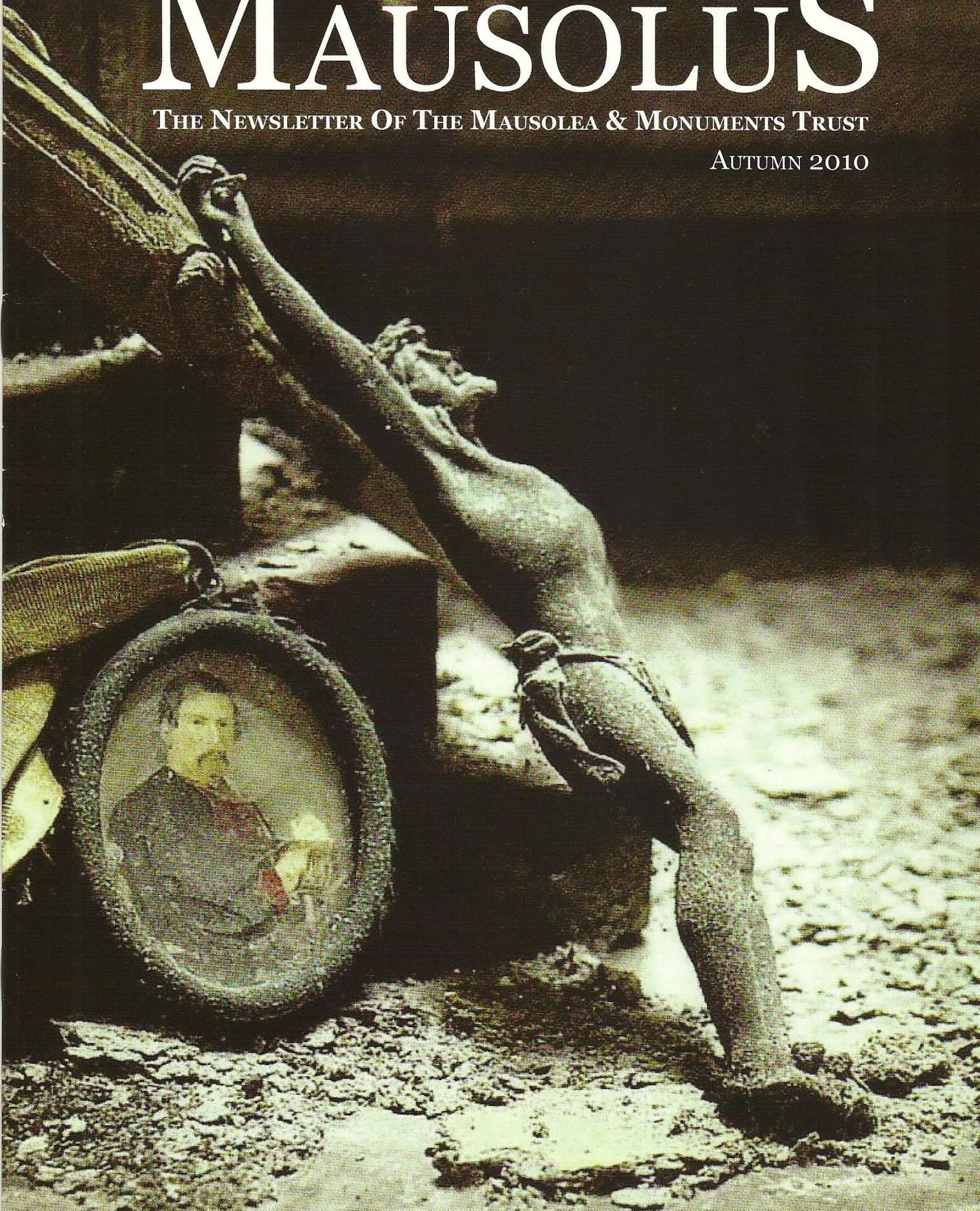


MAUSOLUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MAUSOLEA & MONUMENTS TRUST

