

PROGRESS ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE REV. AND MRS. J FREDERIC WENCHEL WINDOW

Our loft circular window was removed the week of March 9 by our stained-glass craftsman, Mr. Andrew Goldkuhle. Since then he has been sending us periodic updates of his progress and what he finds.

Talking with him that week, he noted that there was more cracked glass than he expected now that he was able to look at it closely and from both sides using the scaffolding. He said it was definitely the right time for us to get the window renovated.



Mr. Goldkuhle, pausing for a photo, during the window removal.



All the panels removed, waiting to be taken out of the church.

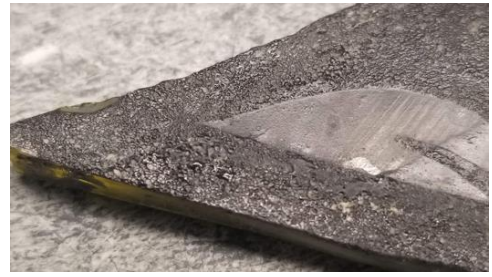
Once he got the window further disassembled in his studio, there was yet more cracked glass than he had expected to see. In addition, the glass in some areas was not flat, but convex; the paint (glazing) in some areas was pitted and not well-fused to the glass. He has repaired the glass. The glass has been cleaned, the pitting makes that more difficult, along with needing to take extra care not to remove the paint.



The worst affected panel, the blue tape corresponds to a broken piece of glass



Broken glass example (one of the worst)



Pitting in the paint/glazing. It should be as smooth as the glass itself.

This past week, he updated us regarding his progress. Four of the 7 window panels have been renovated. He is re-enforcing the window to provide more support for its weight. There will be a layer of tin solder on all lead surfaces not just at the lead joints (which is the usual). This adds weight, but also adds strength. In addition to this, on the exterior face, he will place vertical brass strong backs that will complement the existing interior horizontal round reinforcing bars; essentially sandwiching the window panel between a mesh-like superstructure. Besides this new structure, the window, once reinstalled, will be vented (it wasn't before) which will lessen temperature stress on the window. Both of these maneuvers should help maintain the window for a long time.



Upper right panel



Lower center panel

He is expecting to finish the work on the window itself by the end of August, with a planned re-installation mid-September. Wonderful news for sure!