

V&A SUMMARY #3 (December 2011): RESPONSE TO SHaLT PROJECT REPORT No.3 – December 2011

1. Introduction

The V&A's primary role in the SHaLT project is fourfold:

- to provide a key means for 'knowledge transfer' through the various platforms operated by the Museum. These range from the Museum's research facilities, spaces for public engagement, through to the web site (currently under a major rebuilding);
- to give access to the wide range of material in the V&A relating to the SHaLT project themes, and to make this material available for use by the project in the six main output strands;
- to support the project through specialist skills in the V&A, including curatorial expertise in performance, period and materials and delivery mechanisms, including publishing, Apps, exhibitions, etc.
- to give practical support in terms of office space and support services

The V&A is considering a Shakespeare Festival in 2014 (450th anniversary of birth) and the work undertaken by SHaLT provides an important development strand in the period running up to it.

2. Specific Projects

a. Highlighting Shakespearean material in V&A

PS has undertaken significant work in highlighting the range of Shakespearean material on display throughout the V&A. The important issue is what can be done to draw more attention to this. Apart from special exhibitions, one answer proposed is to do some form of Shakespearean walk through the V&A. The V&A publishes personality led guides (such as one by A.S.Byatt) for the annual London Design Festival and has recently produced a *Guide to Black Heritage Objects in the V&A's Collections* – covering 12 objects across the whole Museum. Also investigating one on dance through objects in galleries. GM will look into options.

b. Potential Shakespeare Festival 2014

Further planning work undertaken. Will give an opportunity to promote outputs of SHaLT Project, albeit a little after the project has formally finished.

3. Other

GM has discussed additional sources of trust funding with MH. MH to draft submissions.

The V&A Department of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass is producing a major exhibition *Tudors, Stuarts and Russian Tsars 1509-1685* which will cover commercial and diplomatic relations between London and Muscovy during the time of Shakespeare. Now scheduled for March – July 2013. Lead curator at V&A is Dr. Tessa Murdoch. GM to introduce to PS.

4. Action Points

GM to look into opportunities for a guide to relevant objects on show in V&A.

MH to produce funding bids to trusts.