AUTUMN 2010



The Mausolea & Monuments Trust
70 Cowcross Street
London EC1M 6EJ

020 7608 1441
www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk

Detail of the interior of the Burton Mausoleum, before artefacts were removed for conservation. © Alexa Bailey

ISSN 2042-3071

Patrons

Professor James Stevens Curl
Tim Knox

Honorary Secretary

John St. Brioc Hooper

Trustees

Roger Bowdler (Chairman)

Carolyn Cocke
Piers Feltham
David Heath
Robert Heathcote
Ian Johnson
Alastair Laing
Hannah Parham
Gavin Stamp
Leanne Targett-Parker
Pat Thomas
Charles Wagner

MMT News is published three times year by the Mausolea & Monuments Trust. All contents © MMT 2010 except where otherwise indicated.

Members and others are warmly encouraged to contribute photos, news and features to:

Ms. Hannah Parham

62 Lamb's Conduit Street
London WC1N 3LW

hannah.parham@english-heritage.org.uk

From the Secretary

The Mausolea & Monuments Trust relies solely on members' subscriptions and donations to fulfil its unique role. Have you considered membership as a gift? Our newest member received his membership as a birthday present from his wife. Many Happy Returns to you, Sir, and welcome to membership of the Trust!

We encourage all our members to purchase gift membership for a friend or family member. As an incentive, we are offering a limited edition book of postcards, showing some of the country's finest mausolea, to all members who do so before Christmas 2010. Membership forms are available on the website. Please complete them in your own name (needed for payment purposes) and include a note stating you are requesting gift membership, giving the full name, email address and postal address of the recipient. We'll then send you notification that membership has been processed along with your postcards.

The Trust is extremely grateful to the support provided by our volunteers, Peter and Caroline Fuller, who have staffed the office at regular intervals over the last two years. They have recently stood down from their role and we are seeking a new volunteer who can pop into 70 Cowcross Street to undertake various tasks every now and again.

Please contact mausolea@btconnect.com if you are interested.

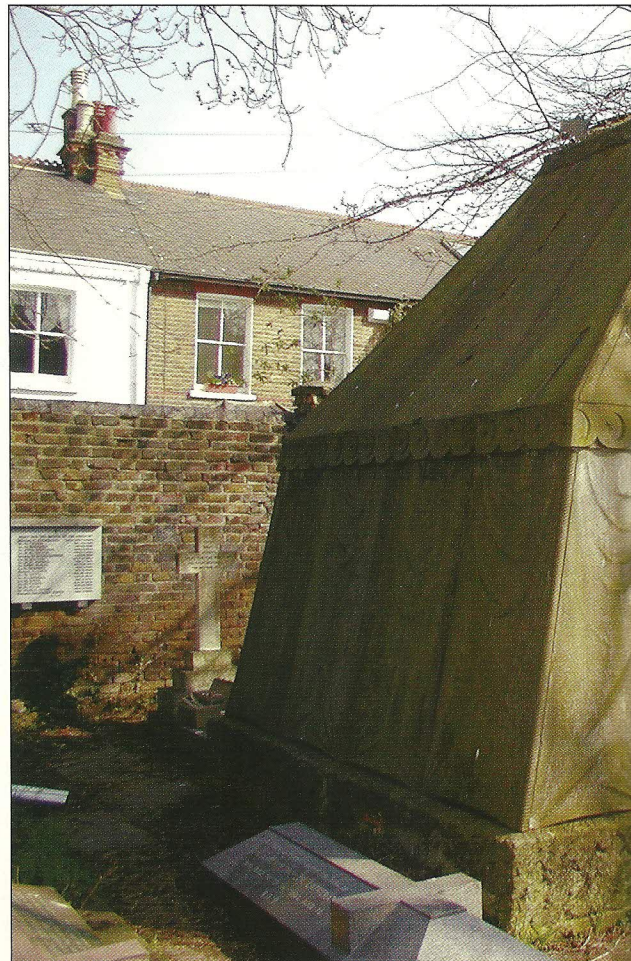
'He to whom adventures were as toys': The Burton Mausoleum, Mortlake, London

