

BOOK REVIEW

CLEANING HISTORIC BUILDINGS

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Donhead Publishing, 28 Southdean Gardens, Wimbledon, SW19 6NU

Volume 1: *Substrates, Soiling and Investigations*

(1994) xii+248 pp.

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Volume 2: *Cleaning Materials and Processes*

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A review by Chancellor Rupert Bursell

These two volumes are in the same series as *Treasures of Earth* by Peter Burman (ed.) reviewed by Peter Allsopp in (1994) 3 Ecc LJ 344. Although aimed at a more specialised reader, they are still easily understood by those less qualified. The author is an established specialist in the conservation and cleaning of historic buildings who formerly worked for English Heritage. In the Preface to volume 1 the author's aim is set out as follows: 'These volumes are intended to improve the understanding of those involved in the many aspects of masonry cleaning and thereby to improve the quality of decision-making and workmanship undertaken. They will serve professionals, advisors, building owners and practitioners by providing a sound base of information with a strong practical emphasis. They emphasize the need to investigate each situation before designing a cleaning process suited to it.' In this she has succeeded admirably.

I recommend these volumes to those involved with the cleaning of our churches. For example, there are few historic buildings not now damaged by graffiti and too many of us perhaps are prone to assume that the sooner they are removed the better, whereas the removal may itself cause damage. Now the non-expert, too, has somewhere to turn to before inflicting his ignorance on future generations.