

Review of Museum Property

Since the New Year there has been more work done on the Regimental Collection held at Fort George. Alan Carswell, our Curatorial Adviser, has completed his work, and has advised The Trustees on what ought to be included in the proposed Main Display in the refurbished Highlanders Museum and what needs to be retained in the Reserve Collection. Some items have also been retained in order to meet requests for loan items to display at military dinners.

Review Boards have been working with specialists and the museum staff to sort the remaining items. Some uniforms, silver and pictures (which have been in long term storage) are not needed in the future 'interpretation' and we do not have the resources to look after them. We have decided therefore to disperse these items and use the money raised from their sale to help fund the 'conservation' of the Main and Reserve Collections. Some items, mainly uniforms, have been offered to local museums and in some cases these offers have been taken up. Every reasonable effort has been made to contact donors, their families or successors, to offer back original donated items, before disposal had been agreed. In a great many instances this has sadly proved to be impossible.

The aim of this exercise is to:

- Ensure that the Collection is maintained on a scale that can be properly managed.
- Money raised from the sale of surplus items will be used for the 'conservation' of both the Main and Reserve displays so that they are exhibited / stored in first class condition.
- Allow everyone in the wider regimental family to bid for any item(s) that is being dispersed either in person, on the web, or subsequently at a public sale.

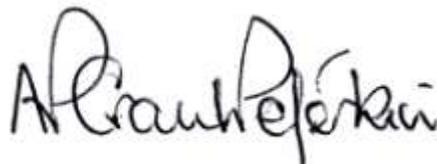
However the majority of interest (and value) lies in the surplus silver. This has now been assessed by experts and it is proposed that it is dispersed as follows:

- The best items will be offered to Bonhams in Edinburgh to go into, amongst others, their summer Scottish Sale. There are 109 items that are adjudged to be of interest and appropriate for such a sale. The exact date on which these items go on sale will be advertised on the web sites and to all those who are interested and who have their email addresses lodged with the Appeal. Less valuable items (silver, pictures and miscellaneous) have been listed and photographed and will be circulated electronically (and by post if necessary) to the wider regimental family very shortly. (Look out for;- The Highlanders Museum Property, Cutlery, Picture and Dingwall Catalogues). Each item has a bid price and people, if they are interested in a lot, will be invited to submit their best bid prior to the Open Day.

- The Open Day is planned for Tuesday 10th April when the museum will be open from 1030 until 1600 for those interested in attending, viewing the items and if they choose, putting in bids. Those who are unable to attend the Open Day will already have had an opportunity to bid for any lot. Those attending the Open Day will not know which items have already been bid for, or for how much. They will then have the opportunity of bidding for an item on the day. Where there are two equal bids the museum staff will conduct a subsequent silent auction. Successful bidders will be encouraged to collect (or have collected) their lots as quickly as possible. Items which have not attracted any interest will then be offered to the Sale Rooms in Dingwall at one of their monthly antique sales. The items going to this sale will also include a number of low value silver plate lots, pictures, and items of some local interest
- Some silver items have been recommended to go to be melted for their silver content. This will include badly damaged items.

The sequence of events is likely to be as follows:

- This note, the list of items for sale; (The Highlanders Museum Catalogues), and a detailed bidding instruction goes to regimental friends with an email address and on the museum and Association web sites. Everyone then has the opportunity to consider the lots and make a bid by 09.00 hrs on the 10th of April, if they so wish.
- The list of items to be offered to Bonhams and the items available for purchase at the Fort or on the Web will be circulated. Exceptionally, those without internet access will be offered a paper copy of both these circulations.
- An Open Day will be held at the Fort on the 10th of April at which individuals can make bids in person. Where there is more than one bidder at the catalogue price a silent auction will ensue.
- Items that have not been sold will be offered to the monthly sale of antiques at the Sale Rooms in Dingwall.
- Individuals will be notified of when items from the Collection are being offered at a Bonhams sale, or any other public sale.
- Dividends from the various sales will go into the Museum Conservation Fund. (To conserve the Main and Reserve collections on display and in storage).



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