

Our live chat starts in about 15 minutes

Lucy Churchill23:46

Hi!

Claire Ridgway23:46

Hi Lucy!

Lucy Churchill23:47

How are you in this busy season?

Claire Ridgway23:48

I'm fine, thank you, but, yes, rather busy! How are you? How are things over there?

Lucy Churchill23:49

From Monday we can meet people again, and then I'll be running my workshops very regularly. Bit daunting to go from nought to... lots.... but... it will be good to see people in real life again

Claire Ridgway23:52

Oh that's good news! It is strange coming out of it.

Lucy Churchill23:54

What's the situation in Spain re meeting up with people?

Bill Wolff23:55

Hi Claire and Lucy!!

Lucy Churchill23:55

Hello Bill smile

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Hi every one

Julian Humphrys23:56

Hi everybody

Lucy Churchill23:56

Hi Lorna

Bill Wolff23:56

Hi Lorna and Julian

Lucy Churchill23:56

Hi Julian

Claire Ridgway23:56

We still have to keep social distance and wear masks in public, but we're now allowed 8 people on a table outside and 6 inside at restaurants, and we can meet friends and family (masks on outside).

Lorna Wanstall23:57

A big thank you to Lucy Churchill too.

Lucy Churchill23:57

Thanks - it's my pleasure. Thanks for letting me talk here smile

Claire Ridgway23:57

Hi everyone! Welcome to May's expert live chat with Lucy Churchill. A big thank you to Lucy for her wonderful talk.

Lucy Churchill23:57

Do you have lots of questions for me?

Claire Ridgway23:58

Please feel free to ask questions about the 1534 medal or choir screen, and Lucy's research and work.

Claire Ridgway23:58

Lucy, how did you actually come across the 1534 medal? How did all this start?

Lucy Churchill23:59

Have any of you had the chance to see the medal in person, or the choir screen in Cambridge?

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Lucy I notice the initials on the Choir screen. How many Hand A survived Henry's carpinters

Lorna Wanstall23:59

I would love to see the medal in person

Lucy Churchill23:59

Well, I'd read about the medal, and read that it was too badly damaged to be of use in identifying Anne's features...

Roland Hui0:00

It's too bad the medal isn't on display (as far as I know) at the Brit Museum : (

Elizabeth Alex0:00

Hi Everyone.

Lucy Churchill0:00

As I'm trained in historic restoration, I felt duty bound to see what information I could extract from the medal, so I made an appointment to study it at the BM

Lorna Wanstall0:00

Hi Elizabeth, hope you are well

Lucy Churchill0:01

Hi Roland! Yes, it seems crazy that it isn't out on display...

Clare Shepherd0:01

Evening everyone.

Elizabeth Alex0:01

Yes, thank you Lorna.

Lorna Wanstall0:01

Hi clare

Claire Ridgway0:01

Lucy, thank you!

Julian Humphrys0:01

I have seen the screen many times. Do you think the initials survived because they're almost impossible to see in natural light?

Lucy Churchill0:01

But I think they have so many other medals, and there are groups of other people equally passionate about the other medals in their collection...

Bill Wolff0:01

The Web has some pretty good stuff on the Medal.

Clare Shepherd0:01

Hi Lornz.

Roland Hui0:02

Lucy - was it hard to get an appointment at the MB to see the medal? Did you have to go into great detail with them as to why you wanted to see it?

Lucy Churchill0:02

Ha, that's true. It always annoyed me that the screen is so badly lit.

Roland Hui0:02

I mean 'BM', not 'MB'

Lucy Churchill0:03

Much attention is given to the stained glass windows in King's College Chapel, but very, very little attention paid to the screen...

Lucy Churchill0:04

There is still SO much more than can be studied and interpreted within the screen, that would give great insight into Henry and Anne's thoughts at the time...

Lucy Churchill0:04

Roland - no - anybody can make an appointment to see ANYTHING in museums... but you do need to give several months notice....

Lorna Wanstall0:05

Lucy how many more of the HA initials escaped Henry's carpenters

Julian Humphrys0:06

Do we know what H6 intended to be in place to separate the chapel from the ante-chapel?

