

Minton Conservation Project



August sees the end of the Minton Conservation Project, which has been ongoing for the last year. Funded by the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust and the Art Fund, with contributions from the Wolfson Foundation and the Pilgrim Trust, the project enabled a Project Conservator to work full-time conserving a selection of books and artworks from the Minton Archive.

22 items have now been conserved, including the very earliest Minton pattern books, several ornaments books, and two lever arch files of single-sheet 'shape' designs. Many of the books were in a very fragile state, and needed complex treatment including re-sewing their text blocks and replacing or reinstating the leather on their spines. They are now much more stable and can be handled safely by users of the archive for a long time to come. What's more, the project has enabled the Stoke-on-Trent City Archives to make high-quality scans of many of these beautiful books, with the plan to make them available digitally in the future.

More information about the project, including photos and sneak-peeks of the conservation treatments, can be found on the Minton Archive [website](#) where Project Conservator Jess Hyslop has been blogging about her work throughout the year.

The source is **Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter** (staffordshire@public.govdelivery.com)