Contents

Preface

Ack	anowledgements	xv
Coı	atributors	xvii
Part 1: Textile X-radiography		1
1.	Introduction Sonia O'Connor and Mary M. Brooks	3
	The catalyst for this book The history of textile radiography Radiography at the Textile Conservation	3 5
	Centre	7
	Imaging textiles using mammography	8
	Developing practice	10
	Notes	10
	References	11
2.	Principles of X-radiography Sonia O'Connor	12
	Introduction	12
	X-rays and the electromagnetic	12
	spectrum	13
	Properties of X-rays	13
	Production of X-rays	15
	Conventional radiography	16
	Optimising image quality	21
	Viewing film radiographs	21
	Working with film radiographs Storage and archive of radiographic	∠1
	films	22
	Summary	22
	Note	22
	References	22
3.	High definition X-radiography of textiles: methods and approaches Sonia O'Connor	23
	Introduction	23
	Why textiles seem difficult to X-ray	23
	Low energy high definition radiography	24

xiii

		0.5
	Choosing X-ray equipment and facilities	25
	Practical approaches to textile	
	radiography	30
	Determining correct exposure	
	parameters	35
	Thin homogeneous textiles	39
	Layered and more complex textile	
	objects	39
	Thicker textiles	4()
	Heterogeneous textiles	4()
	Mixed-media objects	41
	X-raying 'special needs' textiles	43
	Special radiographic techniques	50
	Notes	56
	References	56
4.	Textile X-radiography and digital	
т.	imaging	58
	Sonia O'Connor and Jason Maher	
		- ()
	Introduction	58
	Digital versus analogue	58
	Components of a digital image	59
	Storage of digital images	62
	Digital image capture	64
	Direct and computed radiography	67
	CR and textile radiography	68
	Digital image processing	69
	Summary	71
	Notes	73
	References	73
_		74
5.	Image interpretation	/ 1
	Sonia O'Connor	
	Introduction	74
	Negative images	74
	Interpretation basics	76
	Characteristic images	78
	Effect of exposure on image	
	interpretation	81
	Image artefacts	88
	References	90

vii

viii	Contents	
6.	Assessing the risks of X-radiography	
	to textiles	91
	Sonia O'Connor, with a contribution on DNA by Jason Maher	
	Introduction	91
	Colour	91
	Dating	91
	DNA	92
	Organic textile fibres and dyes	92
	X-ray analysis	93
	Testing radiographed silk samples	94
	Summary	94 94
	Notes References	94
	References	74
7.	Radiation safety	96
	Graham Hart	
	Introduction	96
	Myths and legends	96
	Justification, optimisation and limitation United Kingdom <i>Ionising Radiations</i>	96
	Regulations	97
	Radiation and risk	97
	Putting risk in perspective	100
	Practical radiation protection	100
	Radiation monitoring	101
	Conclusion	103
	Acronyms	103
	References	103
Pa	rt 2: Exploring the X-radiographic	
fea	tures of textile objects	105
	Sonia O'Connor and Mary M. Brooks	
8.	Materials	107
	Fibres	107
	Fillings	109
	Supports, stays and substructures	119
	Miscellaneous materials	123
	Note	125
	References	125
Q	Threads, fabrics and construction	
γ.	techniques	126
	Yarns and threads	126
	Cords and plaits	126
	Woven textile structures	126
	Non-woven structures	136
	Construction techniques	140
	Other construction methods and	
	materials	145

	Notes References	149 149
10.	Surface decoration Painted and printed textiles Underdrawing Appliqué and embroidery Metal threads	150 150 153 153 154
	Unusual materials used for surface decoration Note References	156 159 159
11.	Makers and making, degradation and repair	163
	Makers and making Degradation Use and wear Reuse, repair and conservation Summary Notes References	163 164 166 168 171 171 172
Pa	rt 3: Case studies	173
	Introduction Mary M. Brooks and Sonia O'Connor	
12.	Evaluating X-radiography as a	
	tool for examining upholstered furniture Kathryn Gill	175
	Introduction Practical challenges to the radiography	175
	of historic upholstered seat furniture Radiography for documentation: case study of an eighteenth century	175
	upholstered chair Radiography as a complement to photographic evidence: case study of	176
	the Seehof Suite Interpretation of the X-ray images What is not revealed by radiography:	176 178
	case study of the Audley End settee Investigation of a portable medical facility	180
	for object examination Conclusion Acknowledgements	182 183 183
	Notes Acronyms	183 184
	References	184

