

Appendix D University of Aberdeen, Marischal Museum

Existing collections, including the subjects or themes for collecting:

The collections of Marischal Museum derive from five centuries of collecting by graduates, staff and friends of the University of Aberdeen and its constituent institutions. The museum was established in 1907 as the University's Anthropological Museum, incorporating the collections of the King's College Archaeological Museum, the Wilson Museum in Marischal College and ethnographic and historical items from elsewhere in the University. The museum was renamed as Marischal Museum in 1990 and the University's collection of fine art transferred to it in 1996.

Marischal Museum now cares for a rich collection with some notable strengths and it forms an important element of museum provision in Scotland. Throughout its history the Museum has operated alongside other collections in the University, the region and nationally. This collecting policy recognises the roles of these other collections, aiming to work with them to preserve significant material for the public benefit in the present and future. Working within the overall Acquisition and Disposal Policy for museums in the University of Aberdeen, the collecting procedures of Marischal Museum will follow the principles and priorities laid out in this appendix.

The collections of Marischal Museum number almost 80,000 items. These lie within five major areas, as follows:

• Scottish history and archaeology	15,000
• European and Mediterranean archaeology	7,000
• Non-western ethnography and archaeology	9,000
• Fine Art	2,000
• Numismatics	45,000

The acquisition of material outwith the above categories may be considered if it would support the teaching and research aims of the University, particularly in the Arts and Social Sciences. This will include disciplines such as anthropology, archaeology, education, history, history of art and Scottish ethnology.

Marischal Museum is also responsible for the care of a separately identified collection of University memorabilia, gifts to the University and certain works of art which do not form part of the main collection are treated according to the terms stated in section 1 of the main policy.

Significant objects or individuals:

Collectors who contributed to the museum include:

Robert Wilson (1787-1871), a medical graduate of Marischal College and member of the East India Company who subsequently followed in the footsteps of Alexander the Great throughout the Near East.

Sir William MacGregor, Imperial Governor of New Guinea, Lagos (Nigeria), Newfoundland and Queensland in the early 20th century.

Captain William Mitchell (1802-1876), trader and ship's captain with the Hudson's Bay Company, collecting primarily in British Columbia.

Margaret Hasluck, a graduate of Aberdeen and Cambridge who travelled and collected in the Balkans, settling in Albania until fleeing invasion in 1943.

General Sir James Macdonald, Escort Commander of the Younghusband expedition to Tibet in 1903.

Rev Frederick Bowie and **Jeannie Mutch**, missionaries in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu) in the early 20th century.

Dr James Grant (Bey), a medical graduate of the University and physician at the court of the Khedive of Egypt who amassed a large collection of Egyptian antiquities.

Criteria governing future collecting policy, including the subjects or themes for collecting:

Principles and Priorities for Numismatics

In general, there will be no further additions to this area of the collection. Exceptions relate to items associated with the history of the University, such as prize medals, and military medals that closely relate to the University's Gordon Collection. Potential donors of other material will be recommended to approach Aberdeen City Museums, the Hunterian Museum or the National Museums of Scotland.

Principles and Priorities for Fine Art

The Fine Art collection is the result of acquisitions over five centuries and closely reflects the history of the University and its constituent institutions. This has resulted in an important assemblage of early Scottish paintings, most notably 17th to 18th century portraiture, while there is also a collection of later portraits of people associated with the University, Christ's College and the Aberdeen College of Education. There is a substantial collection of topographic views of Aberdeen and the North-East. Donations such as the Keith bequest (19th century landscapes) and the Linklater bequest (Scottish Colourists etc.) have broadened the scope of the collection, but are relatively few in number. Acquisitions will aim to build on the strengths of the existing collection, prioritising material associated with the history of the University, developing a collection of contemporary art for display on campus and supporting the teaching of Art History in the University.

It is recognised that other sections of the University may purchase items of artistic merit which are not considered to be part of the main collection governed by this collecting policy. Likewise, the responsibility of certain works of art may be placed with Marischal Museum without them being acquired for the main collection. Such items are not governed by this policy.

University history

Items associated with the history of the University will be collected, with the criteria for selection being the significance of the item to the University, the quality of the item and the costs associated with acquisition and curation.

Contemporary Art

Works of art will be acquired that build on the existing collections, notably the Linklater Bequest. Priority will be given to extending the representativeness of the collection, particularly where it supports the teaching in the University. Particular note will be taken of the collecting areas of other local institutions, such as the Aberdeen Art Gallery and the Grampian Hospitals Art Collection.

Other works will be acquired by gift, purchase and commission to enhance the aesthetic environment of the University campus. The acquisition of such works will be informed by the University's Art Advisory Committee. A priority will be work by artists of renown working in Scotland, but works by artists of international stature from elsewhere will also be considered. The Art Advisory Committee will also make recommendations as to the location of works so acquired. Acquisition to the main art collection will, however, be at the discretion of the curator responsible for the collection, taking into account long-term issues of conservation and security.

