

Appendix B

COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Priorities for Future Collecting

1. LIMITATIONS to Collecting

- 1.1. Any works covered under the Spoliation Act will not be collected.
- 1.2. We do not collect art that uses human remains or tissue as a material, nor will we collect or display anything that uses live animals.
- 1.3. Artwork that contains material deemed hazardous to health or the collection, unless appropriately protected, will not be acquired.
- 1.4. We require clear information relating to copyright and provenance upon acquisition.
- 1.5. Our acceptance of objects is subject to the condition of objects, their conservation needs, and their impact upon the rest of the collection.
- 1.6. We are unable to collect anything larger than will fit in our stores, the access door to which is currently 3m tall.
- 1.7. We are defining *contemporary* within this document as an object or artwork created in the last 25 years.

2. ART: DECORATIVE ART

- 2.1. This is a diverse and comprehensive collection covering all aspects of applied and decorative art: design, craft, costume and textiles. The prime collecting areas are ceramics, glass, metalwork, jewellery, costume and textiles which includes Scottish, British and International work. An extensive contemporary craft collection has been developed, and is now recognised as one of the most important of its kind in Britain. We will continue to augment this collection by acquiring work by UK and International makers.
- 2.2. We have a particular interest in representing the extensive history of making and contemporary practice in North East Scotland.
- 2.3. We are also keen to collect decorative art relating to political and social change. This theme crosses over with History acquisitions relating to Community Life and

Wellbeing as well as Fine Art acquisitions relating to People (Identity), Place and Comparative Works.

2.4. INTERIOR DESIGN

2.4.1. Clocks

The focus of collecting will be contemporary non-mass-produced clocks. Priority will be given to local makers and additions will be actively sought through contacts with local craft makers.

Clocks by makers from NE Scotland offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.4.2. Furniture

Additions to the furniture collection will not be actively sought. Objects

offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place. Consideration will be given to items with opportunities for public display.

2.4.3. Musical Instruments

Additions to the musical instrument collection will not be actively sought. Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.4.4. Other interior design

Whilst additions to the collection will not be actively sought we are interested in acquiring, through gift or bequest, other interior design items, in particular British contemporary works. Further targeted collecting will be focussed on established artists and designers working with industry. There is a clear crossover with the History collection, and such acquisitions will be considered in relation to the entirety of the collection.

2.5 3D DESIGN

2.5.1 CERAMICS

2.5.1.1 Miscellaneous Domestic Ceramics

Domestic ceramics will not be actively sought, unless specifically identified in any of the following categories. Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place. The focus for any additions to the

collection will be objects made in the city of Aberdeen.

We also recognise a crossover with personalia and artists' tools and may collect domestic items relating to these areas.

2.5.1.2 European Ceramics

The focus for active collecting will be the acquisition of contemporary European ceramics, including Scandinavian ceramics, through purchase, gifts or bequests. Other European ceramics offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.1.3 British Ceramics

The focus for future collecting will be contemporary ceramics designed and/or made by British ceramicists. Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

Exceptional historical British ceramics may be acquired to fill gaps in the existing collection for example a Victorian dinner service in excellent condition.

Further targeted collecting will be focussed on factory produced ceramics of the 1940s to 1960s as comparators for the studio ceramic collection and developing a collection of factory works that loosely represents the range of styles and periods. There is a clear crossover with the History collection, and such acquisitions will be considered

in relation to the entirety of the collection.

2.5.2 GLASS

2.5.2.1 Miscellaneous Domestic Glass

Domestic glass ware will not be actively sought, unless specifically identified in any of the following categories. Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place. The focus for any additions to the collection will be objects made in the city of Aberdeen.

We also recognise a crossover with personalia and artists' tools and may collect domestic items relating to these areas.

2.5.2.2 British and International Glass

The focus for future collecting will be contemporary glass designed and/or made by British and international glass makers. Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

A particular focus will be on collecting comparative material to enhance the story of British design and makers, including Scandinavian glass.

Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.3 JEWELLERY

2.5.3.1 Jewellery

There will be a particular focus on acquiring contemporary jewellery, in particular Scottish makers and those who have inspired Scottish design and

development. We also seek to build on our outstanding collection demonstrating decorative techniques in jewellery making spanning British and international makers.

Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

Due to the interest in local designer and maker James Cromar Watt, we would seek to enhance the current holdings by collecting comparative material from other Arts and Crafts jewellery makers.

New additions to the historic jewellery collection will focus on exceptional pieces from mid-20th century makers and, within a wider time frame, jewellery made in the NE of Scotland, avoiding duplications.

2.5.3.2 Portable Accessories

Collecting will focus on exceptional portable accessories (such as snuff boxes) made and used in the NE of Scotland, avoiding duplications.

2.5.3.3 Watches

There will be a particular focus on acquiring contemporary time pieces that reinvent tradition or provide comparisons to the historic collections. Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

Early pocket watches made by local watchmakers are not actively sought, but objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.4 METALWORK

2.5.4.1 Historic domestic metalwork

Future collecting will focus on NE Scotland hollowware and flatware, paying particular attention to strengthening the collection of 18th and 19th century forks and knives, and unusual pieces of flatware.

Collecting will build on existing strengths of Aberdeen and NE Scotland silversmiths.

Comparative non-precious metalwork items will be considered where already represented in precious metal in the collections.

2.5.4.2 20th-21st century metalwork

Key areas for enhancing the existing collection have been identified with a focus on works that have been significantly influential in the mid- to late-20th century, contemporary metalwork by UK designers, and works by international makers who have influenced British metalwork designers.

Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

2.5.5 CRAFT

2.5.5.1 Historic Asian craft

Additions to the Asian / Oriental craft collection will not be actively sought. Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.5.2 Other craft

Collecting will focus on examples of contemporary craft work, in particular work of Scottish design / local makers

and comparative international pieces that place the work of Scottish makers in a wider context. Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

Objects offered through gift or bequest will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.6 FASHION AND TEXTILES

2.6.1 Fashion Design

A significant focus for collecting will be clothes designed by Bill Gibb that correspond to existing AAGM Gibb drawings.

Acquisitions will be actively sought from local contemporary fashion designers placing NE Scotland in context and expanding the legacy of the Bill Gibb archive.

As the fashion and textile collection is extensive, objects offered through gift or bequest of exceptional garments by designers with innovative approaches to design and materials will be considered for acquisition.

All other offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.6.2 Historic Costume Collection

2.6.2.1 Historic Costume

The historic costume collection is extensive. As the collection is already large, we will only collect objects that are in excellent condition, unless they demonstrate revolutionised trends and have a local connection will be considered for acquisition.

Additions to our locally made lace collection will be considered on a case by case basis avoiding duplication.

All such offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.2.2 Costume Accessories

Only objects of exceptional quality, and in particular, contemporary innovative accessories with local connections will be considered for acquisition.

All such offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.2.3 Costume Ephemera

Only objects of from local designers are likely to be considered for acquisition.

All such offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.3 Textiles

2.5.3.1 Historic Textiles

Only objects of exceptional quality (e.g. those that demonstrate creative stitches, unusual materials and uses) will be considered for acquisition.

All such offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.3.2 Misc. Domestic Textiles

Only objects of exceptional quality and those relating to the city Aberdeen will be considered for acquisition.

All such offers will be examined on their individual merits, ensuring that

duplication of material in the existing collection does not take place.

2.5.3.3.1 Contemporary Textiles

Future collecting will focus on highly skilled work by contemporary artists in UK and beyond. The collection will explore the creative use of materials and innovative approaches to design. Opportunities will be identified to acquire new items through direct contact with makers, appropriate grants, commissions and other available means.

3. ART: FINE ART

3.1. In order to give a clear direction to our collecting efforts, we will primarily collect contemporary works that present new and unique perspectives that enhance our collection, around the following overarching themes which apply to all Fine Art collections. These may even be found to interlink in the case of some proposed acquisitions. These themes are also likely to inform expectations for any new commissions intended for the Art Gallery:

3.1.1. CROSS-OVERS

We are interested in exploring the cross-overs between traditional classifications according to subject, form, and material, and the contemporary move towards art without boundaries. These can go beyond traditional categories of fine art, such as painting and sculpture, or even the differences and similarities between decorative and fine art. Through an exploration of cross-overs we can begin conversations with audiences exploring the 'big' questions, such as what constitutes art? We can explore the division between popular and what is traditionally seen as 'high' culture. How do artists engage with modern audiences through experimenting with various media and themes, making art more accessible to the public?

