

REPORT ON SAMPLES FROM TEXTILE AND TAPESTRY CONSERVATION STUDIES, HAMPTON COURT

LONDON

1. Sample from King William III State Bed

Examination by scanning electron microscopy showed this sample to be homogeneous in appearance and containing no biological structural information. It is not therefore likely to be a fungus or similar system.

Infrared analysis of the specimen showed it to be composed of a protein-type material. Subsequent analysis, both by chromatography and electrophoresis, confirmed this conclusion. The data suggested it was a protein similar to gelatin but levels were too low for certain conclusions.

2. Glue from Queen Caroline's State Bed

This sample was subjected to the same procedure as above. The electron microscope showed the presence of wood and silk fibres attached to a homogeneous matrix. Consequent analysis suggested the glue was an animal glue

3. Glue Sample

Infrared analysis and subsequent solvent extraction followed by chromatographic separation showed the glue to be basically gelatin system that contained no detectable glycerin or starch (ie with the techniques used levels of such materials would be well below 1%).

J Evans

December, 1983.