Art History teaching

In recent years, a collection of old master to contemporary prints for teaching within the University has been formed. The collection has helped to familiarise students of the History of Art with graphic techniques and with the history of art as seen through the various graphic media. A priority will therefore be given to the acquisition of prints to add to this collection, while work in other media will also be considered where they will demonstrably support teaching in the History of Art and Visual Culture.

Association/ geographic area for future collecting:

Principles and Priorities for Scottish History and Archaeology

The Museum's collecting area for Scottish archaeological material is North-East Scotland, approximating to the local authority areas of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray. Items will only be acquired from outwith this area if more appropriate local museums choose not to acquire them. Items will only be acquired as an allocation to the University by the Crown, normally on the advice by the Scottish Archaeological Finds Advisory Panel (SAFAP), unless the curator is satisfied that valid title to the item can be proven, such as by a certificate of 'No Claim' issued by SAFAP.

The collection of historical material will also normally be confined to this area. Items which have close associations with the North-East, such as through use or manufacture, will also be acquired, with due regard to the collecting policies of other Registered/Accredited museums.

Specific priorities are as follows:

Period of time for future collecting: Prehistoric - Early Historic

All material will follow the procedures of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Advisory Panel, with collecting normally restricted to the North-East of Scotland. Assemblages deriving from recent archaeological fieldwork with associated contextualising information will be given the highest priority, while a second priority will be placed on the acquisition of Iron Age and Early Historic material in which the collection is weaker.

Period of time for future collecting: Medieval to Modern

Archaeological material will only be considered for acquisition if no other local Registered/Accredited museum wishes to acquire it. Material relating to the traditional culture of Northern Scotland will be acquired, especially if relating to the teaching and research activities of the Elphinstone Institute.

Other

Items relating to significant individuals associated with North-East Scotland or the University of Aberdeen, particularly where their collection relates to existing material in the University's collections. Items deriving from mixed assemblages of archival and artefactual material will also be collected where these relate to the collecting priorities of the University's Special Libraries and Archives.

University History

Items of museum merit presented to or purchased by the University may be acquired for their long-term preservation. Items of lesser importance may be placed in a separate collection, not governed by this policy, from which they may be disposed. Items relating to University teaching and research may be acquired, particularly those dating prior to 1907.

Militaria

Items made or used in the North-East or by North-East people may be acquired, though the collecting priorities of the Gordon Highlanders Museum will be respected. Although active collecting for the Gordon Collection of militaria associated with the Gordon Clan has ceased, additional items may be acquired if closely related to material already in the collection.

Association/ geographic area for future collecting: Principles and Priorities for European and Mediterranean Archaeology

European and Mediterranean archaeological material is often illegally excavated and exported. The Museum therefore places a low priority on the acquisition of archaeological material from these areas. Coherent assemblages historically associated with people from the North-East may be collected, while individual items of importance or that fill gaps in the collection may be considered for acquisition. In other cases, potential donors will be recommended to offer material to appropriate museums in the originating country or to the National Museums of Scotland.

Association/ geographic area for future collecting: Principles and Priorities for Non-Western Ethnography and Archaeology

The Museum is aware of the illegal excavation and export of material in this area and the sensitivity of certain items. Acquisition of material in this area will therefore be approached with particular care and consideration. Active collection of material should be associated with the research and teaching activities of the University and should aim to establish long-term relationships with the people from whom material is collected. Archaeological material will not normally be collected, except where it is in coherent assemblages historically associated with the people from North-East Scotland. Items will not be collected if they have been acquired in a way that contravenes the 1970 UNESCO Convention or the spirit of the 1995 Unidroit Convention.

Europe, Asia and North America

Among the existing collections from these areas is some particularly important Inuit material. Current priorities aim to extend this aspect of the collection and add to it other material from northern Eurasia and North America. Such collecting will normally be conducted in collaboration with anthropologists in the University and the people from whom the material is to be collected. Other material will only be accepted if it is well contextualised, protects material from destruction or loss, relates to areas of particular strength in the existing collections or is of particular value for display or teaching purposes. Potential donors of material from outwith the priority areas will be recommended to approach appropriate museums in the originating country or the National Museums of Scotland as more appropriate repositories.

Africa, Oceania, Central and South America

The existing collections include particularly important groups of material from these areas which offer a valuable resource for teaching and display. However, collecting from these areas has a lower priority and material will only be accepted if it supports the current research and teaching priorities of the University, is well contextualised, protects material from destruction or loss, relates to areas of particular strength in the existing collections or is of particular value

for display purposes. Potential donors will normally be recommended to approach appropriate museums in the originating country or the National Museums of Scotland as more appropriate repositories.