



13 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP

+44 (0) 20 7405 2107
www.soane.org
Charity No: 313609

PREVENTIVE CONSERVATOR (4 days a week – Monday, Tuesday, Friday and one other day)

Salary: £23,200 (£29,000 FTE)

Background

Sir John Soane's Museum has been called 'the supreme example of the house museum in the world'. The home of one of England's greatest architects Sir John Soane (1753 – 1837), it contains his collections of antiquities, furniture, models and paintings as well as architectural drawings and a fine Library. Soane demolished and rebuilt three houses in succession on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields: No. 12 (1792 to 1794), No. 13 (re-built in two phases in 1807-9 and 1812) and finally No. 14 (rebuilt 1823-24).

Throughout the period he made continuous alterations, always seeking to enhance the 'poetic effects' and picturesque qualities of his interiors. In 1833 he negotiated an Act of Parliament leaving the house to the nation on his death, to be preserved 'as nearly as possible' as it was left at that time. The Act came into force in January 1837.

No. 14 was bequeathed to his family but was bought back by the Museum in 1996 and today houses the education facilities, Research Library and staff offices. The Soane Museum is the smallest of the national museums, receiving a grant-in-aid from government. Its buildings are Grade I listed and its whole collection is 'Designated' as of pre-eminent national importance.

The Museum has a small in-house conservation team working in well-equipped dedicated studios. The team comprises a head of conservation and two conservators, working with a consultant paper conservator. They are responsible for preventive and remedial conservation as well as benchwork. This year the team is working on a new collections care plan as part of the Museum's application for re-Accreditation with Arts Council England. Between them they care for a collection of 5,000 works of art (in many different media), 8,000 books and 30,000 drawings as well the fabric of the museum's historic interiors. Much of the care of the collections is carried out on Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed to visitors.

The role:

As essential elements of the work of the team is done on Mondays and Tuesdays when the museum is closed to visitors the post holder will be required to work these days, as well as Fridays (to ensure 5-day cover).

The successful candidate will

- Be responsible for managing and carrying out all forms of preventive conservation including IPM, environmental monitoring and light control;



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- Work alongside other team members carrying out the general care of collections, including conservation cleaning/training, surveys of the interiors and collections and reports (e.g. condition /conservation reports on individual works of art);
- Assist with department record keeping, with particular responsibility for records of preventive and collections care regimes;
- Assist the team with regular work on the Emergency plan and be a member of the Emergency Key Team;
- Support other departments with advice on care of collections;
- Be asked on occasions to act as courier for loans out of the museum to institutions in the UK and abroad.

Person Specification

This post requires a degree in conservation or ICON ACR status and relevant work experience, ideally of 2 – 3 years or more. Experience of working in an historic house environment would be a great advantage.

The successful candidate will have:

- Demonstrable skill and experience in all aspects of preventive conservation. A knowledge of Hanwell EMS would be an advantage;
- Knowledge and experience of collections care regimes in an historic house;
- Excellent IT skills. Knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop would be an advantage;
- Experience of working with a collections management system (the Museum uses Collections Index + and Asset Index +) would be an advantage;
- Good communications skills, both written and verbal



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A flexible attitude in dealing with a wide range of conservation challenges in the context of a historic house and across several teams is essential.

The successful candidate should be able to work both in a team, but also have the ability to be able to work independently and take individual responsibility for work when required. They will have a positive and collaborative approach to their work.

Benefits:

- Salary: £23,200 for a 4 day week (£29,000 FTE)
- This is a 4 day a week post with 26.5 days annual leave plus Bank and public holidays +Christmas Eve (pro rata)
- Membership of the Civil Service Pension Scheme, Alpha.
- Our Hybrid working policy allows for up to 1 day a week to be worked from home.
- Free entry to Museums in the UK and abroad

Applications:

Applications in writing (a full CV and a supporting letter), together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to recruitment@soane.org.uk

The Museum is an Equal Opportunities Employer, committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applicants from all backgrounds.

Closing date: **Monday 25 September at 9.00 am**

Interviews will be held in the Museum on **Thursday 12 October 2023**

Sir John Soane's Museum is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) whose prime sponsor is the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport.

Website: www.soane.org