Lucy Churchill0:06

There's the ones at Hampton Court in the great hall that were probably hidden by a tapestry...

Lucy Churchill0:07

I don't know if plans had got that far Julian...

Clare Shepherd0:08

It is odd how museums are selective on what they store and what they exhibit. It is also strange how academic particularly are interested in some things, but will ignore some things equally interesting nearby, I'm thinking of how many study misericords, but ignore other church elements like KCC's screen

Lorna Wanstall0:08

So I guess we should say that we are very lucky to have the 2 we have... It would be nice for them to be illuminated.

Julian Humphrys0:08

I know his will called for simplicity which of course was ignored by the Tudors

Lucy Churchill0:09

I must say I'm intrigued as to why the choir screen escaped unharmed. Maybe because it is SO encrusted with initials it would have looked appalling if it was hacked about....

Lucy Churchill0:10

To my mind KCC screams insecurity.... The Tudor emblems are EVERYWHERE... like they were frantic to say - We are in power!!!!

Lorna Wanstall0:10

Julian as stupid as this might sound, perhaps the reason for the division between the chapel and ante chapel was to keep that mysterious (excuse spelling) between the church and god.

Doc Clark0:10

It may have been a case of out of sight, out of mind, Lucy, since Henry VIII didn't get to Cambridge as much as he did Hampton Court

Claire Ridgway0:11

I'd love to know how long that screen took to make with all of that detail on it, and it must have cost a lot too!

Lucy Churchill0:11

Yes Doc I think you are right

Doc Clark0:11

It was almost 40 years ago when I was at the King's College Chapel. At the time, it was the stone carving and the magnificent ceiling that had most of my attention. The rood screen didn't even register in my memory, I'm ashamed to say. And of course, I did spend some time finding Katharine of Aragon in the stained glass...

Julian Humphrys0:12

Hi lorna. Yes but I was wondering what kind of screen H6 envisaged

Lucy Churchill0:12

Lorna - I think Henry and Anne really wanted to make it clear that they held the gate to the altar.... with their initials over the arch, and the grisly suspended head just within eyeshot as one passed through

Lorna Wanstall0:12

Doc Hery did everything he could to rid himself of anything Boleyn related.... I am glad that these 2 survived his spite and hatred. Yay Anne B wins.

Lucy Churchill0:13

That's fair enough Doc.... there is so much to see there. And the stained glass is wonderful... just, so is the screen. I really don't know why the college doesn't celebrate it

Doc Clark0:13

But a number of H + K survived too! Despite Henry VIII eradicating as many as he could

Clare Shepherd0:14

I agree Lorna. I sometimes wonder what a modern psychologist would make of H8.

Lucy Churchill0:14

It was a good time for crafts people then smile

Doc Clark0:14

I wasn't as up on Tudor history or art history back then. I do want to revisit

Lorna Wanstall0:14

Good point Lucy.

Roland Hui0:15

Lucy - there's a medal of Henry VIII at The BM that's about the same size as the Anne one. Do you think they were conceived as a pair, or not at all?

Claire Ridgway0:15

I really need to visit the chapel when the world has got back to normal!

Lucy Churchill0:15

When you do, print out my guide to the screen as it presents every element in systematic order to help you find different carvings...

Lucy Churchill0:15

Roland, e

Lucy Churchill0:15

sorry, yes I do!

Lorna Wanstall0:15

Clare I think a modern day shrink would need a modern day shrink after he had tried to get to the bottom of Henry's problems

Doc Clark0:16

I was trying to identify the Henry as King David and not having much luck. Is that on your website?

Lucy Churchill0:16

They are both the exact same size, and both are the only copies, in lead

Claire Ridgway0:16

Lucy, I will, thank you!

Lucy Churchill0:17

Doc unfortunately I wasn't able to take good photos and there are very few, and not very good photos on the web.

Clare Shepherd0:17

I always feel sorry for the cathedral stonemasons. I heard a lecture by a stonemason that restored Exeter cathedral. He said many masons died building cathedrals and churches. I guess woodcarvers were luckier.

Lorna Wanstall0:17

Claire R I don't think the world will ever be normal again after this frightening and heartbreaking 2 years..

