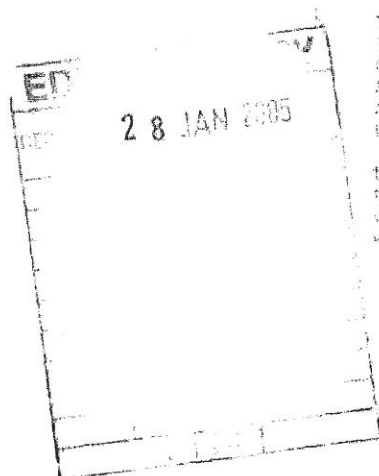


The University of Manchester
The Whitworth
Art Gallery

MANCHESTER

25 January 2005

David Ramsbottom
Edmund Kirby
8 King Street
Manchester
M2 6AQ



The Whitworth Art Gallery
The University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
UK

tel: +44 (0)161 275 2450
fax: +44 (0)161 275 2451
web: <http://theuniversityofmanchester.ac.uk/whitworth>
www.whitworthartgallery.ac.uk/whitworth

Dear David

Buxton Crescent & Spa

Thank you for arranging for Nicola and me to be given such an extensive and detailed guided tour when we visited the Crescent last week.

Clearly, its refurbishment is a major project and a particularly interesting one if it is to be restored to all its Georgian glory, not least because, as far as we could see, very little of the original interior decoration survives. In respect of what has survived from the 19th century, that is, occasional areas of embossed wallcovering on dados, the embossed *art nouveau* frieze and embossed ceiling decoration in the 'blue' room, and the 1960s 'mural' in the basement, we see no reason why these should be left *in situ*, although we think it extremely important that a thorough photographic record is made of the two latter examples - which are important historical documents - and that substantial samples of the frieze, ceiling and mural are professionally removed and housed in an appropriate repository.

That said, if a decision is made to restore any of the 19th century decorative scheme, the embossed ceiling and frieze could be conserved, probably on site. It is likely that the mural could benefit from professional attention also. The best people to approach for estimates would be Sandiford & Mapes and Allyson McDermott, I have attached information about both.

I hope you find this information useful. Given that we did not take any photographs I haven't been able to look through our files to see if the Crescent wallcoverings can be attributed to a manufacturer and dated accurately, although more often than not this isn't possible because so few examples, relatively speaking, were documented pictorially. If further investigation is required, however, please don't hesitate to contact me and, as I mentioned when we met, the Whitworth would be delighted to house examples of the three decorations referred to above, with a view to displaying them, at some point in the future together with photographs and explanatory relating to the refurbishment.

Yours sincerely

Christine Woods

Christine Woods
Curator (Wallpapers)

cc Geoff Pickard