

Congratulations to Richard Halliday!!!

Long term TCC member Richard Halliday began his doctoral research that examined the role of the engraver in the transferware process in September 2014 at Manchester Metropolitan University. He gave a lecture to the TCC in October 2015 at the Stoke-based meeting and again to the TCC in Charlottesville, October 2016. During this research, he worked closely with ex-Spode engraver, Bill Heath during the 'Process Documentation' during which time Richard documented the engraving process from start to finish. This was the subject of his Charlottesville lecture.



His eighty-thousand-word thesis and seventy-five thousand-word appendix were submitted on time for examination on September 2017. While the whole research cycle was extremely hard work and time-consuming, Richard thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and is highly-grateful to the access and time given by those ex-Spode engravers that he interviewed such as Paul Wood and Paul Holdway.

In January 2018, Richard took his PhD viva, a two-hour long oral examination of his thesis by the two examiners. Later that day, Richard was granted the award of PhD and permitted to use the title of Doctor. While this was a traumatic experience, the old adage of prior preparation prevents poor performance was never more relevant.



On the 24th of July 2018, Richard attended his graduation ceremony at the Bridgwater Hall in Manchester. There were four-hundred MAs and BAs awarded that day, but only fourteen PhDs. The robes for the ceremony were different for PhD from MA/BA and the headdress was a floppy hat rather than a mortar board. When Richard was called to the stage in front of an audience in excess of a thousand people, the title of his thesis was read out, he walked to the centre of the stage to receive a congratulatory handshake from the vice-chancellor, Malcom Press and was given a scroll. A truly memorable day indeed.



Dr Halliday would like to thank the TCC and members for their continued support and interest in his research. Richard will begin to publish aspects of his research in the forthcoming months.

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