

Monument # 10 William Toone (Steward to the Savile Family) † 1850

The Works

A wall mounted monument, comprising of white and light-grey marbles (and sandstone backing panel), with black paint to the inscription panel, with black and red paint to the shield. The monument was cleaned using a combination of solvents, Solvol Autosol, Sepiolite clay and steam.

1 Monument Description

- 1.1 The monument comprises of a light-grey marble background panel, which has a sandstone backing panel itself. This background has a triangular shaped head and is also shaped along the bottom bed, mirroring the profile of the corbels. The white marble elements comprise of a pair of stepped, flanking pilasters (with blind tracery) and pinnacles complete with carved crockets. Pierced bratishing sits above a moulded cornice, complete with foliate decoration. The inscription panel has a shallow arch above it complete with blind tracery in the spandrels. On the bottom bed, a central heraldic shield is flanked by a pair of ornate foliated corbels.
- 1.2 The monument is ascribed to: Bromley Sculptor Leeds.

2 Location

- 2.1 The monument is located on the south elevation of the aisle, between a pair of tracery windows and immediately above the recess that is thought to have housed a solid fuel burner historically. The bottom bed is 3.10m above finished floor level.

3 Condition Assessment

- 3.1 Once a fixed access scaffold was safely erected, a fingertip survey of all surfaces was possible. A photographic survey was undertaken before works commenced.
- 3.2 There were no obvious signs of separation between the (cheaper) sandstone backing panel and the (expensive) decorative marble background. There is however minor separation between the rear of the background panel and the sandstone to the viewers' lower, left-hand side and the majority of the right-hand intersection between the sandstone and the plaster.
- 3.3 There is very minor resonance over the whole of the monument, except the left-hand side adjacent to the unstable 'Armiger' monument.
- 3.4 The pierced bratishing was all loose upon close inspection, albeit secured on small diameter copper dowels. Both pinnacle tops and the right-hand pilaster top were also loose. All these elements were removed and re-secured after cleaning was completed.
- 3.5 The delicate bratishing displayed a number of fractures and historic repairs, which had been repaired crudely in the past. Two of the terminations had fractured and been stuck back on with a combination of shellac and gypsum plaster.

4 Conservation Works

Cleaning

- 4.1 All elements underwent a preliminary dry clean with a vacuum cleaner to remove the heavy layers of dust.
- 4.2 A series of cleaning and solubility trials were conducted on representative areas of the marbles and painted surfaces which all responded well.
- 4.3 The whole monument was degreased with acetone applied on cotton wool pads which removed much surface dirt. All elements were then poulticed (in sections) with a single application of Sepiolite clay, left for a dwell time of twenty-four hours. This softened a distinct layer of dirt and made its removal relatively easy with the steam cleaner. Once dry all areas were cleaned further with 'Solvol Autosol' applied by a mixture of stencil brushes and cotton wool pads, neutralised immediately with white spirit. This was successful in returning some lustre back to the grey marble. The loose bratishing was all carefully removed to allow ease of poulticing and the same process applied, before re-fixing.
- 4.4 The painted surfaces of the heraldic shield were cleaned using cotton wool swabs dampened with de-ionised water, which were rolled over the surface to pick up dirt. This avoided disrupting the paint layer, which was not fugative, and negating the need for surface consolidation.

5 Repair

- 5.1 The bratishing was repaired using existing holes and 3mm diameter threaded stainless-steel dowelling where possible. The aged marble was too thin to risk drilling new holes no matter how small, for fear of shattering the break edges. The areas of corresponding background marble that had been keyed to receive them previously were cleaned to remove all aged plaster and so provide a better key. The repaired elements were then re-adhered to the monument successfully, using 'Polyfilla'
- 5.2 The resulting joint lines were pointed with a mortar designed to be softer than the host material. This was a mixture of 'Tetrion' filler (a proprietary, cellulose based material) mixed with powdered, gilders whiting (calcium carbonate) in the ratio of 3 : 1. This material has the advantage of being reversible. Lime mortars employed on a non-permeable material (alabaster) often fail or do not achieve their anticipated strength due to their thin width and depth and can end up falling out in our experience.



General view of the monument before any treatments. This monument is difficult to photograph in free space. Note how dirty the background marble is and appears to be a dark-grey material. Note the monument is situated immediately above the recess which is believed to have had a solid fuel stove within it historically.



The background panel after cleaning with the loose pinnacle and bratishing removed for cleaning and re-attaching properly. Note the veining to the background marble is visible once again.



The loose bratishing sections after cleaning and before re-joining broken sections, prior to re-fixing. The bratishing was re-fixed with Polyfilla.



General view of the underside of the monument from floor level, before cleaning. Despite being in shadow, the foliated right-hand corbel is black. Note the levels of soiling to the moulding voussoir of the arch beneath.



A similar view with the boards peeled back. The right corbel is clean but still displays a brown cast. The left corbel and flat background are covered with the poultice prior to removal.



Cleaning the shield at the bottom of the monument, without disrupting the paint beneath.