

Conservation of furniture and related objects

Condition and treatment report

WD job no. FU 0008	Date received: 3/7/14
Client name: Christopher Claxton Stevens	Client accession no. 28767
Client preferences: The aim is to return the object in a stable and aesthetically pleasing condition. A condition that makes sense to the period in which it was made. Keeping the patina and the value of the piece, even if that includes stripping it from later adjustments and bad repairs.	
Object Horse fire screen	
Object description Mahogany fire screen, in an 18 th century George Hepplewhite style, and consists of two square shaped uprights that end in four 'horse legs'. These are connected to the upright/styles by sliding dove tills and they have so called 'spade feed'. The two uprights are connected to a serpent shaped stretcher and a framed panel. This panel is oval shaped and is covered with a red clove. This would had have some embroidered cartouche / brocade / velvet pattern of a garland on it, this is seen in the light damage, with left you with a imprint which is very faded. The panel is held in place with a bedding on the back. On top of the uprights are some traces left of what would have been finials. Among the frond surfaces there is a scraped profile on the uprights and the stretcher.	

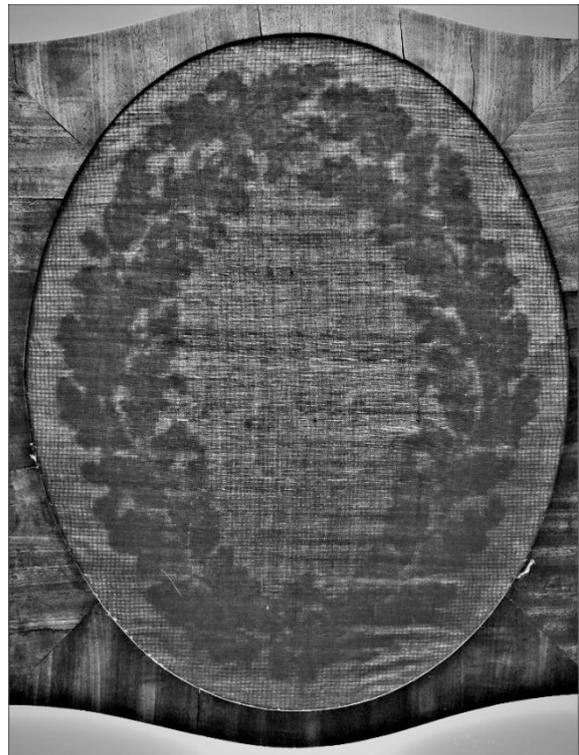
Materials mahogany <i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> brass iron ally screws embroidered cartouche		Techniques veneer joinery upholstery embroidery moving mechanism	
Dimensions (mm)	H 1045	L 551	D 442
Weight (g): 2979			

Date assessed :	Conservator: Arian de Goede
Supervisor/s: Tristram Bainbridge, Norbert Gutowski and Matthew King	
Start date: 29-05-2018	Completion date:

CONDITION IMAGES (before treatment)



Overview of the object



Contrast detail of the panel.



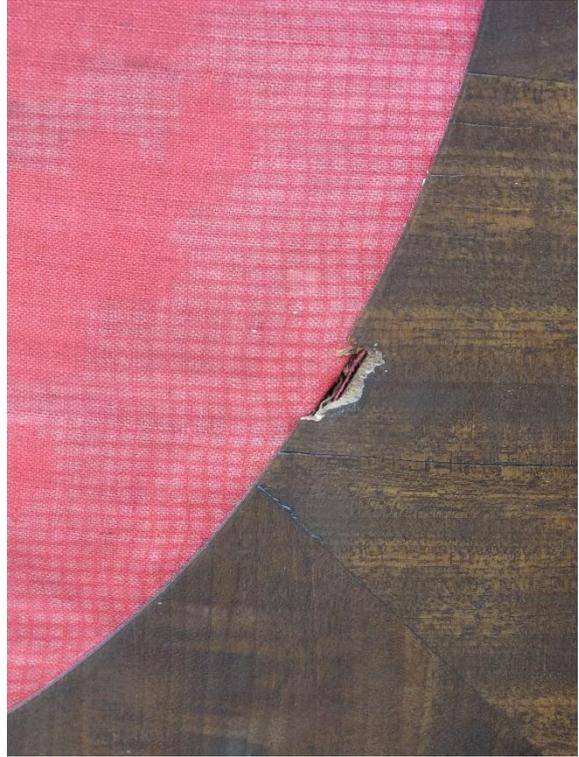
Detailed view of the damage on the upright and the bad repair on the stretcher



Detailed view of the broken beading



Detail of bad repair on the stretcher



Detail of the chipped veneered frame



Detailed view of the two missing finials



CONDITION DESCRIPTION (before treatment)

- The proper left upright is broken on the bottom end, with the sliding dovetail joint. There are clear signs that a previous repair did not hold even with an additional metal breech, with a messy look as a result.
- Also the stretcher has clearly seen some precious work, both of the tenons at the ends look as if they have been replaced.
- The veneer from the panel has some cracks and chips broken out.
- Both the finials are almost completely missing.
- The dowels that are present on the side of the upright to hold the panel seem out of place.
- The beading that holds the panel in place on the back of the frame is broken at one point.
- The fabric on the upholstered panel is very fragile, the embroidery is missing but left a imprint.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

There are several approaches possible depending on the use and the client's preferences.

- Non-invasive treatment: Consolidate what is there, by applying a protective layer and put the object out of use. This approach is no longer possible because the upholstery has already been taken off the chair. To preserve at this point what is now present seems pointless, because it has no aesthetic value and it cannot be used as a chair at this point. The only reason I can think of to preserve the object in its current form would be for educational purposes.
- Medium-invasive treatment: Heal what is missing without interfering with the original material. There are options in this level of treatment, depending again on the clients preferences. Some might want to show new parts distinguishable as being not original, others want to have the object look as it did the day it was delivered. However, the most common taste is to restore it to one harmonious piece where all parts are made in the correct style and can blend in with the existing patina on the other parts.
- Heavy invasive treatment: Replace broken parts, with new parts in the required style and aged.