

NOTES

from Joan

MARCH
2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



All plays have been cancelled.



The Elinor Dunsmuir travelling exhibit, which was suppose to open March 19th, has been postponed.



The first cruise group of the season has been postponed as cruise ships are not allowed to dock in Victoria until July 1st.

A Note about COVID-19

To our dear volunteers and staff,

As you are probably aware we have put in place various measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers, staff and visitors. Apart from the cleaning measures, we have done some other changes that may impact interactions with or between visitors. First, we have closed the lid of the fourth floor piano and removed the music book and we ask to please not encourage visitors to play or touch as it is a hard area to clean. Second, we removed a number of chairs from the documentary room and spaced them out to avoid grouping in one area. There are currently 16 chairs (instead of 25), and perhaps it would be best not to “over sell” the documentary for the time being. Third, any map that is handed back from visitors should be recycled instead of being reused.

Finally, please check your emails for the latest updates and don't hesitate to reach out should of have any questions. We hope the rest of this issue can temporarily distract you from the current events. Stay safe & healthy!



Measuring and texturing tools.

Sand & Stone

By Adam Kalloch

We are all wondering of course, what's going on with the tower?

Thankfully, Shawn from Ravenstone was able to shed some light on the matter with his Lunch & Learn talk. The short answer is, they're bringing it closer to what it was by using original techniques and tools that have changed only marginally across the centuries.

In order to understand the work going on, the first step is to understand the nature of the damage to the castle, and for that, we need to know about mortar and its importance. In a stone building such as Craigdarroch, the purpose of *traditional* mortar is to protect the stones. It does this by being softer and thus more permeable than the stones that make it up, thereby allowing foreign material to exit through the mortar.

Sandstone, like all stones, are porous. They're basically oversized sponges. They absorb all the water that rains down upon them and (as we're on the coast) the salt that comes with it. This becomes a problem when the water and the minerals in it have no place to

go. The salt then collects, oxidizes, and expands within the stone, in a process called Salt Jacking. As that pressure builds, it weakens the stone and the outer surface begins to slough off in pieces, not unlike peeling paint. On the ground level, it's an eyesore but at the upper levels it becomes dangerous. Hence the tower repairs.

The reason this is a problem now, is because the current mortar for much of the castle is not *traditional* mortar – it's more recent and is *harder* than the sandstone. This type of mortar became popular in the 1950s as it meant that replacing (or repointing as it's called) the mortar would be considerably less frequent. However, this prevents the stones from breathing thereby accelerating the damage.

What Ravenstone is doing is creating traditional mortar made from sand, lime, and ash on-site to correct this. Once applied, it can begin to draw out those minerals trapped in the stone and thus restore their integrity. This must be done with the correct combination of sand and other elements to achieve the right colour and

texture lest it stand out sharply against the stonework while also acting as a filter for those corrosive elements.

What they are also doing, is repair work on existing stones that *can* be salvaged. The outer scaling effect we see, shows a compromised layer of stone and is no longer sound. Often-times, a mason can clear off the rest of that sheet (using a de-scaling hammer) and get to the good stone underneath and either re-texture or re-carve the surface.

For the ones that cannot be salvaged, they are carving entirely new stones by hand to replace the old. The original stone quarry out in Cobble Hill not being a viable option, they have opted to use a combination of sandstone from a quarry in Manitoba as well as a recently discovered source of sandstone from Quadra Island. Both of which are a good match for the kind of stone that Craigdarroch was built with.

Some of the stone finials at the tower, will be replaced in just such a fashion. Several of them having split apart due to expansive pres-



The hammer with the cleanest handle (second from the left) is the aforementioned de-scaling hammer. The two tools immediately to the right of the hammers, are the tools Frank made for laying out the mortar.

steel is used to provide support to and prevent further splitting of the stone. Unlike in the Dunsmuir's day, we now have stainless steel which shall obviate any future ferrous fissures.

The work on the tower is expected to take around three months overall, as that's how much time they

sure – not from salt, but from the pins used to hold them in place. When the finials were put in place, they were secured using wrought iron pins. Wrought iron, being of very low carbon and having impurities such as silica was slow to corrode – however with the stone being the sponge that it is, it was only a matter of time before enough air and water made it to the iron and, as they rusted, they expanded, and split the stone.