Clare Shepherd0:17

Li,e it Lorna!

Roland Hui0:17

Do we have records of Henry VIII and Anne ever visiting Cambridge together (to see the screen)?

Lucy Churchill0:18

The BM says the portrait medal of Henry is dated around 1545, but I don't think this is true based on his appearance. I'm pretty sure it was a partner piece to the Moost Happi medal Roland

Lucy Churchill0:18

No, unfortunately not.... Elizabeth did, but no record of Henry and Anne visiting Cambridge

Claire Ridgway0:18

Lorna, no, and it shouldn't be really, we need to learn, but I meant "normal" as in being able to travel.

Doc Clark0:19

Is there a reason they believe the date is 1545? Lead isotope dating maybe?

Claire Ridgway0:19

Here's the link to Lucy's website and the information and resources on the medal and choir screen - <https://www.lucychurchill.com/anne-boleyn-moost-happi-medal-reconstruction/kings-college-choir-screen-cambridge-uk/> - don't disappear now though!

Lucy Churchill0:19

But knowing what tight control Anne kept on things, I am certain that she would have taken a keen interest in the production of the screen

Lorna Wanstall0:20

True. Claire... Normal as the way of being free to do what we want

Roland Hui0:20

Lucy -what was the most challenging part in carving the medal reconstructing in wax? Figuring out the flattened nose and eye?

Elizabeth Alex0:20

I briefly popped in to Lucy's site, but will return. I'm quite excited!

Doc Clark0:20

It's a great website

Doc Clark0:20

wasted at least an hour there this morning

Lucy Churchill0:20

I don't know Doc, but I do know that the information on the BM data base is not infallible. They said, until I looked into it that it was made to celebrate her wedding

Lucy Churchill0:22

Roland, the eye was easy because there was enough information to make a very accurate reconstruction. You can see more detail in the real medal. the photo doesn't show so much....

Elizabeth Alex0:22

Lucy - where did the name 'Moost Happi' medal originate?

Lucy Churchill0:23

Elizabeth that's the text that runs around the medal. How she chose that motto... I wish I knew..

Lucy Churchill0:23

Claire - do you know - how did the queens choose their mottos?

Elizabeth Alex0:24

Ah, thank you. I'll pay closer attention!

Lucy Churchill0:24

I believe that Happi at that time would have been understood to mean 'Lucky'... as in mis-hap, for bad luck..

Claire Ridgway0:24

Lucy, I'm not sure how the queens went about choosing them.

Elizabeth Alex0:25

...and I know I've watched Claire discussing the medal!

Lucy Churchill0:25

And do you know how early the tradition of a queens motto started?

Lorna Wanstall0:25

Anne certainly had a few mottos in her time that's for sure

Lucy Churchill0:25

That's ok Elizabeth, there are so many details to take in!

Claire Ridgway0:26

Lucy, hmmm.... I'm trying to think of other queen's mottos. I really don't know! I'll have to dig!

Lucy Churchill0:26

That's true Lorna

Lucy Churchill0:26

What about Catherine....?

Roland Hui0:26

Or 'Most Happy' as 'the Most Appropriate', 'Most Suitable', etc.

Lucy Churchill0:27

I'd love to know more about the Queen's mottos...

Lucy Churchill0:27

That's interesting Roland... I'd not heard the last two..

Claire Ridgway0:28

I like "Let them grumble...!"

Lucy Churchill0:28

Anne really was working her message in this medal wasn't she?!

Lorna Wanstall0:28

I don't know why, but I feel that K.H's motto was chosen for her, rather than something she would have come up with herself

Lucy Churchill0:29

Yes. I like to think of Anne's servants tabbards being like Katherine Hammnett or Vivienne westwood and their protest t-shirts...

Roland Hui0:29

Not subtle, but Anne made her point! It's along the lines as her quote to an ambassador that God had inspired the King to marry her

Claire Ridgway0:29

Lucy, yes!

Doc Clark0:29

I would think queens would start using mottos around the time they became popular in heraldry.

Mottos were a relatively late addition to heraldic achievements

Elizabeth Alex0:29

Love that thought Lucy.

Lucy Churchill0:30

Thanks Doc... around what date?

