

# Condition Report

**Object Type:** Robe

**Object Title:** Todmorden Mayoral Robe

**Artist/Designer/Maker:** The covering over where the label should be was lifted during course of treatment but the label had been removed so the manufacturer of the robe could not be established.

**Place of Manufacture:** Britain, probably Stockport.

**Date/Period:**

**Brief Description:** Long red wool robe with fur and black velvet trim. It has metal hook and eye fastenings partway down the centre front and red petersham ribbon ties.

It is partially lined with cream cotton sateen lining applied to the fronts, sleeves and back yolk. A secondary covering of synthetic lining fabric has been applied on top of the yolk and sleeve linings. There are yet more patches to the lining around the back of the neck and down the centre fronts placed over both the original lining and as a third layer on top of the secondary lining.

**Dimensions:** Approximately 1290mm in length from back of collar to hem.

**Materials:** Wool, fur, cotton velvet, cotton lining with some patched repairs to lining of regenerated cellulose.

**Construction:** Hand and machine stitched.

**General Report on Condition:** Overall the condition is fairly good. It is structurally sound despite some damage and previous repairs.

The object is very dirty with engrained surface soiling. The red wool has distinct areas of staining and numerous lines of soiling marking the lower section toward the hem line. The lining of the true right sleeve is badly stained.

The fur appears to be in good condition with no evidence of insect pests or previous insect damage.

The black velvet is crushed and marked in places but is generally in good condition.

There is a lot of roughly worked hand stitching which is quite unsightly. In places it has failed resulting in loose lengths of hem and sections where the applied fur trim and velvet are becoming detached. There is evidence of alterations and there is a strange speckling of stitches on much of the red wool but especially below the horizontal velvet trim towards the hem line. These are loose cut stitches in black, cream and 2 different shades of red thread. They mark and disfigure the wool.

There is wear to the applied patches around the neckline and down the right centre front.

The ribbons have sharp crease lines from use.

**Proposed Treatment:** The robe is to be repaired in a sympathetic and ethical manner for reuse.

The garment should be surface cleaned inside and out using low vacuum suction and a soft brush. A sample area of the wool on the inside of the hem was cleaned with smoke sponge. This was not successful. It did not remove the disfiguring lines of dirt but lifted some red fibre which could be seen on the sponge.

Repairs to seams and the hem should be worked using Gütermann polyester sewing thread of a matching colour.

The loose threads from previous stitching should be manually removed using forceps to improve the appearance of the wool. Localised solvent cleaning should be attempted on the disfiguring soiling.

The damage to the back of the collar lining and down the true right front should be repaired by removing the existing patched repairs and replacing them with new ones in cotton of a good colour match.

The petersham ribbons should be humidified using a contact humidity treatment to remove the creases and distortions.

**Treatment:** The garment was surface cleaned inside and out as proposed using low vacuum suction. The cut stitches and threads which marked the wool were manually removed and either bagged or surface cleaned to remove from the surface of the fabric.

The removal of the surface dust and threads greatly improved the appearance of the wool but further cleaning in an attempt to remove the horizontal lines of soiling towards the bottom of the garment was not that successful. Dirt was lifted by swabbing with white spirit which achieved some reduction to the dark lines.

The fur responded very well to surface cleaning and gently brushing to realign it. The appearance of the black velvet also showed a marked improvement following surface cleaning. Some localised humidification was used to raise the pile where needed.

Humidification in conjunction with the pressure of glass weights was used to flatten out the ribbons. Lines from the crease along with slight structural damage remained even once the ribbons were flat.

The damaged additional patches around the back of the neck and down the true right front were removed and used for templates to make replacements. Cotton fabric of a suitable colour was sourced. A seam was machine stitched to join the 2 sections as before. They were pinned in place with the raw edges turned under and then slip stitched down using Gütermann polyester sewing thread col.170. The replacement patch slightly overlapped the section extending down the true left front as the very top corner was slightly worn and abraded.

The hem was re-stitched along a length of 280mm. Güterman polyester sewing thread col.365 was used

The same red thread col.365 was used to reattach loose sections of fur trim to the wool around the sleeves and up the centre front. There are 2 such sections of repair to the true left sleeve, 3 up the true right front and 7 places which required stitched repairs to reattach fur to the true right sleeve.

In addition 2 areas of couched repair to the lining of the true right sleeve were worked. For this col. 722 was used. The soiled cuff or bottom edge of the sleeve lining was cleaned by swabbing and spot cleaning with both with deionised water and white spirit.

The horizontal slashes and other damage to the fur trim down the centre fronts were stitched together in col.850. In the top section around the yolk there were 2 such repairs to the true left and 1 to the right. Further such stitching was needed to the fur on both sides towards the bottom edge.

A stitched repair was required to reattach a section of velvet on the true right sleeve. For this Gütermann polyester thread col.682 was used.

A padded hanger and Tyvek bag were made to improve storage of the Garment.

## Time Estimate

	Hours
Removal from Frame/mount	-
Removal of previous repairs	6
Photography	0.5
Documentation	1
Surface Cleaning	4
Humidification	1
Wet Cleaning	-
Solvent Cleaning	2
Dyeing	-
Ordering	-
Stitch Work	5
Adhesive Treatment	-
Preparation for Display	-
Other	-
Final Report	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

At an hourly rate of £25 the total cost of treatment is **£500**.