



Daedalus

205-3 ARLINGTON STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472
617.926.7590 ♦ DAEDALUSART.COM

PROPOSAL FOR TREATMENT

Object: Pro Patria et Gloria/ War Memorial

Artist/Date: Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson/ca 1920

Material: Cast Bronze (Gorham Foundry)

Owner: Town of Hingham, MA

Treatment History/Overview

The sculpture was originally treated in 1985: Re-patination/coating applied. This is a very early example of a modern conservation treatment performed on outdoor statuary. The surface was patinated brown and coated with an acrylic coating (Incralac) which was a relatively new product at the time. Over the past 40 years this procedure has become standard practice for conservators caring for outdoor sculptures across the country.

All outdoor objects which are exposed to the active environment of New England on a daily basis will degrade. Even durable coatings will lose their protective qualities; a cyclical maintenance plan helps keep outdoor sculpture looking good and protected from corrosive conditions. The salt-air is especially damaging to bronze statuary. The town of Hingham has been proactive in keeping up with the care of this important sculpture. In 2025 it will be 8 years since a surface treatment has been done, which is the expected life-span of the applied coating before renewal is recommended.

Subsequent (after 1985) were treatments performed:

- 1993: Re-coated
- 1994: Maintained (washed and waxed)
- 1996: Maintained (washed and waxed)
- 2008: Repairs to concrete base and mounting system/ Removal of Coating: Re-patina & Re-coated
- 2017: Re-coated
- 2024: Removal of Graffiti



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Current Condition

The sculpture is patinated brown and has an acrylic coating on the surface (see treatment details in previous section)

There are several areas where people have etched names on the surface. It appears that some of this etching superficial (just in the coating), however there are some deeper scratches which have damaged the surface of the bronze.

The coating appears stable on the protected forms.

There is some noticeable degradation of the coating on the upward and ocean facing elements of the horse and rider. This has resulted in visible spots of green corrosion products and a chalked (grayish/flat) appearance.

Proposed Treatment

A temporary 4' high construction fence will be set around the work areas.

Scaffolding will be erected to access the upper sections of the bronze.

Degraded coating and wax will be removed using organic solvents and /or a hot water pressure washer as needed.

Areas of sculpture where the surface color has been disturbed (scratched, corroded, abraded) will be spot patinated using oxidizing agents (patina solution) which match the coloration of the adjacent (stable) surface.

The entire sculpture will be re-coated with Inralac applied using an HVLP spray system.

A layer of Butchers wax will be applied to the surface once the coating has cured.



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Documentation

A written report and photographic report detailing the treatments will be provided to the owner upon completion of the project.

The conservators of Daedalus, Inc. are pledged to perform all work in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice of The American Institute for Conservation of Artistic and Historic Works

Estimated Cost:

\$22,500

JC 12/2024