Fortunately, not all stones that show cracking or splits are beyond saving. Some will receive an injection (just like

it sounds, using a syringe and needle!) of that custom-made mortar, to fill in cracks and fulfill that aforementioned role. Allowing (as Shawn says) “the stone to heal.” For those that have more severe cracks, they may be ‘crimped’. Where a reinforcing band or rod of

typically have to work with before we enter our high season. But as with so many crafts and trades of old, there are no shortcuts and the work takes as long as it takes.

You can see in this photo, where the wrought iron pin had once held the stone in place, and where it split from the expansion of the rust. Immediately to the right, an example of the newly crafted replacement. These are chiselled out by hand using the tools in the other pictures.





ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.110
 OBJECT NAME: measure, tape
 DESCRIPTION: Brass tape measure in the shape of a pig. The tape is cloth with a metal end and comes out from underneath the body. Winds up by the tail.
 DIMENSIONS: 2.7 cm; 5.5 cm
 MATERIAL: Metal, brass
 DATE: 1880



Artifact Spotlight

The following artifacts are part of our amazing collection of sewing tools which were bequeathed to the Castle in 2008. Since most of them are hidden away in sewing boxes, we thought we would bring them to light in this issue.



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.259
 OBJECT NAME: thimble
 DESCRIPTION: Tall silver thimble with a fairy embossed the full length of one side of the thimble with a wide band of embossed leaves around the back. Knurling above the band and over the top. Flat top.
 DIMENSIONS: 2.2 cm
 MATERIAL: Metal, silver

Source: Craigdarroch Castle



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.280b
 OBJECT NAME: holder, thimble
 DESCRIPTION: Metal holder. Metal dog standing on its hind legs holding a needle. The other end has a small metal thimble rest to hold a thimble. Sitting on a metal base. Stamping underneath the base is not decipherable.
 DIMENSIONS: 7 cm; 3.5 cm
 MATERIAL: Metal
 DATE: 1980



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.006a

DESCRIPTION: Cast iron thimble case in the shape of a brussels sprout. Various shades of greens. Top opening in the shape of a leaf. Red velvet lined opening for thimble.

DIMENSIONS: 4 cm; 5.5 cm

MATERIAL: Metal, iron; Fabric, silk, velvet

DATE: circa 1890

P.S. It was stated in the donor's database that this was her favorite piece of her entire collection.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.003

OBJECT NAME: holder, thimble

DESCRIPTION: Black forest carved bear with glass eyes and a red painted mouth. In the sitting position, paws outstretched to hold a thimble.

DIMENSIONS: 4.2 cm; 6.5 cm

MATERIAL: Wood

DATE: circa 1880



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.007

OBJECT NAME: measure, tape

DESCRIPTION: Metal base on legs with metal Christmas tree on top. Red berries around the base of the tree. Cloth tape pulls out of the base. Pull tape in inches and centimetres. Hand winding on the bottom simulating a music box.

DIMENSIONS: 7 cm; 2.5 cm

DATE: circa 1880



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.125
 OBJECT NAME: holder, needlework
 DESCRIPTION: Waxer, 'Frozen Charlotte' doll mounted on a cylinder of green beeswax for waxing thread.
 DIMENSIONS: 3.7 cm
 MATERIAL: Wax
 DATE: circa 1900



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.204a-b
 OBJECT NAME: case, needle
 DESCRIPTION: Carved wooden needle case. Top has a carved squirrel eating. The bottom half has geometric shapes carved.
 DIMENSIONS: 2 cm; 10 cm
 MATERIAL: Wood



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.275
 OBJECT NAME: shuttle, tating
 DESCRIPTION: Carved ivory tating shuttle. Oriental scene on the front and back.
 DIMENSIONS: 6.7 cm; 2.5 cm
 MATERIAL: Ivory
 DATE: 1880



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.129

OBJECT NAME: pincushion

DESCRIPTION: Silver pincushion in the shape of a newly hatched chicken. Green velvet cushion on the back. English hallmarks on the bottom for Chester 1909 Rd 475678 Maker ? M & Co.

