

The Sources of Colour: the Gobelins Dyeing Workshop (Paris, 7–8 Oct 21)

Paris, Institut national d'histoire de l'art, 07.–08.10.2021

Eingabeschluss : 31.03.2021

Marie-Anne Sarda

Call for papers – ‘The Sources of Colour: the Gobelins Dyeing Workshop’

The National Institute of Art History (Institut National d'Histoire d'Art, INHA), in conjunction with the Archives Nationales and the Mobilier National, will be holding two study days specifically devoted to the Gobelins dyeing workshop.

Jehan Gobelin, a dyer from Reims, set up a workshop in the mid fifteenth century not far from the Bièvre River, whose water was particularly suitable for dyeing purposes. His descendants, who were experts in the dyeing of wool in Venice scarlet, soon acquired vast stretches of land that ran alongside the Bièvre and constructed large workshops. Henri IV rented them and had tapestry workshops installed on the sites.

In 1662, Colbert acquired the property for the Crown, and he brought together and placed the various workshops under the direction of Charles Le Brun. To reorganise the dyeing workshop, Le Brun solicited the help of a Dutch master dyer, Josse Kerchove. Since this time, the Gobelins dyeing workshop, which is the oldest European workshop of its kind that has been operating continuously since its foundation, has remained in the same place inside the Gobelins enclosure, to the north of the chapel.

This rich diachronic and multidisciplinary history is the topic of these study days, the first ever devoted to the Gobelins dyeing workshop, in its long history. Based on unprecedented sources or sources seen from a fresh perspective, these study days aims to focus on the latest knowledge concerning the dyeing workshop.

Using new research findings and sources compiled since 2015 by the teams working at the Mobilier National and made available to researchers, various themes will be addressed during these study days:

- the role of the dyeing workshop in the evolution of regulatory texts relating to the métier of dyer, from Colbert's reorganisation to the beginning of the twentieth century;
- the contributions made by the successive directors of the dyeing workshop; generally speaking, all prosopographical research into the staff working in the dyeing workshop is welcome;
- the contributions made by industrial chemistry to all of the fabric preparatory and dyeing processes;
- the school of dyeing founded at the beginning of the nineteenth century by the Gobelins and the

courses held by Chevreul, which were replaced by instruction in dyeing in Paris, throughout the nineteenth century (similar training was provided by Payen and Persoz at the Centre National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), and in the 1830s in Lyon, Mulhouse, and Rouen);

- the status of national laboratory of expertise acquired by the dyeing workshop in the nineteenth century, initially during the First Empire in relation to the manufacture of Lyon silks, and subsequently in the context of the development of the dyeing industries in the colonies (madder and cochineal in Algeria; indigo in Senegal), and more generally in the Western world.

For each of these themes, information about other dyeing workshops or other international experiences involving the transmission of knowledge and dyeing techniques is very welcome, from a comparative viewpoint. Likewise, the participation of researchers conducting studies into the history of the sciences, history, literature, textile design, and colour, or in the conservation sciences is particularly welcome.

The conference will be held both online and face-to-face, requiring particular care with regard to the way in which the discussions are conducted. We will ask participants to focus on their statements very precisely for fifteen minutes to optimise the discussion times. Participants may communicate in French or in English.

Scientific and organisational committee:

Muriel Barbier (the Mobilier National)

Anne-Laure Carré (the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, CNAM)

Hélène Cavalié (the Mobilier National)

Claude Coupry (the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, CNRS)

Joëlle Garcia (the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle)

Clémence Lescuyer (the Archives Nationales)

Alexia Raimondo (the Archives Nationales)

Charlotte Ribeyrol (Paris-Sorbonne University)

Marie-Anne Sarda (Institut National d'Histoire d'Art, INHA)

Contributions (2,000 characters), accompanied by a short biography/bibliography, must be sent before 31 March 2021 to:

marie-anne.sarda@inha.fr and alexia.raimondo@culture.gouv.fr

Sources on the Gobelins dyeing workshop:

(More detailed information about the collection may be obtained from the members of the scientific and study day organisation committee)

The Archives Nationales

The Pierrefitte-sur-Seine site:

Sub-series AF/IV (the Secretariat of State)

https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/IR/FRAN_IR_003821

Sub-series F/12 (commerce and industry)

https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/IR/FRAN_IR_000185

https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/IR/FRAN_IR_000379

Sub-series F/21 (fine arts)

https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/IR/FRAN_IR_000390

Sub-series 0/2, 0/3, 0/4, and 0/5 (the Maison de l'Empereur or Maison du Roi)

https://www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/siv/POG/FRAN_POG_04/c614xe1cee4--1dzu2cdzz452g

The Mobilier National, Paris (online search tools):