Jean Hall, of the Friends of Burton Mausoleum, tells of a singular personality and his singular tomb, which has recently been restored by a dedicated group of volunteers

In the graveyard of St Mary Magdalen RC Church at Mortlake, south-west London, an exotic mausoleum in the shape of a tent marks the final resting place of one of the most remarkable men of the nineteenth century, Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton, KCMG, FRGS. Yet Burton's celebrity was not enough to ensure his tomb's ongoing care; the Grade II*-listed mausoleum has suffered the ravages of weather, vandalism, neglect and time. It fell into such an abysmal state it was included in English Heritage's Register of Buildings at Risk.

In recent years, after a detailed study of the work required for its restoration, an urgent appeal was instigated by a local group, The Friends of Burton, led by Yannick Banks. The target of £50,000 was set, and a generous grant of over £25,000 from English Heritage was secured by the Environment Trust for Richmond. A successful fund-raising dinner was held at the East India Club in May 2010 in Burton's honour. Additional funds also came from private donors and The Heritage of London Trust. Restoration work began on July 5th 2010, completed in time for October 20th 2010, exactly one hundred and twenty years after Burton's death.

The Mausoleum, with its fusion of Christian and Islamic symbols reflecting Burton's eclectic taste, is of great historical value and has become a place of pilgrimage for admirers from all over the world. The site was chosen by Richard and his wife Isabel (nee Arundell) during a visit to the Mortlake cemetery in the summer of 1864. Selecting their plot near other Arundell graves already there, Burton decreed: "We will have it here; it is like a nice little family hotel". After Burton's death, his wife built the



The exterior of the Mausoleum before restoration

Mausoleum as a memorial, mostly from public subscription. Fortunately for those involved in the restoration project, she left a very full description of the Mausoleum as it looked at the time of his funeral on June 1st, 1891:

The tent is sculptured in Forest of Dean stone and white Carrara marble. It is an Arab tent, twelve foot by twelve and eighteen foot high, surmounted by a gilt star of nine points. Over the top of the door of the tent is a white marble crucifix. The fringe is composed of gilt cressets and stars. The flap of the tent supports an open book of white marble, on which are inscribed Richard's name and the dates of his

decease ... Below, on a white marble tablet is a beautiful sonnet written in a passion of grief by Justin Huntly McCarthy."

"FAREWELL DEAR FRIEND, DEAD HERO! THE GREAT LIFE



Restoration work began. © Holden Conservation

IS ENDED, THE GREAT PERILS,
THE GREAT JOYS;
AND HE TO WHOM ADVENTURES
WERE AS TOYS,
WHO SEEMED TO BEAR A CHARM
'GAINST SPEAR OR KNIFE
OR BULLET, NOW LIES SILENT
FROM ALL STRIFE
OUT YONDER WHERE THE
AUSTRIAN EAGLES POISE
ON ISTRIAN HILLS. BUT ENGLAND,
AT THE NOISE
OF THAT DREAD FALL, WEEPS
WITH THE HERO'S WIFE.
OH, LAST AND NOBLEST OF THE
ERRANT KNIGHTS,
THE ENGLISH SOLDIER AND THE
ARAB SHIEK!

OH, SINGER OF THE EAST WHO
LOVED SO WELL
THE DEATHLESS WONDER OF
THE "ARABIAN NIGHTS",
WHO TOUCHED CAMOEN'S LUTE
AND STILL WOULD SEEK
EVER NEW DEEDS UNTIL THE
END! FAREWELL!"

According to Isabel, Burton had a horror of darkness, so she concludes... "He has got the very thing he wanted, only of stone and marble instead of canvas – to be buried in a tent above ground; to have sun and light and air, trees, birds and flowers. I have sent to the desert for a string of camel bells, which will hang across the tent, and like an Aeolian lamp when the wind blows, the tinkle of camel bells may still sound near to him."