Many contemporary artists and makers are integrating ever more diverse materials in their works, so that traditional understandings like the assumption that all ceramics must be decorative art are no longer clear-cut. In order to keep our collection relevant, we will therefore aim to acquire new works that interrogate familiar classifications.

3.1.2. PEOPLE (IDENTITY)

Art and artists have throughout history been concerned with capturing and portraying human identity. The interrogation of the human element connected to rapid social change, questions of identity and prevalent

political concerns, can take countless different forms. It can range from an exact likeness of an individual to an abstraction of human experience, and artists' interrogations of how we use our bodies to express our sexual, political, cultural and personal identities.

Our main interest remains with portraits of individuals whom we recognise as established artists, that show how they perceive themselves or how they are perceived by others. The starting point for this theme is the set of 93 Victorian artists' portraits which, in many ways, forms the root of our collection: the artists contributed a portrait of themselves, or painted one another, in response to collector Alexander Macdonald's request.

The notion of what constitutes the portrait or identifying features of an individual has been overhauled through the advent of new technologies, as we now portray ourselves in specific ways in reality and online: there is an unprecedented awareness of the way we portray ourselves to a world that is constantly at our finger tips. Our awareness of this transformation, and our application of this to our policy, will ensure our collection remains fresh and relevant.

3.1.3. PLACE

Place is as much a tangible physical space as a personal perception or memory; artists responses to place are constantly evolving, and we aim to reflect this in our collecting.

Traditional forms of landscape and seascape painting feature prominently in our collection as do depictions of public events and private settings. We will look towards works that convey or interrogate a sense of place, works that seek to present compelling visions of this Scotland in all its complexity.

A particular, although not exclusive, focus will be on those works depicting lives and landscapes in and around Aberdeen City

and Shire, or works that illustrate artists' views of foreign places.

Narrative is inextricably linked to place, and we will continue to collect and seek out works which tell stories about people's experience of a place in time.

3.1.4. PROCESS

Art is not produced in a vacuum, and artists continue to develop their practice throughout their lives. Our approach to collecting comparative works will reflect the climate in which artists worked, their influences, and works of peers.

We have a particular interest in Scottish artists and how international schools filtered through the artists in our collection, putting the art in a wider context. Preliminary studies function as snapshot of a specific time and place within their artist's career; they can lend insight into the artistic process and provide a unique illustration of their development.

3.2. The following specific areas of the collection will each be developed and enhanced through the above overarching themes:

3.2.1. 2D WORKS: PAINTINGS

We envisage that future acquisitions of contemporary art will more often be in other media. However this does not preclude our desire to buy challenging contemporary paintings, should they be appropriate additions to the collections.

We intend to collect actively to fill the gaps throughout the collection, giving priority to contemporary British art and works which relate to our four collection priorities. We will however continue to collect historic paintings of outstanding quality and relevance, all the while attempting to redress the imbalance of works by male and female artists in our collection.

Our strategy for active collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists, purchasing items that arise at auction, and gifts to the collection. We will also ensure curatorial representation at art fairs and, in particular, Gray's School of Art degree shows to ensure we are seeking out local artists. We will also work with organisations such as CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

We will limit our collecting to fill gaps in the collection or to those works which fulfil one of the four main criteria for acquisition.

3.2.2. 2D WORKS: DRAWINGS and WATERCOLOURS

It is our intention to continue an active collecting policy in order to enhance our current holding and filling obvious gaps.

Current gaps in this collection include Pre-Raphaelites on paper, Modernists such as Stanley Cursiter, Victor Pasmore, Howard Hodgkin, Edward Burra, Bernard Meninsky, and Tristram Hillier, and key representatives of the St Ives School.

