

## July 2024

### The Cartouche has returned

Thought to have been installed in 1687, the cartouche is a fine marble piece, carved in London by expert masons, which was donated by Bishop Leighton's executors. Being of high-quality marble, it has survived the Scottish climate fairly well, but it was showing the effects of being outside for over three hundred years. The Leighton Library restoration plan included some care for the cartouche and repairs to the oval sandstone surround, which had been roughly repaired in the past.

The restoration was entrusted to Graciela Ainsworth, a prominent sculpture restorer and her team, whose projects have included Hampton Court Palace, the National Museum of Scotland, Stirling Castle Palace, the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, Abbotsford and Scone Palace.

#### The condition of the cartouche before restoration

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Whilst we were initially afraid the original iron fixings might have corroded and created a risk of the cartouche falling on a passer-by, when it came to removal, the reverse was true. The 17C workers had fixed the cartouche so securely to the Library that it took several days to remove it safely! After meticulous cleaning, by laser, several centuries' worth of weathering and air pollution were removed. It returned home on 8 July, when work began to reinstall it.

The scaffolding is scheduled to be removed on 17 July.





## THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



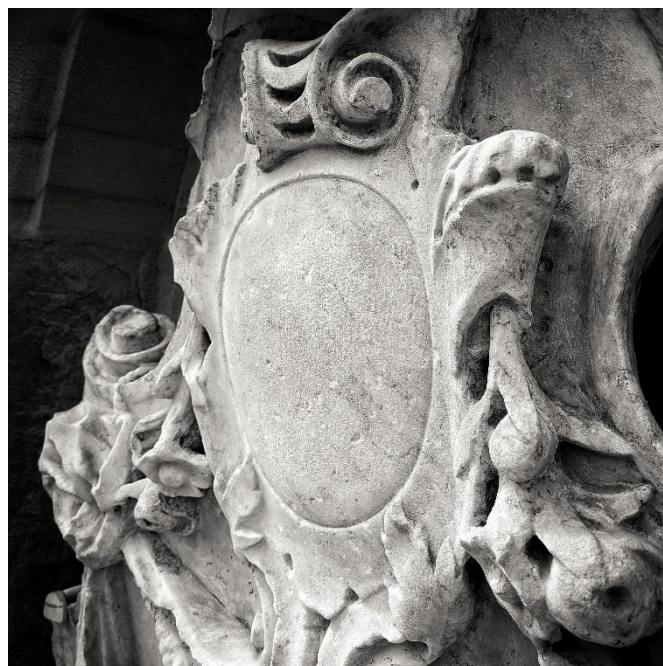
As the original fixings had had to be broken to remove the cartouche, a new method was devised for its replacement, involving pins and holding posts. The new fixings will allow for removal in future.



## THE LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



The cartouche after restoration







*Photos Tom Astbury*