



### **How do you run a successful telegraph company when you don't know how the electric telegraph works?**

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 4pm – 5pm

Charlotte Connelly, Assistant Curator, Information and Communication, Science Museum

In 1867, the year before telegraphy was considered so important and intrinsic to modern life that the British government chose to nationalise the network, it was commented in a popular book titled *The Electric Telegraph* that 'The World of Science is not yet agreed as to the physical character of electricity.' The combination of the limited understanding of the underlying principles of the technology, and the huge financial gains that could be available if it was mastered led to a struggle for understanding and authority between engineers and physicists. This talk investigates some of the ways that both groups tried to stake their claim to greater knowledge about electricity and telegraphy.

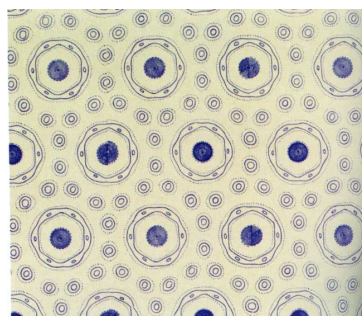


### **'From Votives to Venuses: A Brief History of the Human Anatomical Model'**

5th July, 4pm-5pm

Joanna Ebenstein, *The Morbid Anatomy Library*

In the 1690s, surgeon Guillaume Desnoues commissioned wax-worker Gaetano Zumbo to create a life-sized wax copy of one of his most important--and sadly deteriorating--human dissections. This partnership launched a long tradition of collaboration between artists and medical practitioners in the creation of extraordinary and uncannily lifelike anatomical models intended to preserve important anatomical preparations in perpetuity and to instruct and incite wonder in medical students and laypersons alike. Today, join artist and independent researcher Joanna Ebenstein for a lavishly illustrated walk through the world of these fascinating artefacts that are equal parts art and science and which flicker enticingly on the edges of relic and specimen, mysticism and medicine, life and death. This talk will discuss the histories of these objects and their makers as well as their uses and contexts of display; introduce you to many of the amazing museums that house these artefacts; and consider the ways in which these objects relate to a long tradition of religious, allegorical, and artistic approaches to mortality, supplication, and the quest for bodily immortalization.

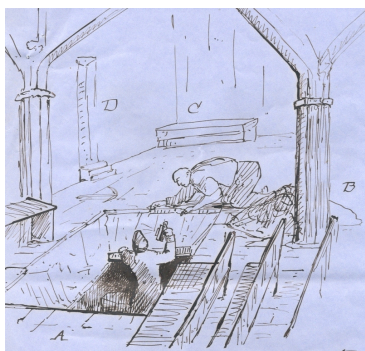


### **'From a world the eye cannot see': Helen Megaw's crystal structure drawings for the Festival Pattern Group**

7<sup>th</sup> July, 4pm – 5pm

Emily Candela, Research Fellow, Science Museum

Since their unveiling at the Festival of Britain in 1951, the designs of the Festival Pattern Group have stunned viewers. These pattern designs for everyday objects, based on crystal structures, were the product of a unique collaboration between British manufacturers and X-ray crystallographers. This talk explores how crystallographer Helen Megaw transposed crystal structure diagrams for the designers of the Festival Pattern Group, nudging images of the sub-microscopic into a realm between science and art.

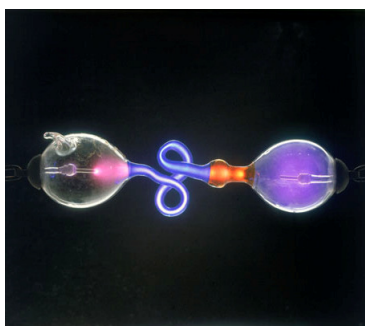


**A scandalous acquisition: Bennet Woodcroft's exploits in the tomb of the Marquis of Worcester.**

*21<sup>st</sup> July, 4pm – 5pm*

*Ben Russell, Curator, Engineering, Science Museum*

On January 4<sup>th</sup> 1861, Bennet Woodcroft, founder of the Patent Office Museum, entered the South Wales tomb of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Worcester. He did so illegally, without the permission of Worcester's descendants or the church. His objective? To acquire for the Museum's collections what he described as 'that relict which the mechanical world would most highly prize.' Come along and find out what happened in this illustrated gothic adventure featuring intrigue, cigars, and a 'confidential carpenter'.



**Inside The Atom: Two Sides of a Story**

*4<sup>th</sup> August, 4pm – 5pm*

*Jane Wess, Senior Curator, Science, Science Museum*

We have great men in the history of science, and we have iconic objects, celebrated in this little exhibition on three pillars of wisdom. However, there is also a 'back story', literally another side. Find out how lots of people, ideas, and very importantly for a museum; instruments, contributed to our understanding of the atom, which became nuclear 100 years ago this summer.

**The talks will be in the Science Museum's Lecture Theatre, are open to all and are free to attend. No booking is necessary and seats are available on a first come first serve basis.**

*If you have any queries, please contact Selina Pang, Curatorial Coordinator at [CuratorialServices@sciencemuseum.org.uk](mailto:CuratorialServices@sciencemuseum.org.uk).*