Condition Report and Treatment Proposal

Artist: Hedley Fitton

Object #: B2015.15.3

Title: The Cross at Winchester

Medium: Etching and drypoint

Paper: medium-weight, slightly textured, cream wove paper

Size: Plate: 20 ½” x 12 13/16” (image 19m 11/16” x 12 ½”)

**Condition:**

The print is executed on medium-weight, slightly textured wove paper with a strong, visible plate mark. The artist’s signature is inscribed in soft graphite pencil at the lower right margin of the print within plate mark and the title is inscribed at the lower left. There are dark yellow mat burns around the plate mark, caused by having the print being in contact with the acidic window mat. The areas where the window mat was covering are discolored to yellow from the acid migration. There is slight discoloration present in small segments on left and right sides from previous tape attachment, as well as two spots of adhesive residue at the top right and left.

On the verso, the print has several pieces of masking tape adhered in long segments around all four edges. The masking tape adhesives are aged to become yellow and hardened. The adhesives started to stain the paper on the verso, but have not migrated to the recto yet. Along the top edges, there are two additional spots of hardened adhesive with mesh fabric embedded underneath masking tape. All other areas of verso are uniform in color and texture with slight discoloration of paper overall from aging.

**Treatment Proposal:**

* Test the media and the paper support for stability before and during treatment.
* Remove masking tape carriers from verso and reduce the adhesive residues to the extent possible using mechanical tools as well as solvent.
* Remove adhesive residues around the edges from the recto.
* Humidify the object prior to washing.
* Wash the object in successive baths with calcium-enriched deionized water to reduce discolorations and acidity from the paper support.
* Assess the result of washing. If the mat burn is still persistent, locally bleach the remaining mat burn. Rinse the object thoroughly after bleaching.
* Humidify the object and place it between tailored soft blotters under glass plate and light weight in order to regain planarity while preserving the plate mark and texture in the paper.

Report by Beth Morris/Soyeon Choi on March 18, 2016