13.	The use of X-radiography in the	
	Textile Conservation Laboratory,	
	Opificio delle Pietre Dure, Florence:	
	methodological, technical and researc	h
	approaches towards a non-invasive	
	investigative technique	185
		103
	Susanna Conti and Alfredo Aldrovandi	
	Introduction: concepts and issues	185
	Selecting appropriate analytical approaches	186
	Radiography applied to textiles:	
	technical issues	186
	Radiography of large textiles	186
	The use of radiography at the <i>Opificio</i>	
	delle Pietre Dure	187
	Pilot study of the use of radiography in	107
	textile conservation: case study of a	
	chasuble	188
		190
	Case study: a Chinese screen	190
	Case study: a fifteenth century velvet	
	fragment from a nineteenth century	400
	collection	193
	Case study: a mitre	194
	Case study: dressed statue	196
	Case study: wax sculpture Dormitio	
	Virgini ('The Death of the Virgin')	199
	Discussion	201
	Acknowledgements	201
	Notes	201
	References	201
14.	The role of X-radiography in the	
	documentation and investigation of	
	an eighteenth century multi-layered	
	stomacher	203
	Gabriella Barbieri	
	Introduction	203
	The Nether Wallop cache	203
	The practice of concealment: a contextual	
	framework	203
	The stomacher	204
	Rationale for research	205
		206
	General aims of project	206
	Specific objectives of X-ray examination	206
	Methodology	
	Interpretation of the radiographic images	206
	Materials and construction	207
	Patterns of use	208
	Patterns of degradation	209
	Conclusion	209
	Acknowledgements	210
	Notes	210

Notes

	Acronyms References	210 210
15.	Hidden Structures: the use of X-radiography in the Fashion Gallery at Snibston Discovery	
	Park, Leicestershire Clare Bowyer	212
	Introduction The Fashion Gallery, Snibston Discovery	212
	Park Hidden Structures	212 212
	Selecting objects for radiographic display	212
	images	213
	Chosen objects and radiographs Feedback and evaluation	214 216
	reedback and evaluation	210
16.	X-radiography of a knitted silk	
	stocking with metal thread embroidery	217
	Sonia O'Connor, Mary M. Brooks and	217
	Josie Sheppard	
	Introduction The stocking	217 217
	Condition	217
	Radiography	219
	What the radiography revealed	221
	Summary	224
	Acknowledgement	224
	Note Defenses	224 224
	Reference	224
17.	A chalice veil rediscovered Sonia O'Connor and Mary M. Brooks	225
	Introduction	225
	Description	225
	Condition	226 226
	Evidence from radiography Conclusion	230
	Acknowledgement	230
	Notes	230
	References	230
18.	The use of X-radiography in the analysis and conservation	
	documentation of a set of seventeentl	
	century hanging wall pockets Mary M. Brooks and Sonia O'Connor	231
	Introduction	231
	The hanging wall pockets	231

Materials and construction	231
Condition before treatment	231
Radiography	231
Information obtained from the	
radiography	233
Embroidery techniques	235
Damage and repair	235
Conclusion	236
Acknowledgements	236
Note	236
Reference	236
19. 'In needle works there doth gr	reat
knowledge rest': the contribut	
X-radiography to the understa	
of seventeenth century English	1
embroideries from the Ashmo	lean
Museum of Art and Archaeolo	
Oxford	237
Mary M. Brooks and Sonia O'Conn	or
-	237
Introduction	237
Radiography techniques	
The contribution of radiography	
understanding materials, condition	
construction	238
Summary	247
Acknowledgements	247
Notes	247
References	247
20. X-radiography of dolls and to	ys 249
Mary M. Brooks, Sonia O'Connor a	nd
Josie Sheppard	
	240
Introduction	249
Materials and manufacture of Eur	
dolls: a brief overview	249
The value of radiography for cura	
and conservation	256
Summary of radiography method	
Information from radiography	261
Summary	265
Acknowledgements	265
Notes	265
References	265
21. X-radiography of teddy bear	s and
other textile artefacts at the	
Victoria & Albert Museum	266
Marion Kite	
Introduction	266
Early radiography of textiles and	
the Victoria & Albert Museum	266
Radiography of teddy bears	266
Radiography of feddy beats	200