We would particularly be interested in works that fall under the 'Comparative Works' category, especially preparatory studies which demonstrate an artist's development.

Our focus for acquiring will be to ensure that the works fall within at least one of our priority collecting areas. We will also seek to fill the aforementioned gaps in this collection.

We will pursue relationships with local artists and, in particular, Gray's School of Art to ensure that we continue to collect locally.

3.2.3. 2D WORKS:

PRINTED MATERIALS

3.2.3.1. Prints

It is intended to continue a limited amount of active collecting although this would principally be in order to fill obvious gaps in our current holding.

Any prospective acquisitions will be checked against existing holdings to avoid multiplication, although it may be acceptable to duplicate holdings where an artist's proof is involved as this would classify as a 'comparative work'.

We will be looking to enhance our collection with prints that reflect new developments, such as C-prints from digitally generated images. We will expand our existing holdings of Pop Art, by focusing particularly on its British representatives. If the opportunity arises, we will enhance the collection by pursuing works that informed the practice of artists whose work is already represented in our print collection.

Our strategy for active collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists, purchasing items that arise at auction, and gifts to the collection. We will also provide curatorial representation at art fairs and, in particular, Gray's School of Art degree shows to ensure we are seeking out local artists. We will also work with organisations such as CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

3.2.3.2. PEACOCK ARCHIVE

We will continue to receive material from Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen to expand our archival record.

3.2.3.3. REPRODUCTIONS

We do not plan to acquire any more reproductions in the future.

3.2.3.4. CREATIVE or ARTIST ARCHIVES

We will consider archives of artists whose work is represented in our collection, if the archive is offered to us as a gift or bequest.

3.2.4. 2D WORKS:

ART PHOTOGRAPHY

It is intended to supplement and enrich this collection with future acquisitions. We predict that given the increase in status of photography as an art medium, this will be a fast growing area of our collecting for the foreseeable future.

Our collecting will encompass both digital and analogue photography from the past up to the present, to establish an understanding of the directions that art photography is taking and how it examines our aesthetic experience, perception of self, society and landscape.

Collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists, purchasing items that arise at auction, and gifts to the collection. We will also provide curatorial representation at art fairs and degree shows across Scotland, in particular Gray's School of Art, to ensure we are seeking out artists with a local connection. We will also work with organisations such as CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

3.2.5. 2D WORKS: MCBEY

We will only add to this collection if an exceptional, rare example becomes available which we do not already have a duplicate of in our collection.

3.2.6. 3D WORKS: SCULPTURE

3.2.6.1. ORIGINALS

Further purchases are likely especially of contemporary works. In addition to the main collecting themes, we will seek out works which continue a dialogue between abstraction and representation /figuration.

Of particular focus would be of contemporary works by internationally recognised artists with an emphasis on new developments in sculpture, featuring a diversity of materials and practices.

Gaps in the current collection include British sculptures from the late 20th century, including Anthony Gormley, Tony Cragg, and Rachel Whiteread. We will also seek out works by Modernist sculptors like Alexander Calder, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, Leon Underwood, Lynn Chadwick, Kenneth Armitage,.

Our strategy for active collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists, purchasing items that arise at auction, and gifts to the collection. We will also provide curatorial representation at art fairs and degree shows across Scotland, in particular Gray's School of Art, to ensure we are seeking out artists with a local connection. We will also work with organisations such CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

3.2.6.2. CASTS

We do not plan to acquire more casts in the future.

3.2.7. 3D WORKS: INSTALLATIONS

We will continue to actively acquire, whether by gift, purchase or commission, and we will explore relevant works as technology

develops which may include digital art. Further purchases are likely especially of contemporary works which respond to the main collecting themes.

Collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists and their technicians, by purchasing items, and through gifts to the collection. We will also provide curatorial representation at art fairs and degree shows across Scotland, in particular Gray's School of Art, to ensure we are seeking out artists with a local connection. We will also work with organisations such as CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

In the case of installations, it is of paramount importance that at least one of the curatorial team is able to travel in order to view the artwork in situ and assess its logistics.

