



Hart Silversmiths Trust
Inspire | Conserve | Educate

Historical Drawings Conservation Project



A registered charity
reference number XT27245



Drawing and trophy commissioned by Derby Rowing Club in 1908. This is one of the first pieces designed and made by George Hart.



HISTORY

The Hart Workshop

The Hart Workshop in Chipping Campden is the last operating strand of the Guild of Handicraft, which C.R. Ashbee established in 1888. George Henry Hart was a silversmith to the Guild when it moved from the East End of London to Campden in 1902 and it was George who took on the Workshop when the Guild of Handicraft went into liquidation in 1908.

From 1908 to the present day – 2012 - four generations of Harts have worked there. Both George Hart's sons, George Philip Hart and Henry Owen Hart were silversmiths followed by two of Henry's sons David and Rex Hart.

The present day silversmiths

David Hart is still a practising silversmith and has been joined by his son William and nephew Julian Hart. Working alongside David and the fourth generation are Derek Elliott, who is a silversmith, and Caroline Richardson, who is a jeweller.

Traditional silversmithing in the 21st century

The silversmiths have not changed the manner in which they work i.e. each item is made by beating out a piece of silver and, when the design needs it, ornamentation is chased or engraved onto it. Whilst their work is often based on the original drawings and designs, the pieces are made to meet the customer's ideas and requests. Although ecclesiastical pieces continue to be made, most of the work now is domestic and civic.



Silver ceremonial mace, made by William Hart, for the Institute of Education in 2002. Mace based on drawing done by George Henry Hart.

The drawings and designs archive

The Trust was established in 2010 to care for the drawings and designs archive that has been built up over the last 100+ years. And it is due to the Hart family's kind donation of this collection to the Trust, that they will be protected for heritage and educational purposes.

DONATION

I wish to give: £..... to the **Hart Silversmiths Trust** Project and I enclose my cheque made payable to: 'Hart Silversmiths Trust'

Thank you for your donation

GIFT AID

If you are a UK taxpayer, it is possible for the Trust to claim tax on your donation, which will increase the amount you donate by 25% at no cost to you. Please complete the declaration below.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Name of charity: **Hart Silversmiths Trust**

Please treat the enclosed gift of £ as a Gift Aid donation.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that the Trust will reclaim on your gift for that year.

DONOR'S DETAILS

Title.....

First Name (in full).....Last name.....

Home address.....

.....

Postcode..... Date.....

Signature.....

Please notify the Trust if you change name or home address

TAX CLAIMED BY THE HART SILVERSMITHS TRUST

The Trust will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

EMAIL

If you are happy for the Trust to contact you by email to keep you updated on the progress of the Project, please write your email address below.

Email.....

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO:

Hart Silversmiths Trust

The Guild, Sheep Street, Chipping Campden, GL55 6DS



George Hart's winning design submission for the Royal Ascot Hunt Cup competition in 1926. The Cup was then made for the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths for their private collection.

What is the Hart Silversmiths Trust Historical Drawings Conservation Project?

There are some 3200+ original drawings and designs, mostly done by George Henry Hart, which have been donated to the Hart Silversmiths Trust for safekeeping.

The Project began in June 2012 and was completed on 31 December 2016. It was supported by a range of people including, volunteers, experts in document conservation and education professionals. The Trust identified a range of work to be done on the drawings:

- ◆ cleaning, where appropriate
- ◆ professional restoration and/or preservation work
- ◆ cataloguing, using a formal, recognised method
- ◆ archiving in an acid-free, temperature-controlled environment

Most importantly, the Trust decided to create a digital archive in order to make the collection available for educational and research purposes.

The importance of the Project is encapsulated by **ICE**: Inspire; Conserve; Educate. The Trust is committed to:

- ◆ **inspiring** those who wish to find their creative spirit through working with metal
- ◆ **conserving** the original drawings and designs as part of the arts and crafts heritage
- ◆ establishing an archive for **educational** purposes to provide information and historical background for scholars and researchers, universities and colleges

Partners

The Trust worked with a number of organisations and professionals, see below.

National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS)

Volunteers from the local arm of NADFAS helped with the conservation of the drawings by cleaning them to remove the surface dust /grime to enable a clear scan.

Gloucestershire Archives (GA)

Gloucestershire County Council's public archive services, provided training for volunteers on how to remove surface dust and grime from the drawings and professional advice regarding all other aspects of conservation and archiving. Having undertaken all conservation steps, the drawings collection has been archived at GA.

Warwick University

A senior lecturer in The History of Art Department researched the drawings collection and assisted with a major exhibition that was put on in 2015 at Compton Verney Museum, see also below

Exhibitions

Court Barn Museum, Chipping Campden, kindly put on the Trust's first exhibition in 2014 showing the wide range of drawings done by George Henry Hart. A childrens' workshop was held; it was well-received and produced some interesting designs done by the children.

A very successful exhibition was held at Compton Verney Museum in 2015. 27 drawings, which had been professionally restored, were exhibited. In a number of cases, the finished object was also on display. The Museum funded a video that tells the story of CR Ashbee bringing the Guild of Handicraft to Chipping Campden. It shows that traditional silversmithing is alive and well in the 21st Century!

Funding

The Trust is very grateful for all the donations received, large and small, but particularly from: The Heritage Lottery Fund; The Goldsmiths' Company; The Saintbury Trust; The Dulverton Trust; The Founders' Company; Philip & Mary Smith.

Although the Project has been completed, the Trust would like to do more conservation work on the more fragile drawings. Thus, we would welcome any contribution you feel able to make; if you do, please complete the Donation page in this leaflet.



The series of pictures above shows:

- ◆ One of the original drawings that George Hart did for the monstrance commissioned by Scunthorpe Roman Catholic Church in 1958
- ◆ The silversmiths involved in making this piece: David Hart seated; his father, Henry Hart, immediately behind him; and his grandfather, George Henry Hart, to the right
- ◆ The finished article - which, as can be seen, is slightly different from the drawing



The photograph on the left is a Processional Cross that was made for Gloucester Cathedral in the mid-1920s. It was used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953.



On the left: drawing of a monstrance before professional conservation work



On the right: the drawing after the work had been done