



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:49 pm*

Ten minutes to go before we officially start, but it's lovely to see so many here before the start so we can go "Christmas" before we get down to the deep questions.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:50 pm*

Dinosaur makes a brilliant bread pudding, it's terribly moreish so doesn't last long in this house



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:51 pm*

Ah - mid-winter! The time for indulgence, because the weather is so dull there's nothing better to do. Dinosaur sounds an interesting recipe.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:54 pm*

I'll have to put the recipe on here for everyone to try, one day



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:55 pm*

Excellent - I'm all for sharing recipes.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:55 pm*

We need a "Recipes" section in the forum ... Claire?



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:55 pm*

Good Idea Tim.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:55 pm*

Yes - brilliant idea.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:56 pm*

yes, it is, anyone heard of cloutie dumpling....



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:56 pm*

No, what is it?



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:56 pm*

I'm sure many of us have got our own little recipes we would like to share with each other



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:57 pm*

Yes - weird Scottish very rich type of Christmas pudding. Not a lover of Christmas pudding, I'm not keen on cloutie dumpling! However, I do have my late mother-in-law's recipe for it if anyone wants to clog up their arteries!



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:58 pm*

Claire's setting up a section in the forum as we chat.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:59 pm*

Now that's what I call efficient!



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:59 pm*

It's a pud, very similar to a xmas pud, a scottish recipe. its nice, boiled in a cloth, 'clootie'



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:59 pm*

Done!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:59 pm*

Melanie, You aren't on your own where Christmas pudding is concerned I find it too rich. Dinosaur always does a bread pudding instead.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 10:59 pm*

Sherry trifle is an option, but I prefer cheese & biccies!



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:00 pm*

Thanks Dawn!



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:00 pm*

Well, it's time we got started on this evening's chat. Welcome Melanie to the chatroom and thank you for spending some time with us.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:00 pm*

My pleasure.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:00 pm*

Feel free to ask your questions to Melanie, about her expert chat or anything you've read or want to ask about Tudor artwork.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:00 pm*

The basic recipe isn't as rich as the xmas pud, nice with custard. will put it on the NEW forum



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:01 pm*

(Or christmas puds if you want!)



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:01 pm*

For anyone interested in Hilliard and the miniatures of this period, you might want a ruler - or if you are eating Christmas pudding, a set of scales!



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:01 pm*

Why a ruler?



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:02 pm*

Mell, where did you say the black background miniature of Robert Dudley could be found? I haven't seen that one before.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:02 pm*

Oh, I remember now - you mentioned it in the talk.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:02 pm*

Sorry - that sounded rather random! You might want a ruler to get a sense of scale?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:02 pm*

As for the Dudley miniature with the black ground, I believe it's in the Buccleugh collection. I'm going up there in April to see the Unknown Lady I believe might be Teerlinc.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:03 pm*

Well to be honest I know very little about Tudor art, sooo any thing people ask and you answer will be an education



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:03 pm*

Hi Melanie and everyone. I was so surprised to see how small Hilliard's portraits were. One was 3/4 inch. He was brilliant.



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:03 pm*

Thank you!



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:03 pm*

I have my tape measure in front of me.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:03 pm*

Give us some measurements to look at.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:04 pm*

Hi Sharon, the miniature you were thinking about is the two for the ring. These are 18mm high



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:04 pm*

Tim - the size of a thumbnail for those without a ruler. These images are tiny.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:05 pm*

The 1572 portrait of Elizabeth is just under 2 inches high (ie 2.5cms/25mm) and the level of detail has to have been done using a magnifying glass.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:05 pm*

Heavens, how did he do that! even with perfect vision that would be more than difficult



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:05 pm*

How good were magnifying glasses at the time?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:06 pm*

The painting of these portraits was also seasonal. We have been suffering gloomy days here in the UK and the days are short. @ Tim - the magnifying glasses may have been ground in Venice, so were incredibly expensive.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:07 pm*

Just going to ask about magnification



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:07 pm*

Spectacles are shown in various portraits dating back to the 1500s, but also in the marginalia of illuminated documents going back to the 13th century!



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:07 pm*

Hi Melanie, hi everyone!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:07 pm*

There is a portrait of his dated from 1585 of an unknown youth. I think it's mary queen of scots



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:07 pm*

Dawn, who knows!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:08 pm*

Lorna, 1585 - which Unknown Youth is that? Do you know which collection it is in?



