



IN(TER)VENTIONS: OBJECT HISTORIES INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM

Thursday 12 February 2015,
The British Museum
(Raymond and Beverly Sackler Rooms)

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Moving away from the focus on the moment of creation in many object histories, this one-day workshop on the theme of 'in(ter)ventions' intends to focus attention on how objects are used, changed and re-contextualized over the course of their existence.

The British Museum offers a unique setting in which to explore this topic. Its vast collections encompass numerous objects which have been invested with various roles before entering the museum. But the museum itself also plays an important and on-going role in the practice of 'thing-making'; of making historical things relevant to modern audiences.

The day will be divided into two sessions. For the morning session we invite proposals for 20 minute papers addressing objects that have had varied roles in their past. These histories might have left material traces on the objects themselves, or they might have been reconstructed through other sources. Preference will be given to those papers addressing objects from the collection of the British Museum.

For the afternoon session we invite proposals for papers addressing museum practice. From cataloguing and curatorial decisions to the sale of printed tea towels in the gift-shop, how does museum work continue to give objects new meaning? In particular, how do/should museum professionals navigate objects with varied histories?

Please send proposals for papers of no more than 250 words, together with a brief biography, to naomi.lebens@courtauld.ac.uk and felicity.roberts@kcl.ac.uk by 28 November 2014.

Workshop organised by CDA students Naomi Lebens
(The British Museum and The Courtauld Institute of Art) and Felicity Roberts
(The British Museum and Kings College London)

