FORM 4 (Rule 5)

Section 8 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011
Public Notice on application to the Fabric Advisory Committee

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of:

The Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York

has on this date: 9 June 2022

applied to the Fabric Advisory Committee of the said cathedral for approval of the following proposal:

The Chapter of York proposes to complete the systematic programme of conservation of the Torre Manuscripts concerning the history of the Diocese of York produced by antiquary James Torre in the late 17th century.

Summary of the nature of work and its extent (and materials) [or in the case of an object, a short description of it and details of the proposal]

The Torre Manuscripts (York Minster Archives L1(2)-(10)) are an antiquarian collection, originally in nine large volumes, relating to the Diocese of York, which was compiled by the antiquary James Torre in the late 17th century.

By virtue of their date (pre 1701), the manuscripts are designated as being of outstanding interest on the cathedral inventory. They include extracts from earlier sources now lost and the most valuable and reliable of the early antiquarian surveys of the Minster.

Use of the volumes over the centuries resulted in significant damage to their bindings and leaves. In the late 1980s, specialist conservation advice was obtained and a project of cleaning and repair was initiated, with the largest volumes being rebound into several smaller ones in order to reduce their susceptibility to damage through future handling. There are now 28 volumes in total.

Conservation work was previously completed on a number of the volumes (L1(3), (5)-(10)) and significant progress made with another (L1(2)). Funding is now available to continue the work. The same conservator will be used as previously. Five volumes, L1(2)/1-4 (abstracts of records of the Chapter of York, a valuable source as some of the originals are now lost) and L1(4) (notes on various places and religious institutions), will be conserved to ensure their long-term preservation.
Plans, drawings, specifications or other documents

Copies of the plans, drawings, specification and other documents accompanying this application may be examined online at

https://yorkminster.org/about-us/statutory-applications/

From this day: 9 June 2022
and until: 6 July 2022

REPRESENTATIONS

If you wish to make representations about the whole or any part of the proposal described in this Notice you should write to the Secretary of the Fabric Advisory Committee: insert postal and email address.

Mr David Demack
Westbury House
142 Fox Lane
Leyland, Lancashire
PR25 1HD
FAC@yorkminster.org

So that it reaches the Secretary not later than: insert a date ending 28 days after the time of the commencement of the period for representations.

6 July 2022

DIRECTIONS TO CHAPTER

1. This public notice (or a copy of it) must be displayed for a continuous period of 28 days in a prominent position inside and outside your cathedral where it is readily visible to the public.

2. A copy of this notice must be sent as follows:

(a) to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, and
(b) if the proposal is of a kind described in section 2(1)(a) of the Measure—
   (i) to Historic England (formerly English Heritage)
   (ii) to the national amenity societies as applicable (see list on Form 3)
   (iii) to the local planning authority.
1. TORRE MANUSCRIPTS: CONDITION REPORTS AND TREATMENT PLANS

Conservation Report for The Torre Manuscript ‘The Creation Of Ecclesiastics’ L1/4

Description and Condition

- This volume is written in iron gall ink. It has been untouched and still in the original binding.
- The binding measures L 30 cm  W 20 cm  D 4 cm.
- The volume is intact. The five single cord sewing appears to be sound and laced into the hemp boards. These boards are mostly uncovered, but could be re-used if cleaned and repaired.
- There is a soiled, uneven and partially split half-bound vellum covering around the spine area, which is in need of replacement.
- There are signs of paper staining and some damage to the paper, due to the uneven distribution of the folios.
- The endpapers are in a reasonable condition, but the text block requires varying degrees of attention.
- There is a worn, soiled and uneven sheet of paper haphazardly stuck over the spine, bearing a title and shelfmark.
- There is no visible pagination and no sign of any original head and tail end bands to support the text block. The latter will require some realignment.

Treatment to be carried out.