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Lucy one of Anne mottos was something like "That's how it's going to be, let them grumble.... so she was really sending a message to the people by that in my opinion

Lucy Churchill0:30

I think Anne was incredibly bold in the medal wearing the gable hood. That was a huge statement

Doc Clark0:30

I would guess 15th century I suspect Fox Davies might have some timing on that.

Doc Clark0:30

The 15th century is when achievements really started getting ornate

Roland Hui0:31

Lucy, yes, goes against a common misconception, that Anne ONLY wore French hoods - LOL!

Doc Clark0:31

The book to consult would be Fox Davies The Art of Heraldry

Lucy Churchill0:31

Yes, they were really building an image of kingship at that time, or queenship..

Lucy Churchill0:32

I know Roland. It really annoys me, when the evidence is that when it mattered, when anne wanted to make a statement, she wore the English gable hood...

Lucy Churchill0:33

I would love to know whether the gable hood that Anne wore on the day of her execution was the same as in the medal...

Lorna Wanstall0:34

Lucy I would love to find the sword that killed her

Lucy Churchill0:34

The was reference to her changing into a gold and red dress on the day of her arrest, and we know from the Holbein painting of Jane Seymour that this outfit was gold and red... but ... I can't track down more information

Elizabeth Alex0:35

Anne doesn't feel like Anne without the French hood.

Lucy Churchill0:35

would you lorna?... gosh... Oh I wouldn't!

Claire Ridgway0:35

To us, it seems so distasteful that clothes and jewellery were passed on, but these were costly items.

Roland Hui0:35

Anne was even well dressed in the Tower, we know that she had £100 (in Tudor money) worth of clothes and jewels with her (that she herself brought or were later sent to her), according to records.

Doc Clark0:36

Did Tudor era burials include headwear?

Clare Shepherd0:36

What would you do with it Lorna?

Doc Clark0:36

IF they did, then wouldn't the gable hood be buried with her?

Lucy Churchill0:37

That's because of the paintings that were made 25 years after her death Elizabeth. But all the contemporary evidence - this medal, eyewitness accounts and the Book of the Garter , the seating plan for the day of her coronation.... all show Anne in a Gable Hood

Lorna Wanstall0:37

I think she wore the gable hood to try and show she was the meek and submissive wife that CoA was. I think she knew in her heart that Henry's love for her was starting to wane and she hoped by wearing the gable hood she could make Henry love her again.

Clare Shepherd0:37

Don't we still pass on jewelry to our relatives after death?

Lucy Churchill0:37

Doc It is recorded that Anne's clothing and jewellery was returned to Henry after her death.

Roland Hui0:37

As Henry VIII had to pay the Tower officials to get Anne's things back (prisoners' stuff went to the Tower's officials by custom) we can be sure that Anne's clothes/jewels (including the gabled hood) went to Jane Seymour.

Claire Ridgway0:38

Clare, yes, but I meant with Anne having come to the end that she did!

Lorna Wanstall0:38

Clare I believe that was also the same when it came to Tudor Queen the dresses like the jewellery was simply handed down to the next queen or noble wife .

Lucy Churchill0:39

I think Anne wore the Gable Hood because this was so closely identified with Catherine, who many still regarded as Queen. The hood in the medal had previously belonged to Catherine..

Doc Clark0:39

This discussion makes me wonder if Anne wore Katharine of Aragon's jewelled gable hoods

Clare Shepherd0:40

Henry was mean, i think, he'd want the jewels back to pass on? Thats grizzly enough, but I can't imagine wearing the clothes of a husband's late wife.

Lorna Wanstall0:40

Makes me wonder just what Henry's last 4 wives thought about being given their predessesors clothes and jewelary

Lucy Churchill0:40

You can see the jewellery from the billiment in paintings of Katherine, and the necklace also

Clare Shepherd0:40

Yuck, no thanks would be my reaction, Lorna.

Lucy Churchill0:40

And elements of the outfit in paintings of his next wives... if you read my blogpost on wordpress you can see the images...

Roland Hui0:41

Some clothes were very expressively made, so there were passed down

Elizabeth Alex0:41

I stepped out for a moment - very interesting to learn about the hood Lucy.

