Piecing It Together: Analysis and Treatment of a Painted Silk Flag

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History and Manufacture

The flag was carried by the 37th Infantry Regiment from 1861 to 1863. During the war, it was captured by the Confederate Army and eventually recaptured by Captain William S. Hubbell. In 1893, Hubbell gifted the flag to the Cattaraugus County Museum. The flag appears similar to other similar painted silk flags of 1875. The York Volunteer Infantry Regiment was analyzed for the presence of efflorescence and flattening treatment protocols developed and conducted for the treatment of efflorescence on the flag. Based on the findings of this study and the protocols developed, the treatment approaches were established. Based on the findings of this study and the protocols developed, the treatment approaches were established. Based on the findings of this study and the protocols developed, the treatment approaches were established. Based on the findings of this study and the protocols developed, the treatment approaches were established.

Humidification

Humidification was a critical component of treatment as the painted and unpainted textile was brought to the Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Center for treatment. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity.

Efflorescence Reduction

A Staedtler eraser pen was used to mechanically remove efflorescence (fig. 13). It was achieved by gently rubbing over the surface in one direction, while lightly pinning the paint fragment on either side of the working area with two fingers. This way, small areas could be worked on while protecting any crack edges from catching. The crumbs were removed with a lightly damp swab.

Conclusions

The painted Civil War battle flag of the 37th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment from the Cattaraugus County Museum presented challenges and advantages of treating both textiles and paintings conservation, providing an opportunity to study past techniques and experiment with new methods. The flag was generally painted with oil or egg tempera and preparatory layers were variable to non-existent. A two-sided flag was brought to the Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Art Conservation Center for treatment. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity. The humidification test was performed in a climate chamber set at 24°C and 60% relative humidity.

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Selected References