

Religion, Collections & Heritage Group

Third Annual *International* Conference

Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th October 2024

Following the success of our conferences in 2022 and 2023, RCHG is delighted to announce that we will be holding our third annual international Conference as an on-line event in October 2024. The aim is to bring people together and offer a forum for the sharing of skills and knowledge amongst the many, diverse people involved with collections of religious artefacts and heritage around the world. The conference is free – although we will invite a pay-what-you-can donation to cover costs – and the call for contributions is now open!

We **invite you** to propose a presentation on some aspect of the conference theme (see overleaf), whether a conventional talk with slides, a conversation with colleagues or a virtual tour of your institution's collection, displays, archive or building. We welcome proposals from individuals and institutions, from museums, galleries, places of worship and other heritage interests, from heritage professionals and scholars. We also welcome contributions from other heritage networks with overlapping areas of interest.

The deadline for proposals is 15th September 2024.

Whilst the event will run to UK time, we will make every effort to programme presentations so that your slot is at a reasonable time for you as the presenter. The conference language is English, but please don't be put off if your first language is not English, as your international audience welcomes the effort and is forgiving. There will be plenty of discussion time to sort out any misunderstandings! The timings will allow presentations of approximately 20 minutes, with ten minutes for questions and answers, and a plenary session for each group of presenters.

<https://religioncollections.wordpress.com/>

Proposals could consider the following broad themes, but these are just ideas, so the submission of other topics for consideration is very welcome!

- Art and artefacts in museums, galleries and the collections of places of worship.
- Research, archives and the sharing of knowledge.
- My small museum has some items from a faith community that we know little about – how do we find out more and how should we handle the artefacts?
- Starting afresh – how to turn a collection or an idea into a display or an entire museum!
- Exhibitions, curation and display – from blockbusters to budget tips for sensitive display.
- Accommodating religious observance in secular spaces.
- Making consecrated, empowered or ensouled more-than-objects welcome.
- Engaging audiences and forging links with spiritual/source communities and others.
- Diverse heritage in the community – contributing to inter-faith and inter-cultural understanding, and welcoming different perspectives on the same item!
- Crossing the boundaries of religions – e.g. pilgrimage, hero/saint veneration, magic, symbol, art as a non-specific spiritual gateway.
- Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Archaeology and sacredness in the museum – beyond the ‘ritual assemblage’.
- Security – protecting your collection from secular or religious iconoclasm.
- Reconstruction and reconciliation after heritage loss.

Please send the following to religionandcollections@gmail.com (with ‘Conference’ in the subject line), by 15th September 2024:

- a 250-word proposal,
- a 200-word biography, and
- (optional) a single attachment and/or a web link.

<https://religioncollections.wordpress.com/>