DIMENSIONS: 2 cm; 3 cm

MATERIAL: Metal, silver; Fabric, silk, velvet

DATE: 1909



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.148

OBJECT NAME: pincushion

DESCRIPTION: Circular shell pin disc. One side has a centre of a large white shell surrounded by many small shells. The other side has a painted centre piece of flowers, surrounded by 3 rows of small shells. Between the top and the bottom is a purple velvet cushion for the pins. 1/4" thick.

DIMENSIONS: 5 cm; 5 cm

MATERIAL: Fabric, silk, velvet

DATE: 1880



ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.210a-d

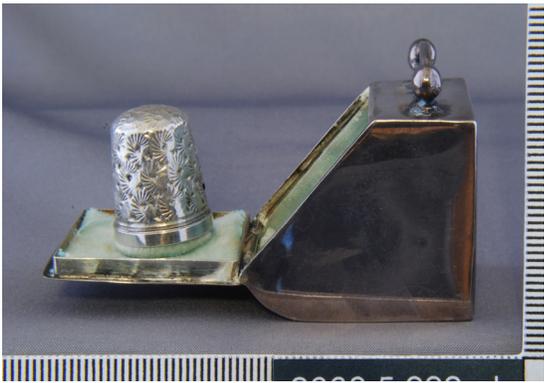
OBJECT NAME: holder, thimble

DESCRIPTION: Very small thimble-not useable. Plain band at rim with knurling above the band and over the top. Yellow egg shaped polished stone thimble holder with scalloped metal on both parts of the opening. Screw opening in the centre. Gold coloured chain.

DIMENSIONS: 44 cm

MATERIAL: Metal; Stone





ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.005.222b
OBJECT NAME: holder, thimble
DESCRIPTION: Silver thimble holder in the shape of a coal scuttle with carrying handle. Five cherubs on the door. Inside is green velvet with a post for thimble on the door. Marks-RD430769 Birmingham 1905.
DIMENSIONS: 2.5 cm; 3.5 cm
MATERIAL: Metal, silver; Fabric, silk, velvet
DATE: 1905



ACCESSION NUMBER:
2008.005.138a-b
OBJECT NAME: holder, thimble
DESCRIPTION: Oval shaped container made from coquilla nut. Screws together in the centre. The nut has been carved with circles and holes.
DIMENSIONS: 3.2 cm; 5 cm
MATERIAL: Vegetable ivory



A Note From the Gift Shop By Catriona

With blossoms on the trees and daffodils blooming, Spring is just around the corner, and in the Gift Shop that means one thing – new stock! Some of the orders that I placed at the Toronto Gift Fair are starting to arrive, as well as products ordered from closer to home, so I thought I'd high-

light one of our recent arrivals.

Last month we received a new assortment of scented candles from a company called The Beauty of Hope. These are hand-crafted soy candles, manufactured in the U.S., and supplied in a 3 oz travel tin with lid. They have a burn time of approx. 25 hours, and the cotton wick should reduce smoking. I selected three different ranges – Enchanted Forest, Signature Collection and the Limited Edition Wonder Collection, fragrances inspired by 'wonders' around the world. In addition, ten percent of revenue from The Beauty of Hope is donated to non-profit organizations to help end human trafficking across the globe. There are some eclectic scents – Lemongrass and Tobacco or Peach and White Tea – so come in and have a sniff!





Name: Larry (Tuesday PM)

Start date: August 2013

Favourite artifact: The Collard & Collard piano because it can be played and he sometimes plays for visitors.

Favourite Dunsmuir: Robin Dunsmuir because he is a non-conformist. He was the eldest son of the eldest son but he ultimately did what was best for himself.

Area of expertise: Scottish Dunsmuir roots. Larry has visited both Hurlford and Kilmarnock.

Fun fact: He published a humour book about life in Victoria called *The Duckling House, A Primer of Humour and Hope*.

Favourite place to eat in Victoria: Bobby's Kitchen on Cook Street.