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:08 pm*

The brushes must have been incredibly fine too.



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:08 pm*

Hi Olga!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:08 pm*

Lorna, 1585 - Unknown Youth? And why do you think this is Mary?



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:08 pm*

Victoria and Albert collectio



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:09 pm*

are they any brushes left from these times, they must have been literary one or two hairs



**Sharon Conrad**

December 18, 2015 - 11:09 pm

He painted with a brush that had only one hair. My friend paints like that.



**Olga Hughes**

December 18, 2015 - 11:09 pm

This one Bo?[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas\\_Hilliard#/media/File:Nicholas\\_Hilliard\\_008.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_Hilliard#/media/File:Nicholas_Hilliard_008.jpg)



**Lorna Wanstall**

December 18, 2015 - 11:09 pm

well I might be wrong of course, but I believe that when Mary came over the border she cut off her hair, and it appears that the sitter has short hair



**Dawn Hatswell**

December 18, 2015 - 11:10 pm

thanks sharon, crikey, one hair, hair of what



**Lorna Wanstall**

December 18, 2015 - 11:10 pm

Granted when Mary was executed she wore a wig, and under it was grey stubble, but Hillard may have given her red hair out of kindness



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:10 pm

Dawn - possibly red squirrel @Lorna - nice call! You will have to find evidence for this, but it's an interesting idea



**Lorna Wanstall**

December 18, 2015 - 11:11 pm

Yes Olga that's the one



**Sharon Conrad**

December 18, 2015 - 11:11 pm

haha! I don't know. Can't be hair of the dog. That's something different.



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:11 pm

However, the unknown youth is a lot younger than Mary was in 1585 and the facial similarities are not great!



**Olga Hughes**

December 18, 2015 - 11:12 pm

She's beautiful. I think paintbrushes use synthetic hair now Dawn



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:12 pm

Olga - NO. I use sable.



**Sharon Conrad**

December 18, 2015 - 11:12 pm

Sable... that's it.



**Lorna Wanstall**

December 18, 2015 - 11:12 pm

Yes I agree the sitter does look a lot younger than what mary was at the time it was painted



**Olga Hughes**

December 18, 2015 - 11:12 pm

I wouldn't wear sable so I wouldn't use it to paint.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:13 pm*

The brushes photographed in the talk are all synthetic, but then again I hand them round in talks.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:13 pm*

Mary was in her 40's by this time



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:13 pm*

and would be dead just 2 years later  
and would be dead just 2 years later



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:14 pm*

She's rather enchanting in any case Bo.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:14 pm*

How "realistic" or close to the actual sitters were Hilliard's portraits. Did he take artistic licence to make people look better, more powerful, more beautiful, younger or whatever?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:14 pm*

Lorna, Hilliard would not have been paid by Mary, and we have 2 known images of her by him. This lovely youth is more likely to be a youth - but the red hair is interesting!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:14 pm*

Yes I do like it the picture a lot.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:14 pm*

yes I think they do, hubby who's a bit arty, says there were still badge hair ones when he was at college  
olga



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:15 pm*

Tim, in his Treatist of 1598 he talks about the lively likenesses, which is what he was famous for. We understand this as being accurate portrayals of his sitters.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:15 pm*

Is it possible that the brushes could have been made of badger fur. after all we have badger hair shaving brushes



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:15 pm*

Hilliard also tells us that he tries to emulate Holbein.



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:16 pm*

Dawn we had sable brushes too but I haven't painted since I was at college lol. These days I only use brushes for craft. I was always interested in the ingredients in paint though.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:16 pm*

The brushes and other materials must have been expensive. How would Hilliard have got started in the medium?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:16 pm*

Lorna, badger is too stiff for this type of work.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:16 pm*

Well I not a fan of Holbiens portraits, but Hillard is very good.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:17 pm*

Ceri, he trained as a goldsmith and it is generally accepted he was taught by Levina Teerlinc, who was the daughter of Europe's leading illuminator, Simon Bening. Water colour was the medium, on vellum



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:17 pm*

Holbein - first person in England to be able to paint an 'accurate' likeness - leaving out the small pox scars etc!



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:17 pm*

That would have been quite unusual being an apprentice to a female master.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:17 pm*

Olga, So did he, he has just said, and the only paint brush he has lifted since then is a decorating on ha



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:18 pm*

I find there is little warmth in holbiens portraits, but Hillards draw your eye.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:18 pm*

Levina was recognised in the day, as being as good as her father and his patrons were cardinals, princes, dukes etc.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:19 pm*

I find Holbein's paintings full of humanity.



