### CHEMISTRY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

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THIS PIECE OF SILK WAS DYED BY SIR WILLIAM HENRY PERKIN IN 1860 AND PRESENTED TO WM. J. MATHESON OCTOBER 8TH, 1906.

© National Museum of American History

William. H. Perken.













# WHY NOT BOTH?

ART







### **CONSERVATION CHEMISTRY**

#### NOT JUST FOR ART LOVERS

A conservation chemist needs to:

- understand the artefact

What materials were used? How was it made?

- preserve it

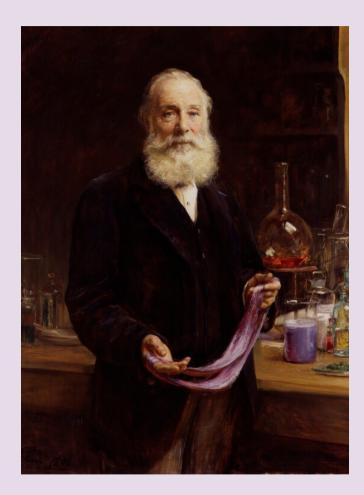
How and where should it be stored?

- restore it

What can be used to clean it without altering it?







### SIR WILLIAM H. PERKIN

AND THE FIRST SYNTHETIC DYE

In 1856, William Perkin discovered the first synthetic dye and called it **mauveine**.

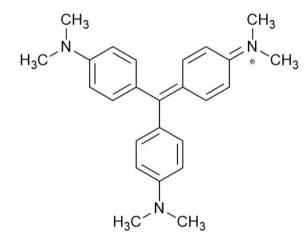
It revolutionised the chemical community.

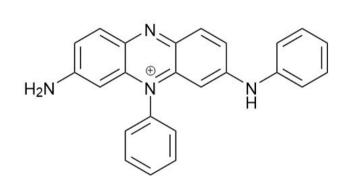
Mauveine and other derivatives were soon used in fashion, photography and even stamps.

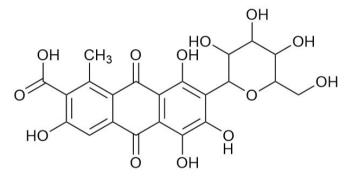




## Dye Reveal





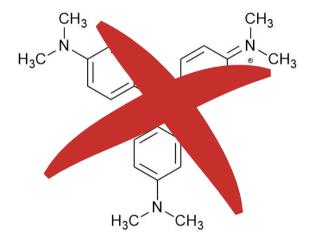


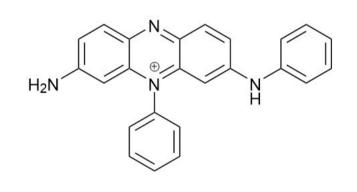
A) CRYSTAL VIOLET

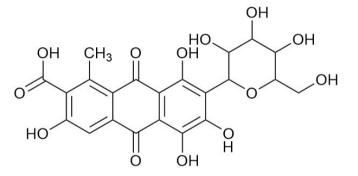
B) PSEUDO-MAUVEINE

C) CARMINIC ACID

## Dye Reveal





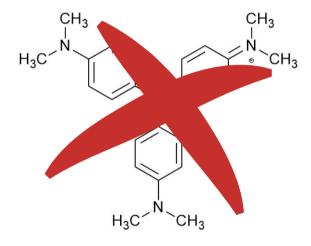


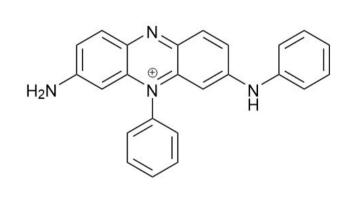
A) CRYSTAL VIOLET

#### B) PSEUDO-MAUVEINE

#### C) CARMINIC ACID

## Dye Reveal







A) CRYSTAL VIOLET

#### B) PSEUDO-MAUVEINE

#### C) CARMINIC ACID

### **Dye Reveal** $CH_3$ H<sub>3</sub>C<sup>2</sup> `CH<sub>3</sub> .OH OH $H_2N$ OH, O. HO H<sub>3</sub>C<sup>-</sup> CH<sub>3</sub>

A) CRYSTAL VIOLET

B) PSEUDO-MAUVEINE C) CARMINIC ACID

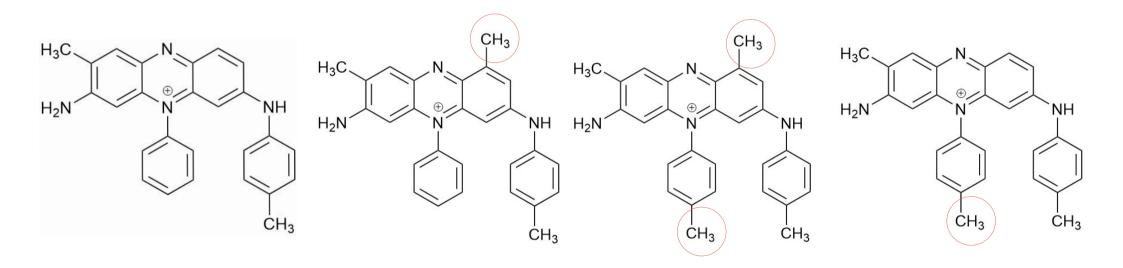
### SIX PENCE STAMP



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The six pence stamps (with no hypen between 'six' and 'pence') were the only ones dyed with Perkin's original mauveine.

### ...Perkin's Mauveine is actually a mixture!



Chemists only realised this in 1994!

### REFERENCES

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