- Dry clean the text block with a smoke sponge.
- Make extensive paper repairs where necessary, particularly towards the end of the volume.
- Remove the vellum spine covering carefully.
- Gently release the text block, without straining the sewing.
- Repair the original hemp boards with a hemp-paste mixture.
- Check the thread of the spine sewing and reinforce if necessary, using linen thread.
- Sew a plain linen head and tail band on hemp cord with back beading (which extends to the 1st and 5th sewn cord). This will protect and strengthen the book block.
- Reinforce the boards to the text block using linen. This will be necessary to ensure a strong attachment, should the leather wear in the future with use (Hewitt’s Chieftain)
- Cover the spine with hand made paper. (Griffen Mill Cathedral)
- Pare the leather and cover the volume with the brown goatskin and trim the inside board edges.
- Apply quality cartridge paper lining, to make good the levels of paper. Then paste down the fly leaf on the inside of the back and front boards.
• Blind tool the index details and the appropriate lettering on the spine.
• Use Gold leaf 24 ct. as appropriate, to display any lettering (supplied by Cornelissen)

**Materials to be used, showing suppliers:**

• Smoke Sponge ........ (Shepherds)
• Starch wheat paste ...... (Shepherds)
• Wheat flour paste.
• Tengujo Japanese tissue  (Falconer Fine Papers)
• Kozo Shi Japanese tissue  (Shepherds)
• Various linen Threads as appropriate (Shepherds)
• Hemp cord ............. (CC line cord)
• Archival goatskin....... (Hewitt's)
• Linen .................. (Shepherds)
• Handmade paper ... (Griffen Mill 'Cathedral')
• Quality cartridge paper for filling.
• Gold leaf 24 ct. ........(Cornelissen)
Conservation Report for the partially completed volumes of The Torre Manuscripts
L1/2/1   L1/2/2   L1/2/3   L1/2/4

Description and Condition

All four of these volumes, which have been split for convenience and practical use, have been conserved to the same level of workmanship. The paper manuscript has been surface cleaned and any paper repairs have been made using Japanese tissue along both the spine folds and the fore-edges of the folios.

They have been sewn in the raised double cord ‘figure of eight’ style, for additional strength and flexibility. Acid free boards have been cut to size and sanded smooth. Slotted grooves have been made to accommodate the double cord lacing into the boards. Handmade paper fly leaves have been added between both boards of the text block and remain loose, awaiting the appropriate time to be pasted down.

There is minimal variation in the height and widths of the boards, which average out to give the approximate measurements:  H 352 mm  W 219mm  D 34 mm

Treatment to be carried out

• Line the spine with linen between each of the raised bands.

• Stitch through the two edges of spine and overlap the linen to the boards to reinforce the joint.

• Cover the spine spaces between the boards with handmade paper and sand smooth.

• Take a length of hemp cord and plain linen thread to create a hand sewn end band at the head and tail of the spine.

• Ensure that the linen thread ‘beading’ is worked to the back of the spine edge and that the linen threads are extended to the 1st and also to the 5th raised band, i.e. from the top end band and then up from the tail end band. This strengthens the volume.

• Take a sheet of quality cartridge paper to make both sides of the boards smooth (where the slotted grooves have been cut) and sand the paper until smooth.

• Cut a paper template before cutting the leather to the correct size for the book (with turn-ins).

• Pare the leather to accommodate the covering process.

• Using a heavy starch paste to ensure that the raised bands, corners and turn-ins adhere properly.

• Cut off any uneven leather and fill the hollow spaces left by the turn-ins, with quality cartridge paper.

• Measure and cut the fly leaves to avoid contact staining from the leather.

• Adhere the fly leaves to the book block on both the front and back of the boards.
Blind tool the head and tail of the spine and along the top and bottom lines of the double raised bands, to ensure that the leather is properly adhered.

Blind tool the appropriate lettering on the spine and add the glair before gold tooling the spine with finishing tools.

Most of the processes are punctuated with time in the standing press, which aids the work.

**Materials Used showing Suppliers**

- Starch wheat paste…… (Shepherds)
- wheat flour paste.
- Tengujo Japanese tissue - if required (Shepherds)
- Kozo Japanese tissue - for minor tears.
- Linen thread various widths ................ (Shepherds)
- Hemp cord for end-band core ............ (CC line hemp cord)
- Plain Linen ............................... (Shepherds)
- Handmade paper ......................... (Griffen Mill ‘Cathedral’)
- Quality Cartridge paper
- Brown Archival goatskin leather ........ (Hewitt’s)
- Glair for adhering the gold leaf ........ (Hewitt’s)
- Gold Leaf 24 ct. .............................(Cornelissen)

J M Smith

Conservator of Books and Manuscripts

May 2022