Because we are aware of the need to upgrade technologies, we will not acquire any work of this nature unless the related hardware is readily available and within our means. Due to their relatively easy duplication by people other than the artist her/himself, we will not acquire a work if there are any doubts about its authenticity.

3.2.8. 3D WORKS: MEMORABILIA

We will only consider memorabilia of artists whose work is represented in our collection, if the memorabilia are offered to us as a gift or bequest.

3.2.9. INTANGIBLE WORKS and NEW MEDIA

Given the popularity of new media, we intend to focus on supplementing and enriching this small collection with future acquisitions.

We will seek to acquire works that are primarily concerned with new ways of

understanding place, politics and identity and that offer a link to our own digital age and explores the shifting boundaries between the local and international scope. We will prioritise artworks where we can either utilise equipment which we already own, equipment that will be easily accessible and affordable, or artworks where the specified equipment is an integral part of the purchase price.

Because we are aware of the need to upgrade technologies, we will not acquire any work of this nature unless the related hardware is readily available and within our means. Due to their relatively easy duplication by people other than the artist her/himself, we will not acquire a work if there are any doubts about its authenticity.

Our strategy for active collecting will focus on pursuing and maintaining relationships with artists and their technicians, by purchasing items, and through gifts to the collection. We will also provide curatorial representation at art fairs and degree shows across Scotland, in particular Gray's School of Art, to ensure we are seeking out artists with a local connection. We will also work with organisations such as CAS and art dealers to expand our collection.

In the case of installations, it is of paramount importance that at least one of the curatorial team is able to travel in order to view the artwork in situ and assess its logistics.

4 HISTORY

The history collections tell the story of Aberdeen and we are keen to collect material which reflects the identity of the city. We are particularly interested in contemporary acquisitions which reflect how individuals express their sexual, political, cultural and personal identity and their experience of social, economic and political change.

In many instances this is connected to Aberdeen's sense of place and we wish to record and collect around Aberdeen's physical spaces, both public and private, with a particular interest in working lives and the processes which take place there. This includes recording individual narratives, interpretations and experiences of place and process.

4.1 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR HISTORY ACQUISITIONS

We are keen to acquire items which crossover with the overarching themes of People, Place and Process.

All acquisitions for these collections must meet the following criteria:

- Items must relate to Aberdeen as defined by the current local authority boundary (or previous boundary should the neighbouring museum service agree), with the exception of items acquired under the terms of the UK Maritime Collecting Strategy, which designates Aberdeen Maritime Museum as the lead museum for the UK Offshore Oil Industries. For the purposes of this policy, this is defined as the North Sea.
- The authenticity and provenance of the items can be demonstrated.
- The items are considered to be historically significant or add significantly to existing holdings. This is defined as:
 - There are no (or extremely limited) items relating to the subject currently in the collection.
 - The item(s) allows for a significant change in how the subject is

perceived or interpreted, regardless of current holdings

- Whilst there is already a body of information/group of objects relating to the subject in the collection, the offered material concerns a specific person, organisation/ship, location or incident in detail that adds considerable additional knowledge to the subject.
- Ideally, acquisitions for these collections should also meet the following supplementary criteria:
 - The physical condition will be such that it will not result in excessive conservation costs. This includes the resources and staff knowledge required to preserve and make publicly accessible the original format of digital and audio-visual collections.
 - There is a presumption towards physical material (as opposed to digital), and within that to three dimensional objects.
 - Material acquired for reference – books, copies and digital surrogates of ephemera/photographs - will not form part of the collections but may be retained as part of our library and reference holdings.

4.2 PERSONAL AND DOMESTIC LIFE

4.2.1 Personal History and Domestic Life

Collecting will concentrate on material relating to domestic life as experienced by inhabitants of Aberdeen. Additions will be made of locally significant material and where potential acquisitions do not duplicate existing holdings.

4.2.2 Smoking/ Vaping

The collection is weak in contemporary changes in smoking practice and technologies, particularly the recent advent of vaping. A proactive approach will be taken to collecting in this area through engagement with local

businesses. This proactive approach will be led by a volunteer project. Due to the harmful nature of the chemicals used in vaping to collections only empty containers should be collected.