Lorna Wanstall0:41

Lucy I believe the necklace in the painting of Mary Tudor (H8 sister) and Charles Brandon belonged to KoA

Lucy Churchill0:41

Yes, clearly this would have been incredibly costly...

Lucy Churchill0:42

It is fascinating how identifying the jewellery can help reidentify portraits...

Lorna Wanstall0:42

Clare yes.. It really would be a case of stepping into a dead man/woman shoes and clothes

Lucy Churchill0:43

Do you all agree with the latest opinion that the portrait of Katherine Howard is actually Anne of Cleves?

Clare Shepherd0:43

Often the Tudors seem very modern, but occasionally very different in their thinking, like with the clothes.

Roland Hui0:43

Lucy - not at all - the 2 sitters are very different. Anne of Cleves was known to have been blond for instance.

Claire Ridgway0:44

Lucy, I'm waiting to read the book, but I do think the eyes of the Catherine portrait are very similar to Holbein's Anne of C's eyes.

Doc Clark0:44

I had not heard about this. Where can I read up about the Katherine Howard/Anna of Cleves stuff?

Lucy Churchill0:44

I think it does sound very plausible based on the sitters features.. but I wonder if anne of Cleves was around long enough to have been painted in the official queen's jewellery, as she is in the portrait

Lorna Wanstall0:45

In one of the accepted portraits of KH she appears to e wearing a cameo of someone.. Has that cameo been Identified

Roland Hui0:45

If anyone is interested, you an take a look at this later:

<https://tudorfaces.blogspot.com/2021/05/anne-of-cleves-or-catherine-howard.html>

Claire Ridgway0:45

Doc, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/may/01/how-holbein-left-clever-clue-in-portrait-to-identify-henry-viiiis-queen>

Doc Clark0:45

Thanks Claire

Lucy Churchill0:45

How long was it before Henry got rid of Anne of Cleves?

Lucy Churchill0:46

Thanks Roland and Claire smile

Lorna Wanstall0:46

There is also a cameo on the breast of I believe Agnes Tilney I am wondering if the cameo is the same?

Doc Clark0:46

It was about a half a year

Doc Clark0:46

that Anne was Queen

Lorna Wanstall0:47

Lucy although the given record is 6 months I think it was actually a matter of a few weeks

Roland Hui0:47

Lucy - it must have been a thrill to get Eric Ives' endorsement of the medal!

Lucy Churchill0:47

There are a couple of portraits that were thought to have been of Lady Jane Grey, that were later reidentified as Katherine Parr because of the jewellery - the same necklace that Anne is wearing in the medal...

Claire Ridgway0:47

Yes, January to July, but Henry wanted out long before!

Lorna Wanstall0:47

the rest of the time was just to tie up loose ends

Lucy Churchill0:47

Roland, I wept when Eric contacted me

Roland Hui0:48

Oh yes, Ives' book is like the 'Anne Boleyn bible! :)

Claire Ridgway0:48

Eric Ives was such a lovely man.

Clare Shepherd0:49

It shows in his writings too

Elizabeth Alex0:49

You always speak so highly of him, Claire.

Lucy Churchill0:49

He was such a lovely, lovely man. Eric Ives was the epitome of a true academic. - instead of trying to get new evidence to reinforce his existing opinion, he was excited and fascinated to learn more. I have so much respect for him.

Claire Ridgway0:49

Elizabeth, yes, I have fond memories of completely grilling him over dinner!

Lucy Churchill0:50

Claire I think you are the inheritor of Eric Ives's mantle

Roland Hui0:50

Lucy - any other historical reconstructions you might pursue in the future?

Claire Ridgway0:50

Aw, thank you, Lucy, I think there are a few of us that are. I do try!

Lorna Wanstall0:51

Claire I think Henry wanted out as soon as he met her at Rochester..... Henry had an illusion in his head and perhaps saw more to Holbiens portrait. Perhaps seeing it as Hobien being modest.. the illusion in his head was soon popped

Lucy Churchill0:51

I think a new era of historical study has come in... fact based, not story... and Eric, and you Anne have ushered this era in...