The work on the restoration began with the cleaning of the stonework. The Mausoleum's structure was found to be generally sound but with penetrating damp adversely affecting the frescoes and memorabilia. Before the conservation of the interior took place, an inventory was made and artefacts photographed in situ before being removed for cleaning. Lime-wash was applied to the exterior to match the Forest of Dean stone and to provide protection. The frieze

of stars and crescents around the edge of the roof had a base coat applied before gilding.

The Mausoleum is the sole monument dedicated to Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton, who would have been an extraordinary man in any era. In the Victorian age of exploration and daring, he excelled both in exploits and achievements. He was a fearless traveller, accomplished linguist and author of countless books and monographs. His close friend, the poet Swinburne, said of him "he rode life's list as a god might ride".

Burton's approach to life was non-conformist, heterodox and

confrontational; too much of an outsider for some staid Victorians, although held in high regard by his friends. Intense rivalries, aggressive bravura and a contempt for authority meant that he did not receive the recognition he deserved. 'Honour, not honours' was his motto. Nevertheless, he believed deeply in firm British rule in its burgeoning empire.

Burton joined the East India service in 1842 and explored the Nilgiri Hills, served for five years in Sind with Sir Charles Napier. As part of intelligence work for Napier, Burton studied a local male brothel near the Army camp and wrote a salacious account of it. His literary style was full of local colour, with a richness of language and luxuriance of opinion that it appears to have led to a premature end to his army career; when this secret account surfaced later, so explicit was it in content he was denied his request to fight in the Second Sikh War.

Depressed, disillusioned and in bad health, Burton returned to Europe to live with his mother and sister in Boulogne. It was here on the promenade that he first met Isabel. Soon he would travel again and in 1853 he set out for Arabia, to visit the cities of Mecca and Medina. He came to love the austerity of the desert, male camaraderie and warrior pride. Burton soaked up the lore and life of Islam and learned to recite the Qu'ran. The apogee of his adventures was his Hajj pilgrimage in 1853.

Burton then turned his attention to the exploration of Africa and after a perilous journey to Harrar in Somaliland, in 1856 he set off from Zanzibar to lead the ill-fated search for the source of the Nile, the Holy Grail of Victorian exploration. He penetrated the lake regions of Central Africa, discovering Lake Tanganyika in 1858. The Royal Geographical Society obituary said of him: "His permanent fame as an explorer will rest on his journey to Lake Tanganyika, which ranks among the greatest deeds in the history of African discovery."

Burton served in the Crimean War in 1856, the year he became engaged to Isabel, whom he married in 1861. Isabel accompanied him in his later travels, obeying his instructions to join him. As

Isabel wrote "He always said 'I am gone – pay pack and follow'. Reader, I have paid, I have packed, I have suffered. I am waiting to join his caravan. I am waiting for a welcome sound, the tinkling of his camel bell."

The outcome of so many experiences was the issue of various books, and a mastery of over twenty languages and numerous dialects. In 1885-88 he published a new and literal translation of The Arabian Nights, which was highly praised by Arabic scholars and brought him fame and notoriety. A bemused Burton wrote "I struggled for 47 years in every way I possibly could. I never had a compliment not a 'thank you', nor a single farthing. I translated a doubtful book in my old age, and immediately made 16,000 guineas.

Now I know the tastes of England, we need never be without money."

Burton was to become British consul, successively, at Fernando Po, Santos in Brazil, and Damascus. His last posting was to Trieste, where he later died in 1871. He was co-founder of the Anthropological Society of London in 1863 and was a Fellow and Gold Medal winner of the Royal Geographical Society. Burton was knighted in 1886. Isabel died in 1896 and her more modest coffin was placed next to his as she had requested.