4.2.3 Hobbies, Crafts and Pastimes; Broadcast and Pre-Recorded Entertainment

Collecting will concentrate on material relating to personal and domestic life as experienced by inhabitants of Aberdeen. An area of interest is the effect the energy industries have had on social life in Aberdeen. Additions will be made of locally significant material and where potential acquisitions do not duplicate existing holdings.

4.2.4 Toys and Games

As the pace of technology makes new games and toys redundant, the policy will focus on adding representative examples of toys and games to the collection. In this instance “representative” is defined as being typical of that class of toy or game, eg Gameboy as representative of handheld electronic gaming devices. The period from the early 2000s is under represented in the collection, especially digital/ electronic toys and games. There is an identified gap for dolls which aim to encourage girls to take interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects/careers. Examples could include the American K’nex company line of female action figures that has characters such as Industry who can ‘repair anything that is broken’ or Project Mc2 Dolls come with a scientific project to complete.

Collecting into this area will be on a reactive basis.

4.3 COMMUNITY LIFE AND WELL BEING

4.3.1 Leisure

Collecting in the area of sports will be on a reactive basis and focus on clubs and individuals from Aberdeen who have achieved significant goals and on hobbies pursued by Aberdonians.

Coins of an antiquarian nature will not be collected, unless it can be demonstrated there is a significant connection to Aberdeen City, for example can be shown to be coinage from a now-dispersed hoard.

4.3.2 Faith Groups

This policy document recognises the policy of Blairs Museum of Scottish Catholic history to collect moveable items of whatever nature that refers to the history of the Catholic Church in Scotland. Material will be acquired from Aberdeen places of worship of any religion or spiritual belief on a reactive basis. Communion tokens will be collected responsively, where they make a significant addition to the collection, and are from churches that are located, or that were located, within Aberdeen City.

4.3.3 Health and Wellbeing (Medicine and Healthcare)

This policy statement recognises RGU Art and Heritage Collection and the University of Aberdeen Museum collections, who collect items of equipment formerly used in teaching or research, photographs, ephemera and oral history relating to their respective parent organisations. Collecting will be on a reactive basis with a particular emphasis on items with a strong connection to local hospitals, pharmacists and medical practitioners. In keeping with the spirit of the Kenneth A. Webster Nursing Collection, the focus of this collection will continue to be professionals other than qualified doctors. Textbooks will no longer be accepted.

4.3.4 Education

We are **not actively collecting** in this area, however additions of artefacts of local significance will be made to fill gaps in the collection.

4.3.5 Wartime

Collecting will concentrate on objects recording the history of Aberdeen and its inhabitants during wartime. In relation to the

Gallery of Memories particular emphasis will be given to material with a strong Aberdeen link. The collection is particularly weak post-World War Two and every opportunity will be taken to fill these gaps in the collection. Collecting will be on a reactive basis, material may be offered as a result of community events held in relation to the Gallery of Memories. Our policy shall not conflict with the remit of the Gordon Highlanders' Museum.

4.3.6 Medals

Medals will be collected responsively, where there is a relevance to Aberdeen City and they make a significant addition to the collection, bearing in mind the collection development policies of other North East museums, most notably the Gordon Highlanders Museum, to avoid conflicts. Priority will be given to medals whose owners had been born or spent their formative years in Aberdeen, and medals from conflicts that are not currently represented in the collections.

4.3.7 Utilities and Services

We are not actively collecting in this area, however additions of artefacts of local significance will be made to fill gaps in the collection.

4.3.8 Societies

This area is under-represented as regards organised labour within the trades and industries represented within the collections, and community activity associated with them such as Trade Unions, 'benevolent' and 'friendly' societies. Though collecting will be on a responsive basis, every opportunity will be taken to fill these gaps in the collection, bearing in mind the collection policies of the University of Aberdeen Special Collections ("Capturing the Energy" Project and archival holdings related to societies), and collection development policies of other North East museums to avoid conflicts. Items relating to political and social change and unrest, and local reactions to this are of particular interest.

