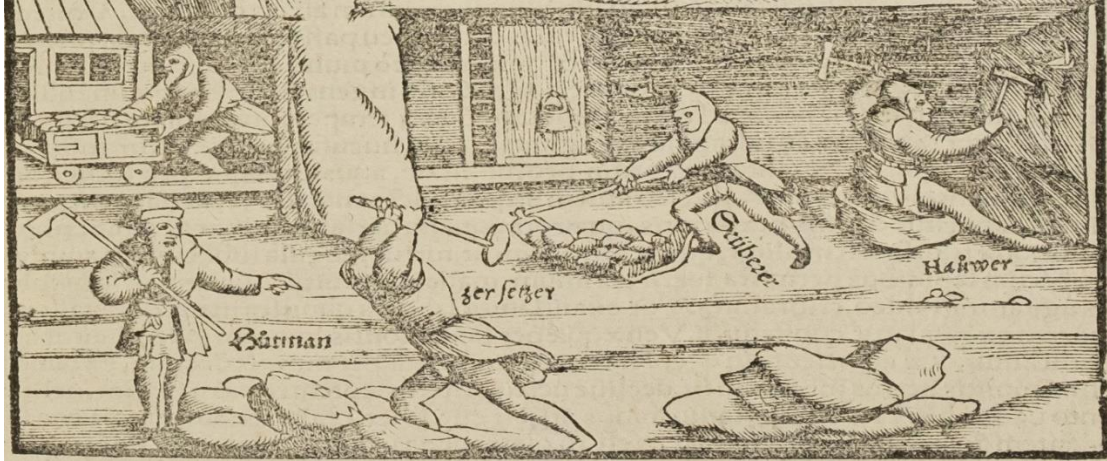


The LEIGHTON LIBRARY RESTORATION NEWS



Engraving from Munster's Cosmographia

At last, restoration work is set to begin!

After months of planning and discussion, we are at last able to announce that exterior restoration work will begin on 7 November. On 24 October, specialist removers Doree Bonner will begin packing and transporting the entire collection to approved storage in advance of any risk of dust. The next step will be to prepare the site around the building, removing those trees which are hard up against the North and East walls, and opening up the pedestrian gate into the Manse garden beside the forestair, which has been boarded up for some years.



The pedestrian gate will be the works access for the side and rear. The two Acers on the lawn will be preserved.

Then scaffolding will be erected and the site fenced off. An application has been made to use the two parking spaces in front of the Library as site office and facilities space and a water supply will be taken from the old tap within the Minister's garage, once used to water the horses when it was a

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stable. We will also need to fence off some of the pavement, but we are hoping to minimise disruption to passers-by. The fencing will be screened and will include information boards to let people know what we are doing.

The work will be done in two phases, as the temperature sensitive lime harling will be postponed to the Spring to avoid frost problems. In the meantime, up until February, work will concentrate on taking down the North chimney and the wall below and rebuilding it. The slate roof will also be inspected, stripped, any roof rot and lead work required will be dealt with and finally it will be re-slatted in traditional style, with a mix of good existing slates and matching reclaimed old Scots slates.

At an agreed early stage, the marble cartouche will be taken down by specialist conservators, Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation. Removal in itself is a delicate job, as the iron fixings have been there since the beginning. It will then be carefully transported to a specialist sculpture repair workshop in Edinburgh for analysis and restoration. The cartouche will be stored there until we are ready to replace it on the wall. It is hoped more can be learned of its provenance. We know it was carved in a London workshop in the late 1680s and is of the finest quality.



Who is managing the work?

Under the supervision of the Trustees and the Executive Group, volunteers Alastair MacDonald and Alan Clevett are managing the programme. We have engaged an experienced specialist conservation architect, Rosalind Taylor of Tod & Taylor to oversee the works, which will be carried out by a local firm Gillies and Farrell Masonry Ltd. Both the architect and the masons have previously carried out work at the Dunblane Museum and Cathedral Halls.