

## Hatchment Conservation

More than 200 years old, the colour and detail of 18th century Cromarty laird George Ross's hatchment remains remarkably vibrant. The hatchment would have been displayed outside George Ross' London family home for up to 12 months after his death before being moved north to hang in the church. Hatchments, funeral banners developed from the early 17 century onwards, are unusual in Scotland, being found in only around a dozen churches.

The items illustrated on this hatchment: armorial shield, motto, helmet and crest painted against a dark background are a pattern common to all hatchments. In some instances a skull may be displayed, or one side of the hatchment painted white to illustrate the earlier death of husband or wife.

To keep the hatchment in good condition it was removed and worked on by conservators from AOC archaeology group, who cleaned and stabilised the paint pigments and supported the canvas with a fine nylon netting. The full report of their work is available on the East Church website - [www.eastchurchcromarty.co.uk](http://www.eastchurchcromarty.co.uk)

*photos by Iain Sarjeant*



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