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:19 pm*

Hilliard captures a bit more of the sitter's personality more than Holbien did. I think it's the eyes.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:19 pm*

Yes, Hilliard's portraits are painted from life - Holbein's are worked up from sketches!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:19 pm*

It took 3 -4 days to paint a miniature. About 30 hours in total. Holbein's portraits took weeks.



**Lorna Wanstall**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

I love his self portrait picture too. Terribly handsome



**ADMIN Tim**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

Standing inches from Holbein's "Henry" portrait in Madrid was an incredible experience. Mind you, standing that far from Hilliard's work is incredible too.



**Claire Ridgway**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

Which is your favourite Tudor miniature?



**Dawn Hatswell**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

I find the attention to detail is amazing, large or small. I also like all the secret messages that are in some portraiture



**Ceri Creffield**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

Perhaps that partly explains the popularity of miniatures? You could get them worked up in no time at all?



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

Also the difference is that Hilliard's are intimate and designed to be held in the hand and/or worn next to the heart. Holbein's hang on walls. And he is so handsome!



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

Claire - that's really naughty - you know it's the Attici Amoris Ergo image!



**Olga Hughes**

December 18, 2015 - 11:20 pm

I'm amazed it only took three or four days to paint something so intricate



**Claire Ridgway**

December 18, 2015 - 11:21 pm

:)



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:21 pm

Size matters, Olga!



**ADMIN Tim**

December 18, 2015 - 11:21 pm

I'm amazed it was so quick too.



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:21 pm

I've tried it - photography killed the art of the miniature - how many selfies has everyone taken recently! They didn't take long!!!



**Melanie Taylor**

December 18, 2015 - 11:21 pm

@ Claire - what's your favourite miniature?



**ADMIN Tim**

December 18, 2015 - 11:22 pm



For me, it's the two miniatures inside Elizabeth's Ring. Oh how I long to actually hold it and see it without glass in the way.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:23 pm*

The miniature portrait cost about £3-4 (about £1500 - 2000 in today's money), so were considerably cheaper



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:23 pm*

I love the miniatures in Elizabeth's locket ring. As you know, Mell, Clare and I found it hard to move away from that glass display case in Paris, but I also love the Hilliard self portrait and the one of Francis Drake with the very pointy chin.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:23 pm*

Tim, the theory about those two is that Dudley commissioned it for Elizabeth. I don't think that was the case - perhaps it was for someone else!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:24 pm*

Claire - the enamelling in the Chequer's ring is really interesting. I think the Unknown Woman is Kat Ashley.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:25 pm*

It was the phoenix on the reverse of these two portraits that fascinated me. It is never shown in photos, and it never appears after 1588, the date on the Attici Amoris Ergo image, which is of an Unknown Young Man holding a Hand descending from a cloud.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:25 pm*

Why do you think that, Melanie?



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:25 pm*

were miniaturists more expensive to commission than the large portrait artists, with the work being so fine



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:26 pm*

I'm in no doubt that it's Anne Boleyn.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:26 pm*

Dawn - they were much cheaper than the larger portraits.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:26 pm*

That's possible, as Kat was like a mother to her. and I believe Elizabeth only ever mentioned her mother Anne B 3 times in the whole of her life. So it would make sense that the other portrait is Katt



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:27 pm*

Claire - we will never know. It could be either.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:27 pm*

There's a bit in Much Ado About Nothing, where Benedick, having fallen in love, almost immediately says: "I will go get her picture". Knowing how expensive the miniatures were casts a new light on that.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:27 pm*

Ceri - are you asking about the AAE image.



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:27 pm*

We don't know that Elizabeth only mentioned Anne that many times, she was surrounded by Boleyn relatives so she could easily have spoken to them about her mother and she certainly paid tribute to her mother by using her falcon badge on several occasions. Yes, we'll never know!



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:27 pm*

Has the ring been Xrayed to see through it? Wonder what's inside ...



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

I meant the unknown woman you think is Kat Ashley.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

Benedict would have been a person of means - and able to pay Hilliard's bill!



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

Hello everyone... my apologies for being tardy



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

Tim - the 18mm images are individual. That ring has long been melted down.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

Hiya Beth



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:28 pm*

Hi Beth.