The restored Burton Mausoleum stands as a fitting memorial to a truly great man and it is hoped this exemplary restoration will inspire similar schemes. Work is ongoing. A maintenance plan is essential

and help is still needed to ensure that the condition of the Mausoleum is never allowed to deteriorate again.

The conservator who carried out the restoration was Holden Conservation Ltd. Technical advice was provided by the Conservation Architect, Helen Molton, AABC, of the renowned London based international architects HOK. Additional support was provided by Paul Velluet, RIBA, IHBC.

For further information please visit the website of the Environment Trust:
www.environmenttrust.co.uk/projects/42-burtons-tomb.html

or contact the Friends of Burton at:
info@friendsofburton.org.uk

Hope Springs to Grade II*

English Heritage's Carole Ryan explains why the organisation recommended that the listing of Thomas Hope's Mausoleum be upgraded in April 2010

The Hope Mausoleum is unique among all the buildings I have ever inspected because so little of the structure was visible at the time of inspection; only the stone pediment on the south east front was exposed. This was the result of a novel response to the perceived threat of vandalism which had affected this isolated structure in the 1960s. Instead of removing the vandals from the mausoleum, the mausoleum was literally removed from the vandals by burying it completely. The Hope Mausoleum had been listed Grade II before it had been buried; English Heritage was now asked to consider whether it merited upgrading to II*.

It was fortunate that I had a report on the Mausoleum of 2009 by Alexander Bagnell of Mole Valley District Council, and his assistance in locating it. Besides the historical background, the report reproduced external photographs of 1919 and internal photographs of c1960 taken before the Mausoleum was buried. The photographs showed that the Mausoleum was constructed in ashlar with a pedimented ante-chamber in front of the burial chamber. 1919

photographs showed cast iron gates with fishscale patterns to the fanlight and double doors with square panels with patterns of intersecting diagonals to the ante-chamber. These were not visible but it was likely that they might survive beneath the 1957 bricks and render applied to prevent vandalism. It was also likely that the vaulted chamber survived intact beneath its mound, but more problematical whether the brick retaining walls flanking the pediment and courtyard walls with cast iron railings and gate piers had survived.

According to Government criteria, the Hope Mausoleum would need to be of more than special interest to qualify for Grade II*. The principles of selection for commemorative structures are quality of design, sculptural quality, historical interest of the commemorated person, or epitaph and rarity (of materials, style etc.). There are probably not more than about 50 examples of pre-1840 mausolea on the statutory list, of which 5 are grade I, 8 Grade II* and the remainder Grade II. The Hope Mausoleum is on a larger scale than many other pre-1840 mausolea. It is also an early and rare example of a Greek Revival-style mausoleum and its very simplicity and severity are important aspects of its significance. The Mausoleum has an impressive sculptural quality illustrated by the exterior pedimented ante-chamber and the vaulted burial chamber.

The Hope Mausoleum is of more than special historical interest as it was commissioned by Thomas Hope, a major figure in Regency England as an art collector, connoisseur and promoter of the Neo-Classical style. This is enhanced by the likelihood that he had a strong design input into the Mausoleum, as he did to The Deepdene, his country house. He and members of his family are buried here and the Mausoleum is now the only surviving building in the country commissioned, and perhaps partly designed, by Thomas Hope, since sadly both The Deepdene and his London residence have been demolished. These factors made a strong case for upgrading, which was confirmed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in April 2010.

Now that the Hope Mausoleum has been upgraded to II*, I wish the Mausolea & Monuments Trust every success in raising the funding to restore this most significant building.

Postscript: since Mrs Ryan visited the Hope Mausoleum, excavation has revealed that the fishscale fanlights, iron openwork doors and the exquisite stone vaulted roof do survive, but not the flanking walls or railings.

