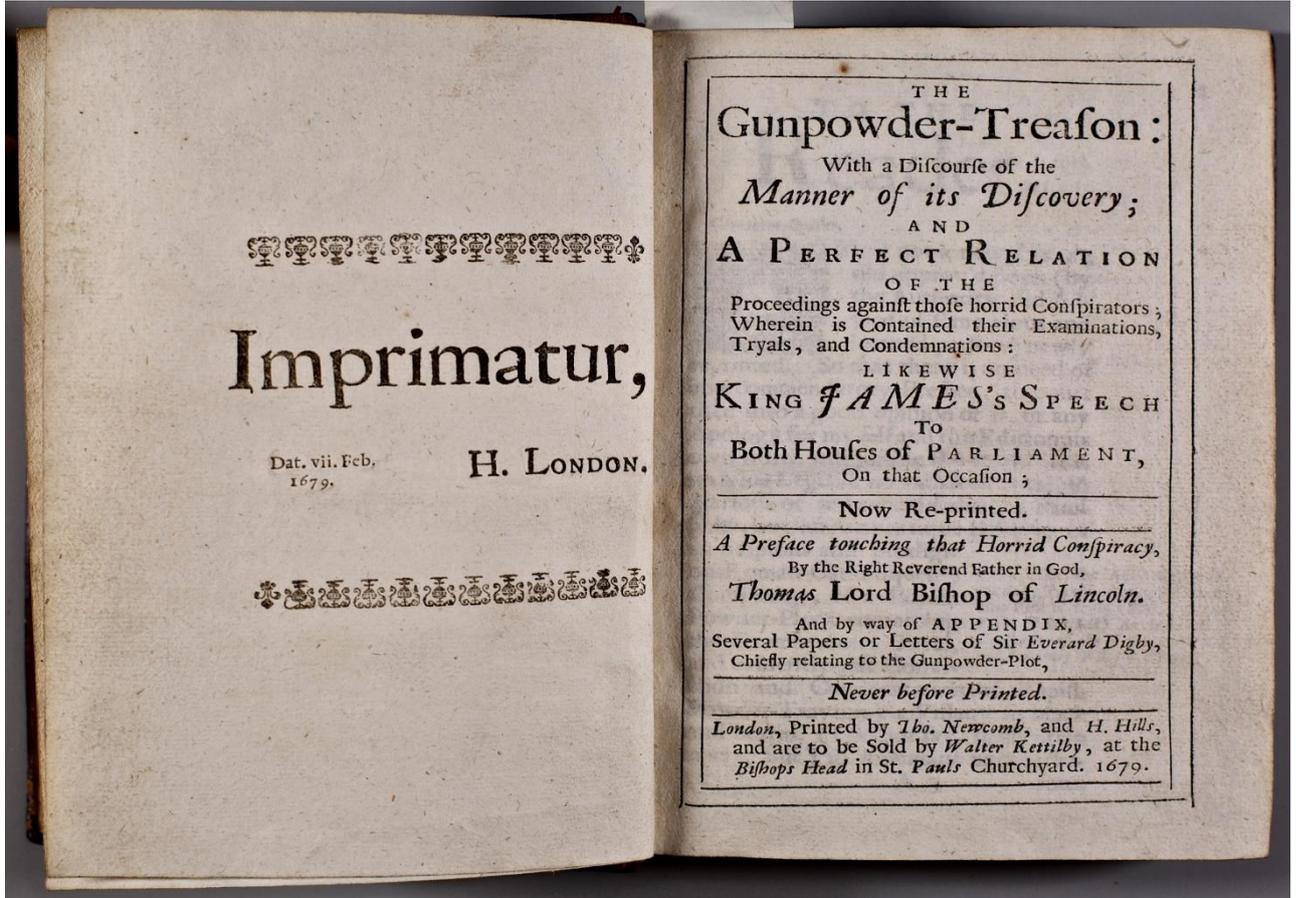


The LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



The books have gone into storage



The week started at 8.30am on Monday 24th October, with Colin McGregor, the Project Manager of Doree Bonner International arriving at the Library with their vehicle full of crates and packaging. We had an hour's briefing on the programme for the week with Duncan Thompson and Steven Upton, the two key packers who have a wealth of experience in handling rare items and who previously moved valuable book collections for the Stirling and Newcastle Libraries. By 11.30am, Press One had been emptied with every book being individually wrapped, referenced and carefully packed in its specific position in plastic crates. By the end of the day the first three Presses had been cleared and a start made on Press Four. Careful attention was paid to referencing and the opportunity taken to highlight

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some incorrectly positioned books and a few “missing”!

Real progress was made on Tuesday and Wednesday with early starts and the first crates delivered to Doree Bonner warehousing in Glasgow.

Thursday 27th, saw the final books wrapped and loaded and in addition the complete set of American Atlas maps and papers. The final operation was the wrapping and protection of each of the 12 chairs with heavy duty sheeting.

Late afternoon the final crates were loaded and travelled to Glasgow. The Library looked strangely empty and much larger than on a normal day, and on Friday morning Duncan and Steve were at the Library attaching dust covers to all of our furniture to protect it during the course of the building works to follow.

The individual crates are now stored in a timber container in Glasgow which is carefully sealed and marked for the books return next year!

We were all delighted with the care and attention of the Doree Bonner team who treated the books with as much attention as if they had been their own!

The Cartouche



The LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS

The first phase of the Cartouche restoration started on Monday 31st October when the team from Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation arrived on site.

The scaffolding was erected by mid-morning, and incorporated a lifting beam to facilitate the block and tackle equipment required to lower the Cartouche to ground level.

Graciela herself was on site throughout the week with her team comprising Iain Fox and Derek Cunningham.

By mid-morning on Tuesday, the support locations within the Cartouche to take the 400kg weight had been identified and strapping fitted, and the locations of the metal fixings identified such that the necessary equipment could be brought to site to free the Cartouche from its position. The Cartouche is 1.45m x 750mm and solid marble, so a challenging piece to manoeuvre.

Wednesday was a day of consistent heavy rain but that team continued to work removing fixings until early afternoon, by which time everyone was drenched and it was unsafe to continue.

Thursday brought much brighter weather and by 2.00pm all fixings had been removed with the exception of the main horizontal metal bar support, and the Cartouche was now “loose” from its position. Given how well it was affixed, it was clear the cartouche had never been in danger of falling on the heads of passers-by!

Friday 4th November was a day of real celebration for Graciela and team as the marble skull at the base was carefully separated from the rubble and lime mortar wall and the final structural support released. The Cartouche was slowly lowered to ground level and the awaiting trolley for transport to Edinburgh for the next stages of its restoration.

A real team effort and the final protection to the exposed background wall will be put in place and scaffolding removed on Monday 7th November.