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:29 pm*

Hi Beth.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:29 pm*

Tim - they were sold at Bonham's in 2011 (?) and were sitting individually on a desk when I saw them both.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

Oh - and sold for £72,000 for the pair.



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

I was talking about the chequers ring ... mother of pearl.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

It seems so sad that so many of the tudor treasures have been lost. Oliver Cromwell destroyed so much of our history so o speak



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

Hi Beth



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

Crossed messages maybe?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:30 pm*

Ah - not as far as I know. X-ray hasn't been deemed necessary for the Chequers ring since we can see it all.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:31 pm*

Lorna, Cromwell melted down most of the pre-Commonwealth crown jewels to pay his army.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:32 pm*

True



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:33 pm*

If you search out illuminations such as the Liber Regalis and The Coronation Miniature, this gives us an idea of the crowns used in the coronation service before Cromwell melted down the gold. Unfortunately the Pelican and Phoenix brooches also disappeared!



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:33 pm*

Between Cromwell (Oliver) and Cranmer during the reign of Edward VI, it is amazing anything is left.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:33 pm*

Beth - not a lot! That recent discovery of a painted altarpiece on the underside of a Tudor table is a miracle.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:34 pm*

Well if Captain blood had his way there wouldn't be anything left after it either Beth



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:34 pm*

When I went to the M QofScots exhibition in edinburgh few years ago, there was some beautiful portraits large, small and miniature, I can't remember the artists off hand, will have to dig out the guide book.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:34 pm*

He very nearly managed to run off with the crown jewels from Charles 2nd



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

And Thomas Cromwell did his bit of looting too. Remember the wagon loads of plate from Canterbury Cathedral, much of it being from Becket's tomb.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

You still got the pictures Dawn?



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

Yes, and the art under the whitewash of the Anglican church was a great discovery too.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

The Edinburgh exhibition was wonderful



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:35 pm*

Beth, do you know the paintings in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral? They date from the 13th century.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

That Oliver Cromwell was a historical vandal, lol. He even wrecked some beautiful castles and destroyed possessions up here in the N.E of Scotland



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

Did you go to that Melanie



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

Yes, I agree, but Thomas Cromwell was not as destructive if the artwork and his nephew's grandson and reformation partner I would argue.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:36 pm*

Dawn, no, unfortunately not, but I've seen the catalogue.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

Slightly off track - but there is a church in the Welsh Folk Museum which has been decorated to look as it would have done in 1520. It's very gaudy and colourful. Gives you an idea of how things would have looked before the Reformation.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

yep He did dawn and tore up a lot of the countryside on his way up to scotland as well, especially around worcester upton and in between



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:37 pm*

Beth, perhaps it is in the genes. Holbein painted Thomas C's miniature as well as the portrait in the Frick. I shudder at the calculating look in his eyes.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:38 pm*

I am not knowledgeable as to Tudor Era art.... but I am very interested in learning more, just the men who set about destroying it (acknowledging they has reason from their mindset of the times)



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:38 pm*

Ceri, the walls of a church would have certainly made going to church a lot more interesting than looking at whitewashed walls.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:39 pm*

I love the miniature! I did see the Frick portrait..... it's stunning, and yes, he does look calculating. The miniature is actually quite lovely.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:39 pm*

I like the painting on the rood screen too.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:39 pm*

It was so atmospheric the way things were displayed, and to be so close to so many artefacts of that era was awe inspiring that exhibition. stayed all day!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:39 pm*

I was asked recently in class about why we have so little art prior to the Tudors. The answer is the iconoclasm of Edward & the Protestant clergy



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Yes, I sidestepped it a bit in the nutshell book... lolol



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Beth - perhaps the miniature was for a member of his family, hence the pensive expression. The Frick portrait is for public consumption and he wanted anyone who saw it to know exactly who was in charge!



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:40 pm*

Don't think there was many places he didn't modify to be honest Lorna



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

Oh yes, and the contrast being set beside the More Holbein was striking. They gave me chills, like both men were in the room with me.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

And miniatures are popular right up until 1839 - the invention of photography.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

The More portrait is soooooooooooooo realistic. I never saw anything like it, right down to beard stubble.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:41 pm*

I wish Henry was in the room right now I'd hit with whatever came to hand LOL



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

Miniatures and large portraits have completely different functions. Tiny images are for individuals to look at, caress, wear near the heart. Large portraits - to tell the world exactly who you are - Henry with his hands on his hips tells us exactly who's in charge!