The Mausolea & Monuments Trust's campaign for restoration has begun, at www.justgiving.com/HopeSpringsEternal

The Philipson Mausoleum at Golders Green Crematorium, by Lutyens, 1914



The Chairman writes: Tucked away at the side of London's finest modern landscapes of death is this striking mausoleum, designed by (Sir) Edwin Lutyens. The Indian influence is immediately apparent in the form of the woven screen, familiar from Hindu funerary architecture and adapted for use at New Delhi.

Inside is a circular cell containing a pool, two urns, and an atmosphere of great calm and detachment from earthly travail, all realised on a very restricted scale. Geometry plays a sacred part here, and the sylvan setting beside the great sward of ash-strewn grass, open to the Middlesex skies, reinforces the reposeful mystery of this very special mausoleum. Does anyone know of a finer Twentieth Century rival?

If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to visit the very special Golders Green Crematorium: Autumn is a good time to visit. Let us know if you are interested in coming - it is worth the fee for a sight of the Towers of Silence alone, with their aerial ranks of urn-filled loculi rising upwards, with so many precious phials of ash and memory.

The Mary Watts Russell Memorial Cross: A Tale of Love, a Lost Owner and Perseverance

Lawyer and Mausolea & Monuments Trust trustee Pat Thomas describes how one man's crusade coupled with timely legal advice enabled the restoration of a forgotten monument.

The campaign to save the Mary Watts Russell Memorial, also known as the Ilam Cross, is a fine example the virtue of perseverance. It also demonstrates the various legal powers and procedures that are available to acquire 'orphan' mausolea or monuments, provided that there is a sympathetic local planning authority.

The memorial cross is located in Ilam, an estate village in Staffordshire within the Peak District National Park, designed by George Gilbert Scott. The Cross was erected in 1840 by Jesse Watts-Russell, the squire of Ilam, in memory of his first wife Mary. The Cross was designed in the style of an Eleanor Cross by John Macduff Derick, who in the same year had submitted a design for the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford, although the version designed by George Gilbert Scott and Moffatt was preferred.

By the second half of the twentieth century the Cross had become isolated on a virtual traffic island, was seemingly ownerless, and in a decaying condition. Two factors prevented its further deterioration: it was listed at Grade II* in February 1967 and cared for by local people. When the top stage of the Cross was blown down in a storm in the early 1960s, a simple replacement cross was funded by one Mr Wendell Holmes.

In recent years a sustained campaign for the preservation of the Cross has developed, spear-headed by Phil

Mottram, a Manchester-born local whose deep love of the Peak District countryside led to this personal crusade. Through his efforts the Peak District National Park Authority, as the local planning authority, in 2003 agreed to make a compulsory purchase order, provided that there was a legal entity to which the ownership of the Cross could be transferred. The Authority required a binding legal agreement with

Building Repairs Notice under section 48 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, specifying the works that were considered to be reasonably necessary for the proper preservation of the building. In the absence of details about the owner, notices were fixed near the Cross and in the local newspaper. After two months, as no-one came forward claiming ownership or acknowledging any responsibility for the repair of the Cross, the Authority proceeded with its compulsory acquisition under Section 47. The Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Secretary of State on 3 November 2008. As there was no recipient for any compensation, its acquisition by the Authority was for a nominal amount.