Volunteer Profiles



Name: John (Monday AM and Saturday AM)

Start date: February 2015

Favourite artifact: The radiators

Favourite Dunsmuir: Robert. Because of how he overcame a family tragedy at a young age and persevered to achieve all that he did.

Area of expertise: Random historical fun facts; John loves reading historical fictions and real stories, since he retired, he reads a lot about the early history of Victoria.

Fun fact: He shares a birthday with Constantine the Great & Elizabeth Taylor. Speaking of random historical fact, John let me know that Constantine was in York when he was made an emperor and that there is a plaque honouring him there. There is also a big Constantine statue in Rome. John has visited both.

Favourite place to eat in Victoria: Local restaurants and, his favourite recommendation, the dining room of the Legislative Assembly of BC.



Name: Marlene (Wednesday AM)

Start date: May 2015

Favourite artifact: The student's name carvings. Marlene shared this story with me: "Two years ago, a gentleman arrived up on the third floor, dressed in a suit, top coat, with a hat in his hand and carrying a small light. He began by saying he was from London, England, and was here...to find his father's name. You can guess how my tummy felt knowing all the carvings we must search through. We found it, he wept. The name was Geo Ross. I share his dear story with many castle visitors, and so the names, the initial carvings, are my favourite gift of the history of Joan's Craigdarroch Castle."

Favourite Dunsmuir: Effie, because she has such empathy for her and her story. She loves her art too.

Area of expertise: Art, specifically paintings as she is a retired Museum Art Educator.

Fun fact: Sir John A. Macdonald is her fifth cousin. Also, her and her husband, Garry, have been married 60 years.

Favourite place to eat in Victoria: A picnic at Cattle Point, looking at Mount Baker.

Post scriptum: "Finally, I would like to add that volunteering at Craigdarroch Castle remains a true pleasure, with kindness and respect of all your staff and volunteers, so very valued."

Staff Profile

Name: Mary

Start date: November 2019

Favourite artifact: The beaded handbag in Effie's bedroom. She finds it so beautiful and would love to use it (I guess we'll know where to look if it ever goes missing!). She also really loves the chatelaine in the sitting room.

Favourite Dunsmuir: Joan Dunsmuir, because she was probably a very strong lady and would love to know her story.

Favourite subject: She loves talking about historical costumes and dresses. From a museum perspective, she is passionate about visitor experiences, especially how to attract and cater to different audiences to make sure they have the best visit and experiences.

Fun fact: She once swam with giant sea turtles in Sri Lanka.

Favourite place to eat in Victoria: She loves Crust Bakery.



World Search

Joan's Word Search

F G S Q K J H V G U X T R E B O R T Q L
F T M P S C O T L A N D K D M Y R H B E
A I L C F S I A F E P U V T X E Z F F K
I J J K R S N K A P D M A B G K R F H D
R E R E D A A V Z I S B O S E O I A K L
V E L S L L I O O W N W Y R C E C Z K P
I K H Q H G R G J B D A E E D U R R V H
E Q K E K T O L D A S I T R L Z T U Q S
W O C N S R T L Z A M T T I D T A T K R
E K D A U A C L H A R E N H S N A N L P
L Z W H L C I F J Z T R S U I U A H J E
L D P A T I V A G Y P E O R F O L H F A
I R S J N F F M N J U K C C J S O V A X
N O E H F I B O L P C F L J H R J H D M
G F A Y X C L M R S F S A S N A K R A G
T L G H I A P U S N N X T E L I N O R E
O R X Z Y P G F U S I V R G Q Y B R K J
N U N M T W M Y G V C A U O K E P C R N
P H Q R B L K H G C X R I U M S N U D R
N O Z O S N Z N D E V S U N W N D Q Z K

ROBERT
CRAIGDARROCH
FAIRVIEW
AHANDREWS
HURLFORD
CALIFORNIA

JOAN
EFFIE
PACIFICARTGLASS
HATLEY
SCUTTLE
SCOTLAND

DUNSMUIR
JAMES
WELLINGTON
DUMBWAITER
ARKANSAS
LUSITANIA

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