4.3.9 Civic

Material will be added on a reactive basis as the opportunity arises and in consultation with the City Archives and the Lord Provost's Office in relation to the Aberdeen City Council Civic Collection.

4.4 TRADE, INDUSTRY and WORKING LIVES

4.4.1 Currency

We are not actively collecting in this area, however additions will be made to fill gaps in the collection. Areas of particular interest are currencies relating to Aberdeen and north of Scotland banks.

4.4.2 Aberdeen Harbour

The collection is under-represented in regards post-1990 developments of the harbour, including the Nigg Bay development, the training of mariners, the role of female mariners, contemporary ferry operations, and the role of the harbour as a point for emigration and immigration. A proactive approach to be taken in collecting in these areas, through engagement with the Aberdeen harbour board.

4.4.3 Fishing and whaling

The collection is comprehensive in regards the operation of the fishing fleet therefore future acquisitions should only be made when they add significantly to our knowledge of the industry, bearing in mind the collection development policies of other north east museums to avoid conflicts.

Given the short life of the Aberdeen whaling industry, the current holdings are comprehensive therefore future acquisitions should only be made when they add significantly to our knowledge of the industry, bearing in mind the collection development policies of other north east museums to avoid conflicts.

The collection is weak in regards Aberdeen fish market, fish processing in Aberdeen, the Torry Research Station and the decommissioning of the Aberdeen fleet.

Though collecting will be on a responsive basis, every opportunity will be taken to fill these gaps in the collection, bearing in mind the collection development policies of other north east museums to avoid conflicts.

4.4.4 Granite

This is a good and relatively coherent collection however lack of suitable storage and display space have to date precluded AAGM from collecting significant mechanical items related to this prime element of Aberdeen's history.

The collection does not contain many 'finished' examples of granite worked in Aberdeen barring some jewellery items at present under Decorative Art. Should such items become available they should be considered for collection. Likewise smaller items of machinery associated with the industry should also be considered.

Hand tools would not necessarily be collected unless they have a very good local provenance or can be demonstrated to be of high standard of preservation or rarity. Photographs, ephemera, promotional material, drawings, models and papers will continue to be collected and should be considered according to the standard criteria of significance, condition and provenance.

4.4.5 Energy Industries

The collection is strong in regards contemporary offshore oil and gas technical activities, models of ships and oil platforms, and artworks of life and work offshore. The industry continues to evolve and so collecting will need to continue to take cognisance of this.

The collection is under-represented in regards artefacts of life and work offshore, onshore support services for the oil and gas industry, decommissioning, renewable energy and the impact of the oil and gas industry upon the city and how it has changed over time (such as the impact on service industries).

A proactive approach to collecting will be undertaken, including engagement with

offshore support service companies and a public appeal during development of new displays about life offshore. Acquisitions will be considered in light of the collection policies of the "Capturing the Energy" Project and the Kemp's Field Significance.

4.4.6 Chemical and Gas Industry

Collecting in this area will be on a responsive basis. Items with which demonstrate recent development in the chemical industry in the city are of particular interest, such as those related to offshore support chemistry and the emergent technologies such as the Hydrogen Bus Project of which Aberdeen is one of the pioneering cities. In the absence of space to house a hydrogen bus or plant the material that would form the bulk of the collection would be 2D, although machinery linked to the actual conversion process should be accepted should it be offered.

Material relating to organised labour or to the life and work of the employees in the industries is also of particular interest.

4.4.7 Shipping and Shipbuilding

A responsive approach to be taken towards collecting in this field. Due to lack of suitable display and storage facilities, whole or large sections of vessels are not to be acquired.

Given the strength of the collection in regards the operation of Aberdeen shipyards in the 1900s, particularly in regards ship plans and models, material should only be collected if it can be clearly demonstrated the material will add significantly to our knowledge of the operation of the shipyards and the vessels constructed there. Due to the more limited availability of pre-1900s material, it is acknowledged that its significance will be correspondingly greater.

Ship repairing taking place in Aberdeen is under-represented in the collection. Though collecting will be on a responsive basis, every opportunity will be taken to fill this gap in the collection.