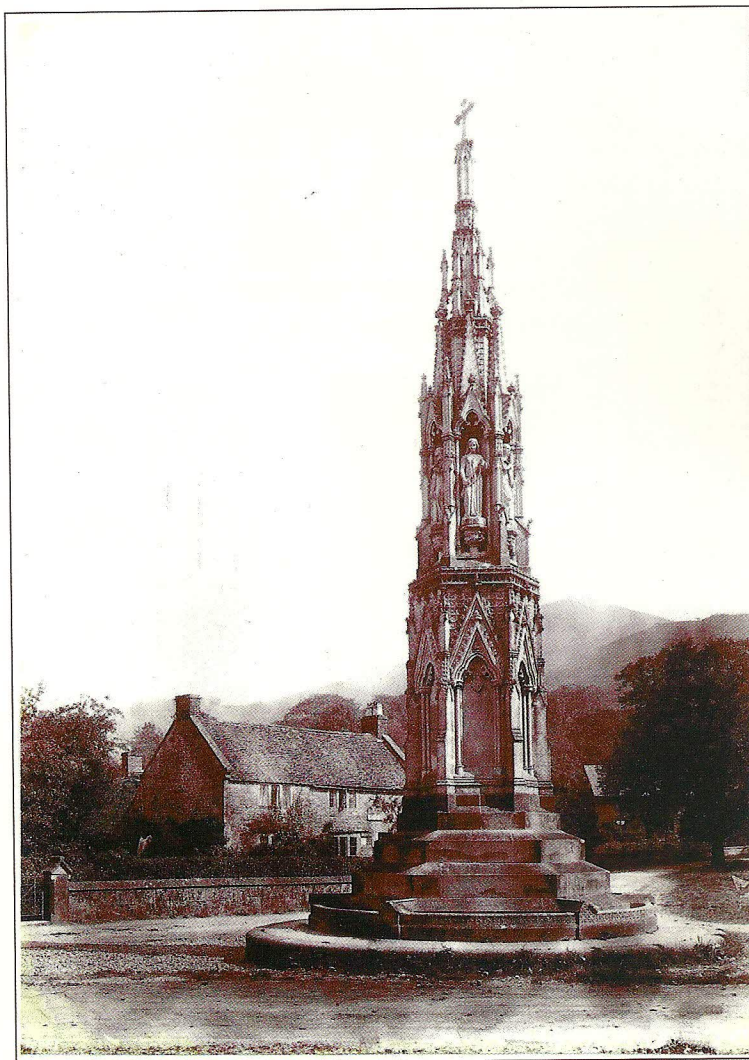
The transfer of ownership finally took place on 6 May 2009. The Authority paid its own legal costs in carrying through all these procedures and the Trust had pro bono legal advice from me and latterly from Farrer & Co. The process was a long haul but ultimately successful, despite the understandable frustrations experienced by Phil Mottram and the friends of the Ilam Cross, when faced with what appeared to be never-ending legal procedures.

Concurrently with the legal procedures, a successful application was made for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, itself a time-consuming process. The campaigners' perseverance has been rewarded. Now that the legal status of the Cross is secure and funding awarded, the important business of restoration can begin.

It is hoped it won't be long before the monument's appearance is returned to a state that Jesse Watts-Russell and John Macduff Derick would recognise.

Detailed information about the Trust, and how to make a donation, and about John Macduff Derick may be found on the Trust's website:

www.the-ilam-cross-trust.org.uk



The original appearance of the Ilam Cross in Staffordshire, erected in 1840

the new owners, including obligations to maintain the Cross thereafter. Pro bono advice, provided by me under the auspices of the Environmental Law Foundation, was critical to ensuring the success of the transfer. The Ilam Cross Trust Limited was incorporated in November 2003 and registered with the Charities Commission as a charitable building preservation trust in January 2004.

Then the local authority made a Listed

What's Afoot at the Darnley Mausoleum?

