

Background

Surviving Originals and New Versions

- A total of 34 original heads survive, but we have possible evidence of 45.
- The heads probably decorated at least two ceilings in the palace, including the King's Presence Chamber, from where they appear to have been removed in 1777.
- A perspective drawing of 1817 from a book entitled the *Lacunar Strevelinense* shows 56 heads in a coffered ceiling, but that many wouldn't fit.
- Historic Scotland has 31 heads. This includes one of the Roman emperor Titus that was originally thought to be a fragment from furniture.
- The National Museum of Scotland has three heads.
- Two heads were destroyed in a fire in Dunstaffnage House in 1940 but their images survive as drawings in *Lacunar Strevelinense*.
- Some of the heads are composites, reconstructed at some time in the past using parts from two or more originals, while four are fragments.
- The borders on six heads are composites and may come from other lost heads.

John Donaldson has carved:

- Thirty one Historic Scotland heads.
- Three NMS heads.
- Two Dunstaffnage heads from the *Strevelinense* drawings.
- One new head based on an external carving. This was necessary because the reconstructed ceiling will have 37 spaces, but only 36 original designs are known.
- Three additional copies of NMS heads for interpretation purposes.
- An additional copy for display in the gallery where the original heads will be on show for the public, to illustrate how they would have looked when painted.

Total For Ceiling: 37

Total Production: 41