4.4.8 Engineering – Local Companies

The collection is extensive and contains material from various large and small concerns integral to the development of Aberdeen over the past two hundred years. The areas that are covered lack the 'larger scale' items due to past limitations upon collecting, and are mainly linked to 'past' industries. This has resulted in a major element of Aberdeen's history being lost to future generations. This is likely still to impinge upon systematic collection in this area.

Material will continue to be collected on a responsive basis as the opportunity presents, especially material related to items manufactured in Aberdeen or which has a strong Aberdeen connection such as repair, installation or service concerns.

4.4.9 Textile Manufacture

This area is weak in the contemporary manufacturing of textiles in Aberdeen as well as the machinery used to produce such. Also a portion of the collection is currently on loan. While we are interested in acquiring representative material in this area, we will take a responsive strategy to collecting.

Material which adds to the coherence of the collection is a priority, for example filling chronological gaps or representing processes where we are currently unable to do so. Hand in hand with this is the continued development of the photographic archive of the activity of the textile industry in Aberdeen and material representing working life.

4.4.10 Papermaking

The collections covered by this heading are small and incomplete largely due to the constraints outlined above for other sections - space and suitable display conditions. This is still likely to be the case in the future.

However, papermaking was once an important employer in the area and Aberdeen has one of the last operational mills in the country. Collecting in this area will be on a responsive basis but items relating to this industry should be considered for the

collection when and if they become available and where they meet the criteria above.

Material from the early papermaking industry and contemporary material are particularly sought.

4.4.11 Printing

Items should continue to be represented in the collection, with an emphasis on the evolution and local use of printing machinery.

Printing blocks and ephemera should only be collected where they are of exceptional historical value or add knowledge to the collection.

Collection would have to be responsive in this area and concentrate upon the hardware relating to printing due to the nature of the material and activity of others (such as Aberdeen City Libraries) that have a direct interest. Material relating to the workforce is almost completely absent from the collection and should be accepted if available thus adding to the coherence of the holdings.

Exceptional material would be that relating to printing works in Aberdeen that has a good provenance and actually fills obvious gaps in the collection (such as moveable type box, brothers swear boxes, material relating to the organisation of the industry and religious societies in Aberdeen) should be regarded favourably if offered to the AAGM.

4.4.12 History of Photography

Collecting will continue with gaps being filled where possible, especially important for early technologies and the current move into digitising images. Of particular interest is the G.W. Wilson archive which will be added to when resources allow and when significant items become available.

4.4.13 Service Industries

Collecting will be responsive and focus on adding significant material as described above. Areas of particular interest are major changes in public transport infrastructure,

continuing to represent official/standard weights and measures, new developments in postal and delivery services (such as Deliveroo) and changes in the retail and hospitality sector as a result of the impact of the energy industries.

MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES

4.4.14 Craft Trades

This collection was reviewed in 2014 and considered to be comprehensive. Collecting will therefore be responsive and restricted to the following previously identified gaps:

Millwright/Patternmaker: a good collection of patterns exists within the Engineering collections connected with a significant local firm, George Cassie & Son, makers of granite machinery. These could be enhanced with oral histories.

Sawmilling: no known collections although at least one company (Cordiners) has been in existence since 1870.

Boxmaking: we hold about 14 items relating to box making including some example crates/boxes and some printing plates relating to two local companies (William Fiddes & Son; Andrew Leiper Ltd). These could be enhanced with oral histories.

Cabinetmaker, furniture or shopfitting maker: a few odd items but nothing coherent. This area potentially overlaps with the Applied

Art Furniture collections and should be addressed in collaboration.

4.4.15 Brewing and Distilling

This collection lacks consistency and is very eclectic. It is recommended that only material associated with local microbreweries and micro-distilleries (such as empty containers, equipment) should be accepted along with supporting ephemera, photographs and such like.

However, should good quality historical material with a good connection to Aberdeen present itself this will be considered for acceptance due to the historic importance of this industry to Aberdeen.

4.4.16 Agriculture

This policy statement acknowledges the strength and importance of the collections of Aberdeenshire Museums Services and Pitmedden Gardens (National Trust for Scotland). Material will not be added to this collection.