An update from the Mausolea & Monuments Trust's Chairman Roger Bowdler

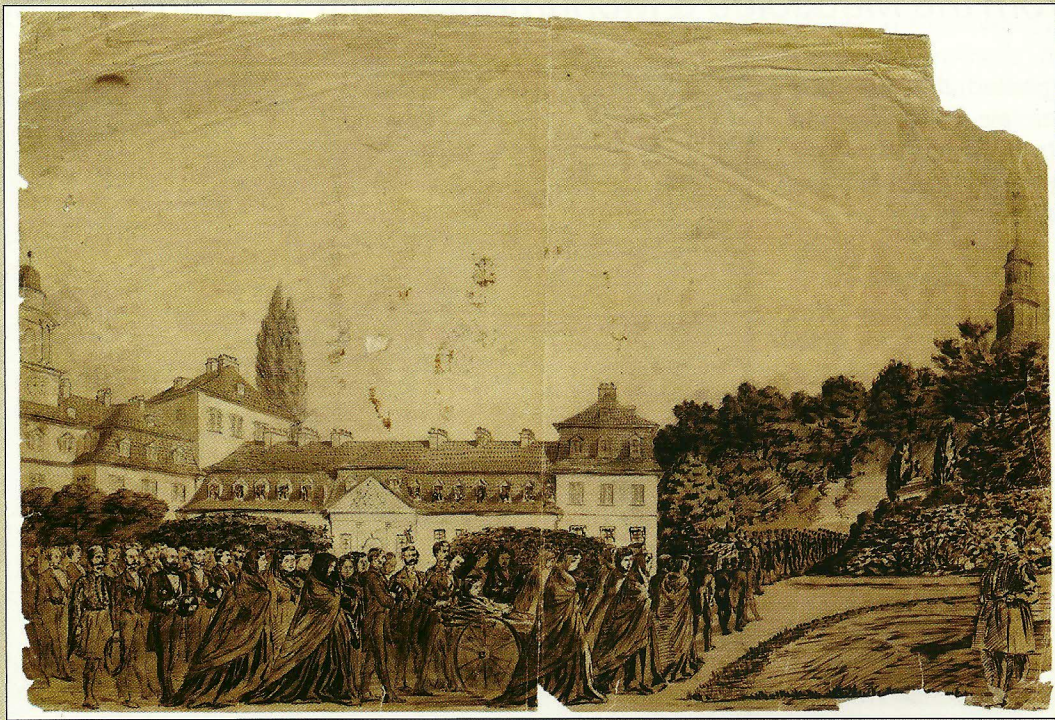
Much celebration greeted the unveiling of the restored Darnley Mausoleum in September 2008, but since then there has been little progress. The situation is complex, but a resolution is in sight.

Long one of the most challenging of all conservation nightmares in southern England, the Darnley Mausoleum had fallen on hard times indeed when the creation of the Cobham-Ashenbank Management Scheme was set up to tackle the problems in this very special historic park. Acquired from Her Majesty's Receiver by Gravesham Council in 2001, the rescue scheme was generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and an unusually restoration-led approach to its rescue was ushered in. The long-term plan has been for the National Trust to become guardians of Cobham Park, and a park ranger is already installed. Seeing this blighted but surviving landscape return to its former splendour is a very uplifting experience, and the local authority partnership with the National Trust is surely an ideal outcome. Just a mile from Sole Street station, Cobham Park makes an ideal day's excursion from London. And the church, with the country's finest array of brasses, is well worth looking at too.

And yet the Mausoleum remains locked up, behind security fencing. A recent visit revealed a very damp, algae-flecked interior - an inevitable consequence, perhaps, of a largely restored interior, finding its equilibrium as it dries out. Some snagging is inevitable. What seems to have delayed the opening to the public is legal discussion over terms of transfer. This, it turns out, is more complex than was anticipated. What guarantees and commitments are transferred along with ownership? This was an expensive building contract, and these issues matter. Hence the impasse. We are assured of Gravesham and National Trust commitment. May the snags be overcome soon, so all can visit Wyatt's superb pyramidal mausoleum, magnificent atop the North Downs. Watch the National Trust website for details - and when it is opened, we will arrange a visit, rest assured.



Whose funeral is it anyway?



These illustrations show a grand Royal funeral, probably in Germany, and likely drawn by a correspondent artist from a paper like the *London Illustrated News* or *The Graphic*. But whose funeral is it? Note the Greek Evzones, or are they Albanians, watching the cortege and the widow borne on a chair. The procession is wending its way to a small, Neoclassical Mausoleum, just visible in the shrubbery in one view.

Research so far has not uncovered for whom, when or where the funeral took place.

A copy of Tim Knox's book *Sir John Soane's Museum* (2009), London is offered free to any reader who can identify the views.