<http://www.mobilernational.culture.gouv.fr/fr/collections-et-ressources/centre-de-documentation>

Several digital sources are currently being published online:

https://fr.m.wikisource.org/wiki/Cat%C3%A9gorie:Collections_du_Mobilier_national

The Bibliothèque Centrale du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (online Calames union catalogue):

<http://www.calames.abes.fr/pub/mnhn.aspxx>

An inventory of the Eugène Chevreul collection is currently being compiled, so any requests for information or requests to view the archives must be sent to: patrimoinedbd@mnhn.fr

The Manuscript Department of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (online catalogue):

<https://archivesetmanuscrits.bnf.fr/pageCollections.html?col=1>

Bibliographie indicative:

La plus grande partie des travaux qui ont été menés sur l'atelier de teinture des Gobelins est dépendante d'études plus larges engagées soit sur la manufacture des Gobelins, soit sur Michel-Eugène Chevreul.

- BELHOSTE Bruno, « Dyeing at the Gobelins in the Eighteenth Century. The challenge of Quémizet », dans : BUSHART Magdalena, STEINLE Friedrich, Colour Histories, Berlin, Boston, 2015, p. 67-91
- COURAL Jean et GASTINEL-COURAL Chantal, Soieries Empire, Paris, RMN, 1980
- COURAL Jean, GASTINEL-COUAL Chantal, Fabriques et manufactures sous le Premier Empire : Lyon, Beauvais, les Gobelins. Collections du Mobilier national, Paris, 1981
- COURAL Jean, GAUDRY Hélène et VALANSOT Odile, Soieries de Lyon, commandes impériales, collections du Mobilier national, Lyon, musée historique des tissus, 1982
- COURAL Jean, Les Gobelins, Paris, Beaux-Arts/TIM, 1989
- EMPTOZ Gérard, « Michel-Eugène Chevreul, un savant dans son siècle», Revue française des corps gras, n° 9/10, septembre-octobre 1989, p. 367-373.
- FOURNIER Josette, « Chevreul et le retard français dans le développement des colorants de synthèse », Revue d'histoire de la pharmacie, 2005, n° 347, p. 349-370.
- FOX Robert, NIETO-GALAN Agusti (dir.), Natural Dyestuffs and Industrial Culture in Europe 1750-1880, Canton, MA : Science History Publications, Inc., Watson Publishing International, 1999
- FROISSART Rosella, Avant-garde et tradition dans les arts du décor en France. Lectures critiques autour de Guillaume Jeanneau, Université d'Aix-Marseille, mémoire d'habilitation à diriger des recherches, 2011
- GASTINEL-COURAL Chantal, Une ville dans Paris : la manufacture des Gobelins et son rayonnement, Paris, DAAVP, 1993
- GIRARD Caroline, La manufacture des Gobelins du Premier Empire à la monarchie de Juillet, thèse de l'Ecole nationale des chartes, 2003

- GUILFREY Jules, Les Manufactures nationales de tapisserie : Gobelins et Beauvais, Paris, 1907
- HAVARD H., VACHON M., Les manufactures nationales : Gobelins, Savonnerie, Sèvres et Beauvais, Paris, 1889
- KNOTHE Florian, The Manufacture des meubles de la couronne aux Gobelins under Louis XIV : a social, political, and cultural history, Turnhout, Brepols, 2016.
- Michel-Eugène Chevreul : un savant, des couleurs, publication des actes du colloque de 1989 coordonné par ROQUE Georges, BODO Bernard, VIENOT Françoise, Paris, Museum national d'histoire naturelle, 1997
- NAFFAH-BAYE Christiane et LAZAJ Jehanne (dir.), L'Esprit et la main. Héritage et savoir-faire des ateliers de restauration du Mobilier national, Paris, 2015).
- NIETO-GALAN Agusti, Colouring textiles. A history of natural dyestuffs in industrial Europe, Dordrecht/Boston/Londres, Kluwer, 2001
- ROQUE Georges, Art et science de la couleur : Chevreul et les peintres, de Delacroix à l'abstraction, Nîmes, J. Chambon, 1997
- Tombée de métier, Milan, Silvana editoriale, 2016
- VAISSE Pierre, « La querelle de la tapisserie au début de la IIIe République », Revue de l'Art, 1973, n° 22, p. 66-86
- Versailles. Savoir-faire et matériaux, Actes Sud/Château de Versailles, 2019
- VITTEL Jean (dir.), Les Manufactures des Gobelins, quatre siècles de création, Paris, 2014

Quellennachweis:

CFP: The Sources of Colour: the Gobelins Dyeing Workshop (Paris, 7-8 Oct 21). In: ArtHist.net, 15.03.2021.

Letzter Zugriff 06.05.2025. <<https://arthist.net/archive/33598>>.