Lucy Churchill0:51

Well... to be honest, I'd love to reconstruct Henry's portrait medal... to have the two as a pair...

Claire Ridgway0:51

Yes, I think people want facts and evidence.

Lorna Wanstall0:52

Lucy I always say the deeper you dig the more you find, and what we have and know is just scratching the surface.....

Clare Shepherd0:53

It's the difference between repeating from earlier historians, complete with mistakes, and going back to the primary sources

Lucy Churchill0:53

For a long time the information was kept in basements and libraries and only a few people had access to the data... but the internet has changed all that. It's wonderful... look at the amazing work Natalie Grueninger is doing with her guide books to England, even though she is based in Australia!

Roland Hui0:54

Lucy - what was it like to hold the original medal in your hand? Also, how heavy/light is it? Does it weigh about the same as your medal magnet for instance?

Claire Ridgway0:54

Lucy, yes! I'm always having people say how lucky I am to have special access to archives. I have to explain that I'm in Spain and most of what I do is online.

Lorna Wanstall0:54

Yes the internet has certainly opened a Pandora's box of historical wealth and knowledge..

Roland Hui0:55

your hand - I mean

Doc Clark0:55

I wouldn't call it a Pandora's box - more like a Wunderkammer!

Clare Shepherd0:55

And you provide links to much on this site for us all to read

Lucy Churchill0:55

Don't tell anyone, but I did kiss the medal in the brief second when the curator's back was turned.

My friends laughed and said I would die of lead poisoning smile

Roland Hui0:55

LOL1

Lucy Churchill0:55

Yes a Wunderkammer Doc!

Claire Ridgway0:55

Lucy, I don't blame you!

Lorna Wanstall0:56

Claire Having the internet has been a lifeline to everyone during the difficult times of the last 2 years..

Elizabeth Alex0:56

That's the spirit!

Claire Ridgway0:56

Doc Clark0:57

yes, but I feel sorry for all you who have to stay up past bedtime to do these chats!

Lucy Churchill0:57

I love the fact that people are giving famous historical authors a run for their money by accessing the same data, but looking further and deeper and picking up omissions.

The worldwide web is brilliant in all sorts of ways. Look at us now, discussing Tudor history from lots of different countries!

Clare Shepherd0:58

I would be reading, if not here. I was always the family's night owl.

Claire Ridgway0:58

Well, that hour zoomed, didn't it? A big thank you to Lucy for doing the talk and for answering our questions today. It's been fun and enlightening. Do check out Lucy's resources at <https://www.lucychurchill.com/anne-boleyn-moost-happi-medal-reconstruction/> and

<https://www.lucychurchill.com/anne-boleyn-moost-happi-medal-reconstruction/kings-college-choir-screen-cambridge-uk/>

Thank you all for coming!

Lucy Churchill0:58

I'm sure Anne would approve of doing more research, and that information was being accessed by more people, not just the elite

Bill Wolff0:59

Thanks Lucy, I've made copious notes and will have fun following up. Thanks Claire, and Group!

Clare Shepherd0:59

Absolutel spot on ,mLucy.

Julian Humphrys0:59

Thanks Lucy

Doc Clark0:59

Thank you Lucy! This has been great!

Elizabeth Alex0:59

Many thanks everyone, and bye for now.

Lorna Wanstall0:59

Lucy have you seen any of Henry's letter to Anne?

Claire Ridgway0:59

A brilliant chat. Thank you, everyone! Enjoy the rest of the weekend.

Lucy Churchill0:59

Thanks Bill. I'd be happy for anyone to email me in future with any other questions!

Roland Hui0:59

Thank you Lucy

Clare Shepherd1:00

Thank you Lucy, Claire and all.

Lucy Churchill1:00

It's been a pleasure. many thanks for being here. have a good night, or day!

Clare Shepherd1:00

Good night all.

Lorna Wanstall1:01

Many thanks Lucy I hope you can pop in again.

Lucy Churchill1:01

Thanks smile

Claire Ridgway1:01

Good night!

Lorna Wanstall1:01

Time for me to climb the old wooden hill, take care and keep safe everyone Xx

Lucy Churchill1:02

Good night Claire. Many thanks for inviting me! xx