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20 DEC 2006

15 December 2006

Chris Terrey, Esq.,  
 The British Museum,  
 Great Russell Street,  
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Dear Chris,

**Galleries 37-39**

I have now mounted and examined the paint samples taken in October and November, and can report that I have found no evidence for elaborate early schemes of the type present in the Hall and Staircase, and as far as I can see all three rooms appear to have been quite plain. The areas accessed from the moveable tower provided were examined in raking light to see whether any lining-out could be detected, this only being noted on the walls in Gallery 38, apparently relating to one of the later schemes. Elsewhere, samples were taken from areas selected as being likely to show variations should elements have been picked-out in colour. It is possible, however, that subtle variations in tone may not have been sufficiently marked to be discernible on cross-section.

**Gallery 38 (25 samples)**

Originally the ceiling and small moulding below appear to have been painted a uniform white, while the walls were a mid-tan colour. Until quite recently, later schemes broadly repeated this in various tones, although at phase E the wall was lined-out in scarlet to form panels.

Scheme	Ceiling and small moulding below	Walls
A	White	Mid-tan
B	White	Warm stone-colour
C (possibly two similar schemes)	Off-white	Off-white
D	White	Warm stone colour
E	Warm white	Warm cream with scarlet lining-out to form panels with deeper buff within
F	Greyish stone-colour	Greyish stone colour
G	White	Cream
Z (up to five modern schemes, not analysed)	White	Variously cream, grey, or stone colour

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A sample from the wall at low-level possesses only schemes A to C inclusive, followed by the most modern scheme in Z, suggesting this area came to be hidden behind a cabinet or similar item of furniture.

#### **Gallery 39 (21 samples)**

This has a comparable, but slightly different, decorative history, and the walls appear originally to have been the same white as the ceiling.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Ceiling and small moulding below</b>	<b>Walls</b>
<b>A</b>	White	White
<b>B</b>	White	Cream
<b>C</b> (similar to C in Gallery 38)	Off-white	Off-white
<b>D</b>	White (toned)	White (toned)
<b>E</b>	White (toned)	A seemingly textured finish built-up using pink, deep cream, green, and flecks of bright yellow, possibly finished with a varnish; the lower part of the wall dark brown
<b>F</b> (probably the last pre-War scheme)	White (surface deeply fissured by age)	Again, possibly a textured scheme with a thin white applied above buff; the lower part of the wall again dark brown
<b>G</b>	Pale cream	Buff
<b>Z</b> (perhaps four modern schemes, not analysed)	The first scheme pale cream, the remainder white	The first two schemes cream, the third white, and the uppermost again cream

#### **Gallery 37 (19 samples)**

Again the ceiling was originally white, a treatment maintained until application of the modern schemes. There is, however, a slight mystery about the earliest scheme, in that, while there is seeming definition between it and Scheme B on a significant number of samples, on most the boundary is poorly defined. This seems inconsistent with the fact that Scheme B appears similar to Scheme C in Galleries 38 and 39, a circumstance which would suggest a

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longer period of exposure for Scheme A, implying there should be a clear line of demarcation by dirt, as is the case between Schemes B to F inclusive. For the same reason, the status of a layer of pink between Schemes A and B on the pilaster-shaft is unclear, and it may either have been a feature of Scheme A or a rejected trial for Scheme B; while the first scheme is unfortunately missing from the wall-sample, whose treatment is accordingly unknown. The ensuing schemes are unremarkable, their diet of white, off-white, cream, and stone colour being broken only in post-War years, when other colours were introduced on the walls and pilaster.

Scheme	Ceiling and small moulding below	Walls	Pilaster capital and shaft
A	White	Not known	Capital white, shaft perhaps pink
B (similar to C in Galleries 38 and 39)	Off-white	Probably stone colour	Off-white
C	White	White	White
D	White	Stone colour	Stone-colour
E	White	Deep stone colour	Capital stone colour, shaft white
F (probably the last pre-War scheme)	White (surface deeply fissured by age)	Cream (surface similarly fissured by age)	Capital white, shaft stone colour
G	White	Off-white	Off-white
Z (perhaps four modern schemes on the ceiling and five on the walls, not analysed)	The first cream, the second two white, and the uppermost slightly off-white	The first grey, the second white, the third pale buff, the fourth green, and the uppermost white	As walls, except fourth scheme dull greenish yellow

Do let me know if you would like me to re-visit to take a sample from the lower part of the wall in Gallery 37 in the hope that this might shed further light on the original wall-colour. Otherwise, I hope this provides what you need for present purposes.

With all good wishes,



Dr. Ian Bristow