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

I have a print of that portrait hanging over my writing nook. More is staring down at me... lol



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

Lorna - steady!



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:42 pm*

I am right in thinking that miniatures were worn as jewellery



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

More is a hard task master, Beth!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

Can't help it Henry makes my blood boil



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

He is. He keeps me on my toes.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:43 pm*

Dawn, put a miniature into a jewelled locket and it is a piece to be treasured



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:44 pm*

Why were minitures so popular



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:44 pm*

The Drake jewel is shown in several large portraits of Sir Francis. The National Maritime Museum in Greenwich (Geerhearts) shows him wearing it round his waist.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:44 pm*

Melanie, thank you for sharing your thoughts on miniatures. I never thought of the reality that they were family gifts, like a photo. This really does explain the Cromwell miniature vs the portrait... and also the lovely Elizabeth I miniatures.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:45 pm*

Lorna, if the queen sets the fashion, then everyone will follow. Hilliard was the man who created her Mask of Youth images when she grew older. She gave them as gifts to favoured courtiers and diplomats.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:45 pm*

I thought so, the ones in the exhibition were beautifully decorated on the back too, encrusted with jewels



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:46 pm*

It's nice to think of them being something so personal.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:46 pm*

There are many Unknown Ladies & Men, and some are said to be by Isaac Oliver one year, and then another art historian will argue that the same image is by Hilliard & vice versa!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:47 pm*

Ceri, they were a very personal token. The hidden symbolism often goes over our heads. Love tokens, momento mori, a beloved child - a way of keeping a loved one close



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:48 pm*

Do some of them show signs of being worn?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:48 pm*

Tim and I were talking yesterday about me producing a Nutshell book which would provide a beginner's guide to decoding some of these symbols in illuminated manuscripts and miniatures.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:48 pm*

The Unknown Lady I believe is Levina has been clipped on one side to make it fit a locket, which suggests it was worn.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

That would be awesome.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

I find illuminated manuscripts so fascinating.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

That would be a very interesting book.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:49 pm*

Thanks Beth. I'll be doing it in the New Year - I am so used to these symbols I forget others aren't as familiar with them as me.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:50 pm*

I like the portrait of Elizabeth James the 1st daughter as well



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:50 pm*

do you mean the pictures of the exhibition Lorna?



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:50 pm*

Symbols and the mysteries that are behind them are fascinating. I'm looking forward to a manuscript on it in due course.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:50 pm*

Lorna, she was the Winter Queen and I think it was done as a pre-wedding portrait



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:50 pm*

I would love to get some of your expertise around the More portraits as I am working on a book about him as we speak if you ever would have the time for that, particularly the lost family portrait.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

it's the one of the wiki page



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

I like that one too. First time I have seen a woman's hair down in a portrait.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

Beth, Tim will give you my email address.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

Tim - mysteries abound!



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

Thanks so much.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:51 pm*

I suppose that's what indicates it's a bridal portrait.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

Sharon - the way women's hair is portrayed is part of my PhD thesis.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

The hair, I mean.



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

That surprised me.



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

The hair I mean.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

Sharon - why were you surprised?





**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

Is your thesis online Melanie? That sounds really interesting.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:52 pm*

There is a portrait Alson Weir believes is Margaret Douglas were her hair is worn down. I literally just posted in on QAB yesterday.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Olga - not yet submitted!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Yes I agree it does, and will help me too



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Beth - I shall have a look.



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Ah I am rushing you



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

@olga, I've sent you an email with Melanie's details.



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Thanks Tim!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:53 pm*

Life is way to fast at the moment!!!!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:54 pm*

Lorna - I've missed something.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:54 pm*

I always thought if a girl/woman was unmarried they could wear their hair down and uncovered, but once married they covered it out of respect



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:54 pm*

That is what I thought too Lorna.



