kind in Scotland, carries out work for private and public sector clients. The studio's extensive list of commissions has included complex treatments to severely flood-damaged paintings from Perth Museum, work to the new National War Museum of Scotland's collection prior to its opening, and the reinstatement of 13 large canvases making up the Lonsdale Frieze at Mount

Stuart, Isle of Bute. Other clients include The Royal Collection, Aberdeen Art Gallery and The National Trust for Scotland.

As a former Chair of the Scottish Society for Conservation and Restoration (SSCR), she was a key organiser behind the prestigious International Council of Museums – Conservation Committee. (ICOM-CC) Triennial Conference hosted by the Society in Edinburgh in 1996. This was the first and only time the conference has been held in the UK and it was hailed as the best ICOM-CC conference ever. Committed to an international vision for conservation, Ms Meredith was also instrumental in achieving SSCR's admittance to full membership of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations. She has also represented SSCR on the National Council for Conservation-Restoration (NCCR) for two years and continues to work for NCCR, under whose aegis rapid progress is being made towards the creation of a single new unified body for the conservation-restoration profession. Since May 2002 NCCR's twelve member organisations have examined the possibility of creating a new body and, as part of the process, all members of the profession are now being consulted.

Ms Meredith devotes much of her time and energy to raising standards and the general good of the profession. She is an inspirational leader and excellent communicator, regarded with admiration and affection by peers and protégés alike. She gives unstinting support to conservation students, new conservators and experienced colleagues. While championing the highest professional and ethical standards, Ms Meredith has put similar energy into creating opportunities for young people. Since 1997 she has been co-ordinator of Historic Scotland's Internship Scheme for conservation graduates.

Comments Andrew Prendergast, Royal Warrant Holders Association President, "We are delighted to make this award to Clare Meredith who, for more than 25 years has made an outstanding contribution to conservation. It is particularly pleasing that she should receive the medal as her aspirations for the profession and her achievements have many parallels with those of Anna Plowden."

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