	Taking and interpreting radiographic	
	images	268
	Stuffings, squeakers and structures	268
	Construction and assembly methods	269
		272
	Threads and fabrics	
	Conclusion	272
	Acknowledgements	272
	Notes	272
	References	272
22.	X-radiography of patchwork and quilts	273
	Mary M. Brooks, Sonia O'Connor and Josie Sheppard	
	Introduction	273
	Quilting and patchwork: a brief overview	274
	The value of radiography for curation and	
	conservation	274
		_,.
	Special requirements for radiography of	275
	quilts and coverlets	275
	Information from radiography	
	Benefits of radiography	284
	Acknowledgements	287
	Note	287
	References	287
23.	Revealing the layers: The X-radiography of eighteenth century shoes at Hampshire County Council Museums and Archives Service Sarah Howard and Robert Holmes	288
	Introduction	288
	Radiography at HCCMAS	288
	Films and processing	289
	Selection of shoes for radiography	289
	Construction of heels	289
	Stitching	290
	General construction	293
		293
	Conclusion	293
	Notes	
	References	293
24.	The contribution of X-radiography to the conservation and study of textile/leather composite archaeological footwear recovered from the Norwegian Arctic	294
	Elizabeth E. Peacock	
	Introduction	294
	History of Russian Pomor hunting activities on Svalbard	294

	The burial environment on	
	West Spitsbergen, Svalbard	295
	The Russekeila site	296
	The artefacts and their recovery	296
	The footwear recovered at Russekeila	296
	Radiography of the footwear	296
	Results and implications	298
	Conservation strategy and implementation	
		<i>_</i>
	Russian Pomor textile/leather composite	299
	archaeological footwear revisited	300
	Conclusion	
	Notes	301
	References	301
25.	Controlled lifting and X-radiography	
	of gold threads from ancient	
	archaeological textiles	302
	Elizabeth Barham	
	Y 1	200
	Introduction	302
	The Spitalfields Roman sarcophagus	202
	textile finds	302
	The Prittlewell Anglo-Saxon	20.4
	chamber-grave textile finds	304
	Conclusions	306
	Acknowledgements	306
	Notes	306
	Reference	306
26.	X-radiography of ethnographic	
20.	objects at the Horniman Museum	307
	Louise Bacon	507
		207
	Introduction	307
	Radiography equipment and methods	.
	used at the Horniman Museum	307
	Textile elements in ethnographic artefacts	308
	The conservation benefits of radiography	
	for ethnographic artefacts with textile	
	components: two case studies	308
	components: two case studies	311
	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion	311
	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements	311 311
	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion	311 311 312
	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References	311 311 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the	311 311 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and	311 311 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and reinterpretation of an incomplete	311 311 312 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and reinterpretation of an incomplete musette	311 311 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and reinterpretation of an incomplete	311 311 312 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and reinterpretation of an incomplete musette Sylvie François	311 311 312 312 312
27.	components: two case studies The ethics of radiography Conclusion Acknowledgements Notes References The use of X-radiography in the conservation treatment and reinterpretation of an incomplete musette	311 311 312 312 312 314

		314
	Treatment proposal and the role of	a
	radiography	315
	0 1 1	315
	1 0 0 1	316
	Impact of radiography on the treatment	
	1	318
		318
	Notes	318
	References	318
28.	X-radiographic examination of a	
	historic mannequin on display in	
	Edinburgh Castle, Scotland	319
	David Starley and Fiona Cahill	
	Introduction	319
	History of the mannequins	319
	Description Description	320
	Background to the projects	320
		320
	P	320
	Radiographic procedure and equipment	
	Interpretation of the radiographs	322
	Evidence for dating	323
	Summary	323
	Acknowledgements	324
	Note	324
	References	324
29.	X-radiography of Rembrandt's	
	paintings on canvas	325
	Ernst van de Wetering	
	Précis by Mary M. Brooks and	
	Sonia O'Connor	
	T. 1	225
	Editors' note	325
	Rembrandt's oil paintings on canvas	325
	Objectives of research into canvas supports	325
	Radiographs as a means of studying	
	canvas	325
	Research methods and results	326
	Characteristics of canvases by, or	
	attributed to, Rembrandt	327
	Conclusion	327
	Acknowledgements	327
	References	328
	Index	329