

Conservator's name: Cathryn Harvey
Object: Beamish GS1-2017
Description: Cadbury Usherette Tray with a light box, potentially 1930s in date (but based on one comparative example without a light box)
Condition: The wood of the tray is in relatively sound condition, but is dirty with a white residue that may be mould. The metal cover of the light box is slightly bent out of shape, the paper backing is mouldy, and the bulb is missing. The condition of the electrical system cannot be determined until the light box is taken apart. The iron nails and screws are slightly corroded, and one of the fastenings on the leather strap has corroded into two pieces so no longer holds the two parts together. The leather is in fair condition, but is a bit stiff and dirty, and is no longer attached on one side. The varnish is missing in places but is not flaking. The 'Cadbury's Chocolate' paint is faded but not flaking. The 'This tray is the property of Cadbury Bros Ltd' paint is faded but not flaking.
Considerations (ethical & practical): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extent to which the object is 'restored'- will depend on whether or not the tray is going to be used. - If it is going to be used as a working object- will adding extra straps and electrical components compromise the integrity of the object, or will it help in its understanding? - Its potential use to sell food- need to be careful in the use of chemicals and solvents - Whether an aesthetic restoration is necessary to make the object functional - Whether or not to keep any parts of the object removed
Proposed conservation treatment: General order, but might not be followed exactly <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean the dirt at the bottom of the tray using a vacuum cleaner 2. Test several dry-cleaning treatments on the wood in a non-obvious area (both plain and varnished wood). i.e. Wishab, smoke sponge etc. 3. If dry cleaning is insufficient, test several water and solvent based cleaning treatments in a non-obvious area. 4. To treat the moulded area, it may be necessary to clean the wood with a water and IMS solution 5. Remove the front panel of the light box and the components inside. I believe the screws on the front were added on at a later date (not from the construction of the light box), likely in an attempt to fix the electrical components inside. This should be confirmed by the type of battery. 6. Clean the interior of the light box with the best cleaning method determined by the tests 7. Clean the removed fragments with the same method 8. Determine the condition of the electrical components

9. Unfold the folded newspaper and fliers that were used to prop up the battery (may provide information regarding the manufacture of the tray). This may require humidification of the paper
10. Remove the paper from underneath the metal lid of the light box (held on by metal clips).
11. Remove the mould stains and clean the paper. Dry methods will be tested first, followed by wet methods.
12. Straighten the metal lid of the light box (currently slightly bent out of shape). This is not strictly necessary, but the lid is not sitting in the correct place (not true to the original form of the object), and is at more risk of coming away from the side. It also makes it difficult to open to view the interior electrical components.
13. Clean the corroded iron screws and nails. Will test several mechanical methods (i.e. steel wool, glass bristle brush, sand paper, Garryflex etc.). It may be that different methods will be required for different components as the level of corrosion is different across the components. Should the mechanical cleaning be insufficient, other means of cleaning will be investigated.
14. Consolidate the cleaned iron components to minimise future corrosion
15. If possible remove the leather strap for treatment, if not treat in situ. Need to make the leather flexible again, and reattach the detached end. Treatment may include humidification, or the addition of leather dressing (several will be tested prior to application)
16. If possible using the current electrical components (though a bulb may be added), make the light box functional again. If not possible, electrical components will be left in place. A temporary light source may be added after conservation treatment for photographic purposes, but will be removed immediately afterwards.
17. Replace the paper from underneath the light box lid.
18. Replace the front of the light box.
19. Pack into a suitable container for transport and temporary storage.