

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Lucia Burgio
Heritage Scientist

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Hi there! I am Lucia Burgio – A heritage scientist



Where do I work?

I work at the Victoria and Albert Museum and I investigate and analyse art objects.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

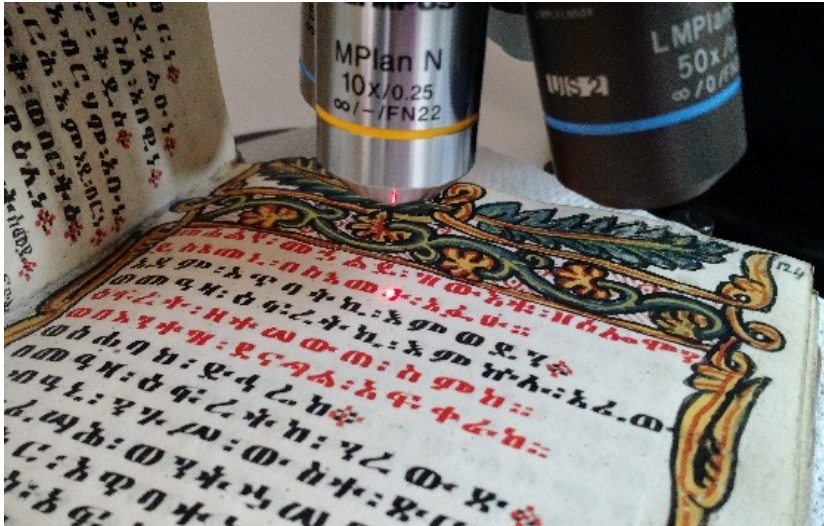
I loved reading, always with a book in my hands. I adored fantasy and science fiction. I was, and still am, nuts about Japanese anime.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

Reading, playing videogames, baking (bread, pizza and brioche), and watching anime and TV with my kids – our favourite programmes being Taskmaster, GBBO, Masterchef, and of course Strictly.

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What do I do as a heritage scientist?



I analyse museum objects to understand how, when and where they were made, and how to care for them. I use sophisticated scientific techniques to do a bit of detective work to unravel the mysteries of our works of art.

How does what I do make the world a better place?

Our cultural heritage is a direct link with our past and our history, and provides us with enjoyment, education and inspiration. By helping to investigate, understand and preserve our objects, I make sure current and future generations get to enjoy them too.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is to be able to hold historical objects in my hands every day and to help preserve them. I also like the contact with our visitors and the chance to collaborate with colleagues from all over the world.

Challenges I have faced

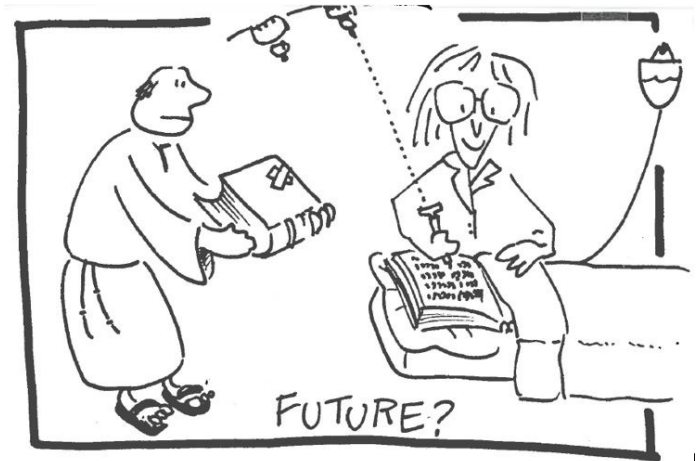
I had to study very hard to get the university places and grants I needed to specialise in my field. I also had to move country and leave my family behind. When I was younger, I did not feel this mattered, but now I do.



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If you want to be a Heritage scientist, you need:

- ✳ **curiosity** about how things are made, and how different materials behave
- ✳ **a Sherlock Holmes attitude** to put many pieces of a scientific puzzle together and help solve mysteries about art objects
- ✳ to be willing to keep your mind **free from any preconceptions** and let the scientific evidence and the facts speak by themselves.
- ✳ an interest in **history and art**



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a heritage scientist like Lucia Burgio?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a heritage scientist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for heritage science

I bet you didn't know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- The disastrous effects of historical ink

Science and History – exploring science topics and developing enquiry skills through a wide range of history and citizenship contexts

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

