

THE HUMMING FROM BEHIND THE WEBPAGE

June 29, 2012 Judith Winters Archaeological Media, Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2011, Day of Archaeology 2012, Digital Archaeology, Journalism, Publishing Academia, Anthropology, Archaeology, CBA Publications committee, David Willetts, education, Internet Archaeology, London, long-standing copy-editor, Minister of State, Open access, Science, Social movements, Tom and Jerry, Val Kinsler, YouTube

The racing tune of *Largo al factotum* by Rossini was on the radio as I came into work and has stayed in my head all day. It's great uplifting piece of music to be rounding off the week and an apt backdrop to a busy Day of Archaeology 2012 (as well as one of my favourite Tom and Jerry cartoons!). Have a listen while you read the next few posts (Hermann Prey, [Largo al factorum \(YouTube video\)](#))!

I am only in work today for the morning so this post is shorter (and ultimately later as I am now posting this from home) than if Day of Archaeology 2012 fell on one of my full working days like [last year](#). My post has always been at 80% full time which helps to fit in with family life (husband, 2 year old and a 7 year old) and all the other things I try to fit into my evenings and weekends in my 'free' time.

My half days are 'bitty' days. Too short to get my teeth into something big but great for clearing up all those little ones that arise during the course of the week. So far this morning I've dealt with email correspondence on matters such as arranging a review copy of a book to be sent to the journal (we rarely review books but this one has a particular digital slant to it and so makes the grade), sorting out dates for the next [CBA](#) Publications committee meeting, dealing with the queries raised by Val Kinsler, the journal's long-standing copy-editor, on an article for the next issue, as well as setting up the access file for the forthcoming volume and making small changes to the search and subscription database to reflect the new content. I also received a phonecall from a referee regarding a recently submitted text.

Visualising the Guild Chapel, Stratford-upon-Avon: digital models as research tools in buildings archaeology

Kate Giles, Anthony Masinton and Geoff Arnott

Summary

This article disseminates the results of a programme of detailed archaeological survey and archive research on one of Europe's most important surviving late-medieval Guild Chapels — that of the Holy Cross Guild, Stratford-upon-Avon (Warwickshire). Today the building is part of Stratford-upon-Avon's tourist trail, located directly opposite William Shakespeare's home, 'New Place', and visited by thousands of tourists every year. However, its archaeological and historical significance has been overlooked owing to the extensive restoration of the building in the 19th and 20th centuries. This destroyed evidence for an internationally significant scheme of wall paintings within the Chapel, paid for by the London Mayor and Stratford-upon-Avon merchant, Hugh Clopton, an important member of the Holy Cross Guild and the original builder of 'New Place'. The paintings also have an important connection with Stratford-upon-Avon's most famous son, William Shakespeare, whose father may have been involved in their destruction and removal during the 16th century.

Research by a team of historical archaeologists and digital heritage specialists at the Department of Archaeology, University of York, has revealed the significance of the Guild Chapel through the creation of a [digital model](#) and textual paradata, which form the focus of this article. The project is groundbreaking in that it moves beyond the traditional use of digital models as virtual reconstructions of past buildings to use the model itself as a [research tool](#) through which the user can explore and validate the evidence for the scheme directly. This is achieved through the creation of a palimpsest of antiquarian drawings of the paintings, made as they were revealed during restoration works in the 19th and 20th centuries, and set within their 3-dimensional architectural context. The model allows the user to compare and contrast differences in the recording methods, iconographies and interpretations of the scheme. It is supported by the 'paradata' that forms the core of the article text, and which provides an innovative model for the analysis of the antiquarian records of the scheme, and their contextual meaning. The project reveals the Guild Chapel at Stratford-upon-Avon to be one of the finest examples of mercantile and guild patronage of the period, shedding important light on the patronage of ecclesiastical art on the eve of the Reformation, and revealing important connections between provincial guild architecture of Warwickshire and internationally significant schemes in London and



Summary page of 'Visualising the Guild Chapel', Internet Archaeology 32 (forthcoming)

I have a [quick meeting with Stuart](#) from ADS downstairs over our IfA Workplace Learning Bursary application in between spending what's left of the morning polishing a pretty much completed article (above) ready for release, and make a start on the copy-edited draft from Val, specifically collating queries to send back to the authors. Both articles are in fact designated for Open Access as the authors either successfully applied to their departmental research fund, or wisely built in publication funding in their original project bid. All too frequently it is still the case that the outputs of research (and their associated costs) are not given much thought at the start of a project/bid. But if things like publication costs are not factored in at the start, it is almost impossible to recover them later. This to me seems to be the biggest hurdle in the move to Open Access in archaeology whatever [additional waivers there must always be](#) for those without access to such funds. But Open Access is something Internet Archaeology is committed to achieving. I attended a really useful and interesting day in London at the start of June on Open Access organised by the [Repositories Support Project](#) and have been buoyed by the recent announcements and activities (e.g. the Minister of State for Universities and Science David Willetts' recent [speech](#), and the newly released [Finch report](#)), all which point to the inevitability of Open Access. What else can I say – watch this space!