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

Beth can you post a link please? I am not sure I can see it



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

Not at all melanie, it's just I would be interested to read the hair fashions of the day will help me with

what I am writing



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:55 pm*

All of the portraits of women I have seen from this period have their hair covered. Elizabeth's was down and curly.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:56 pm*

Lorna, it goes back to Roman times. Yes, this is the general thinking, and the early 6th century portrayals of The Virgin & the Byzantine images show Mary with her hair covered after she has given birth to Christ. Later the artists use all sorts of images for women and girls



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:56 pm*

OMG, lolololol... I thought it was her hair... I looked again and it is FUR... Time for some wine. Here you go Olga, have a laugh on me. <http://queenanneboleyn.com/2015/12/18/qab-interview-with-the-delightful-alison-weir/>



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:56 pm*

Just five more minutes to go - get your last questions in before we pick the winner of Truth of the Line and wish everyone a happy Christmas.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Don't forget what the portraits are for. Propaganda or a miniature ie personal



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Oh Beth, the poor foxy



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Melanie, do you have a favorite work of art?



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

There is often more in a portrait than meets the eye.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

LOLOLOLOL.... I am dyin' here. Duuuuuuuuuuh



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Yes Beth - the Phoenix portrait of Elizabeth



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Well it will still be interesting to read, and if my memory isn't too far away, (it often goes wondering off) the hair fashions of roman times, came back in the 1800's



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:57 pm*

Do you own any historical miniatures Melanie,



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:58 pm*

Dawn - I wish! we had some Georgian ones of the family, but my idiot half brother got those!



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:58 pm*

Ohhhhhhhhhh, we will leave why for another chat. My favorite is The Ambassadors. I am also partial to the Cromwell miniature for some reason. I use it ALL the time when I blog about him.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

I would need to win the lottery to own a Hilliard, but I have a ticket for tomorrow's draw!



**Olga Hughes**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

I like that miniature of Cromwell a lot.



**Beth von Staats**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

It humanizes the man I think.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

that's bad on so many level Melanie. Heartbreaking!



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

my favourite picture is John hoskins portrait of Anne



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 18, 2015 - 11:59 pm*

TONIGHT'S WINNER IS .... Sharon Conrad. Congratulations, you've won a copy of The Truth of the Line by Melanie.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

When you are next in London, let's meet up in the Tudor Section of the National Portrait Gallery - The Coronation Portrait is another great one - possibly a Hilliard!?



**Beth von Staats**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Enjoy Sharon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Congrats Sharon!



**Olga Hughes**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

I agree Beth he looks more thoughtful and less sinister than the portrait



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Sharon, I hope you enjoy the novel - it's all based on a lot of research!



**Olga Hughes**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Enjoy Sharon!



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Santa's been Sharon!! lucky lady



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

I'm sure I will Melanie.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:00 am*

Beth - Cromwell loved his children, and that's who I think this miniature was for.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Congrats Sharon



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

We will have to try and set up for a London meet up Hint hint Claire



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

It's been great chatting with you all. Let's do it again soon



**Beth von Staats**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Call me crazy. I don't think he is a bad looking guy...lolol. Shipping Cromwell??? lol



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Well, our hour is now up. Happy Christmas to everyone in the Tudor Society! Have a wonderful break and look out for January's magazine, coming soon! HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

I'm sure I will Melanie. Thanks for the great chat



**Beth von Staats**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Thank you Melanie for the delightful chat.



**Olga Hughes**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Thanks Melanie this was really fascinating.



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Well, time for bed now. Just in case I don't speak to some of you before Christmas, do all have a wonderful Christmas. Loads of love to you all and a big thank you to Mell for joining us tonight xx



**Sharon Conrad**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:01 am*

Merry Christmas everyone.



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Beth - LOL! I'll go for the self portrait of Hilliard. I was always a sucker for a good looking guy!



**Beth von Staats**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Happy Christmas everyone!



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Keep Healthy and happy.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Feel free to pop into our forum Melanie and make a comment on anything that tickles your fancy..



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Yes please, and thank you for sharing your knowledge. Merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year to one and all



**Claire Ridgway**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Good night! xx



**Melanie Taylor**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:02 am*

Will do Lorna.



**Ceri Creffield**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:03 am*

Merry Christmas all and thanks for the chat Melanie.



**Lorna Wanstall**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:03 am*

Thank you for joining us. and Happy Christmas and New year to everyone XxxX



**ADMIN Tim**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:04 am*

Thank you all. We're off to bed now. Keep visiting the forum - put your recipes in the new area if you want. Above all ... keep enjoying the Tudor Society.



**Dawn Hatswell**

*December 19, 2015 - 12:08 am*

If you go on line Lorna sometimes ebay you can get the Mary Q of S exhibition catalogue to buy, lots of the exhibits are in there.