

Review Board Update

The sale of items from the Museum Collection that were surplus to requirements went off well on 10 April thanks to the hard work of Mick Low and the museum team of Amanda and Alyson. A late surge of interest meant that an unexpected number of lots were sold. Maurice Gibson umpired those lots where there was more than one bid and he has issued a list of all the successful bidders. Overall, this sale has raised over £19k.

There now remain a number of lesser value items to sell and those lots (about 100) which Keith Grant Peterkin has adjudged as being suitable to sell through Bonhams in a public sale. These latter items are being collected from the Fort next week and they will then be valued by Bonhams before being offered for sale to the regimental family for a very limited period before the auctioneers compile the sale catalogue. The minimum reserve price is expected to be around £500 and any lot bid for at the reserve price will then be withdrawn from the sale. Bonhams hope to raise between £50 and £80k from these sales. The details of the dates of these sales will be notified to everyone on the regimental list and on the relevant websites.

The lesser value items will be disposed of through a variety of outlets. There has been a concern that the earlier plan solely to use the monthly antiques sale at Dingwall Mart might not be the best outlet because we would not be able to control how the items were grouped and there would be no reserve set. The outlets for these lesser items now include:

- Local car boot sales.
- Raffles at Armed Forces Day and at local Highland Games
- The Dingwall monthly sale for a few items, such as shields
- Melting of silver items which are more valuable for their silver content than any intrinsic worth. Such items are trophies and well used Mess cutlery and dishes. With silver currently over £15 per ounce, smelters will offer us 90% of the London fix price. After researching the options, we will use Presmans of Hatton Garden in London.

If you would like more information about the next stage in this dispersal of the surplus items from the Collection, do not hesitate to ask Maurice Gibson, Mick Low or me and we will try and answer your query. The aim remains to try and raise as much money as possible for the long term care of the Main and Reserve collections in the museum whilst, at the same time, giving the regimental family every opportunity to buy items.

Peter Grant Peterkin
3 May 2012