30.06.2022

DOVER WAR MEMORIAL CONSERVATION - TREATMENT & MAINTENANCE

Re: Dover Town Council Object: Bronze Sculpture by Richard Goulden (1924) on a grey granite plinth Grade II Listed, located within the People of Dover War Memorial Garden of Remembrance, outside Maison Dieu House, Biggin Street, Dover, Kent. **Request for Cost Estimate(s) to treat / maintain.**

To Whom it may concern: Dover Town Council is seeking a conservation specialist to treat, protect and maintain the sculpture and granite plinth referenced above. ***We request two cost estimates; 1. Treatment & ... 2. Maintenance Program*** as specified below. A description of existing condition and photographs have been provided below for information and support in preparing the requested estimates.

Existing Condition: (Reference photographs below) The memorial overall is in good condition. There are no elements missing; no damage, and it is structurally sound. However, the bronze elements have been treated incorrectly; it is an incorrect colour and is showing some signs of deterioration.

- All the stonework is in good condition. It appears to have been cleaned quite heavily in the past and had been cleaned quite recently at the time of inspection as there was no organic growth on the surface. The cement mortar is stained with green copper salts that are not present on the stonework, suggesting it may have been cleaned by an abrasive method at some point.
- A small amount of mortar is missing in some areas. Some mortar is stained green with bronze corrosion, and some is of poor quality.
- What are likely to be flower holders in front of the inscriptions have been filled in with a cement and granite chip mortar. This was probably done to prevent them filling with water and overflowing onto the stone.
- There is a small amount of rust staining on the left side of the base, at ground level.
- An electric plug has been installed on the back face at ground level. The screws used are ferrous and are likely to cause rust staining in the future.
- All bronze elements have been coated with a bronze-coloured paint. It is likely to have been sprayed onto the sur face as there are no visible brush marks. No primer has been used. The paint has deteriorated in areas, exposing the bronze below, and leading to some bronze corrosion. The surface of the exposed bronze is matt and rough, sug gesting that it was cleaned by an abrasive method prior to painting. Green copper staining on the mortar suggests that the sculpture was at some point green with corrosion, however there is very little remaining now, which further suggests that the bronze was blast cleaned.
- There are several areas of porosity in the surface of the bronze, notably at the base of the figure.
- Although the plaques are structurally sound, there is one loose screw on the front face of the plaque on the right.
- The bronze lettering is of good quality and all the letters are securely attached.
- The upward facing “public subscription” plaque is showing signs of deterioration & has some guano on the surface.

1. Treatment Specification: Please provide a estimate of cost and project duration for the work as specified below.

- Off-street parking will be provided adjacent to the monument for duration of the work.
- For public safety, the small garden area around the work must be closed to the public using barrier tape and cones whilst the work is carried out. Trailing leads that could present hazards must also be roped or coned off.
- Use a tower scaffold and stepladder when access to upper areas is required. For public safety equipment must never be left unattended by the contractor.

• Remove the deteriorating paint from the surface with a suitable paint stripper and pressurised steam (DOFF). (Carry out numerous trials using a range of commercially available products and solvents to assure the best result.) The aim is to remove the paint as quickly and efficiently as possible to reduce the amount of chemical paint stripper required. The softened paint is to be removed using hand tools as far as possible before using pressurised steam to remove any residues.

• Restore the patina to a variegated dark brown colour using a variety of chemicals and heat. Sulphide solutions and ferric nitrate solution should be used to restore the original brown colour. It is important that traditional methods be used for patination. Do not use 'bronzing powders'.

• Apply three coats of microcrystalline wax to the bronze, using heat to achieve a smooth finish. Application should be with a soft brush and the heat applied with a propane torch.

• Clean the masonry using pressurised steam (DOFF) with the intention of removing all surface dirt and organic matter from the surface. Attempt to remove the rust staining from the surface using an activated poultice.

• Remove any mortar that has failed or that is of poor quality using hand tools. Cut the joints back sufficiently for effective repointing.

• Repoint with a colour-matched, lime-based mortar consisting of crushed stone, sand, lime and possibly a pigment.

• Upon completion of the work, Clean the work area removing all equipment, tools, barriers and rubbish.

• Provide inspection one 1 year after completion of the work and provide an assessment and/or any recommenda tions for remediation, if needed.

2. Maintenance Program Specification: Provide cost estimate for a program of maintenance every 2 years, to include:

• Clean the masonry using pressurised steam to remove all surface dirt and organic matter from the surface.

• Apply one coat of microcrystalline wax to the bronze, using heat to achieve a smooth finish. Apply using a soft brush and (heat applied with a propane torch).

• Inspect all elements of the monument, record any deterioration and provide report to Dover Town Council.

Please submit your estimates of cost not later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, 29th July, 2022 to ...

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