

Restoration of a Victorian What-Not Canterbury

Description

The item was presented to the restorers in good condition with the exception of top shelf. A candle had been left to burn out on the top, causing quite severe damage.



The candle burn was quite dramatic and extensive in its damage. The damage extended below the line of the veneer.



A close up photograph of the damage

Treatment proposal

It was discussed and then agreed with the client that due to the severity of the damage the best option was to cut away the charcoaled area and insert a new section into the shelf and then source a suitable walnut veneer to be inserted over the underlying repair. To then colour out and polish as required this area to blend in with the existing original patination.

This was a particularly challenging job as it took some time to source a suitable veneer close to the original figuring and to then blend in the different colour variations until the new section combined well with original patinated surface.

New walnut veneer was sourced that provided a good match to the existing figuring.



Walnut veneer was sourced that provided a good match to the existing figuring. You can see the repairs made to the substrate.



Planning the placement of the new veneers



The veneers were then carefully placed to line up as best possible with the original walnut figuring



This shows the top of the What-Not after the work was completed



The finished work

Author: Scott Bowran of Warren & Lansdall