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A marginalised collection? :

The utilisation of numismatic collections in regional museums in the East Midlands, with particular reference to the collections of Derby Museums and Art Gallery

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i. Abstract

This paper aims to establish the current situation and usage of numismatic collections in regional museums in the East Midlands, with particular reference to the collection of Derby Museums and Art Gallery. Case studies were conducted in Derby and at three comparable museums services, namely Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, Leicester City Museums Service and Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery. The research tested the hypothesis that numismatic collections in these organisations have become marginalised. The evidence gathered led to the conclusion that this is indeed the case, albeit with some moderation of the extent of marginalisation across the region. This conclusion is set in the wider context of the perceived marginalisation of numismatic collections across the heritage sector. However, the paper also identifies areas of good practice for the use of numismatic collections. These examples are used to inform recommendations for improving the situation of the collections, both in Derby and across the East Midlands heritage sector. Recommendations are also made for further research to complement and enhance the findings of this paper.

ii. Preface

Working for the last six years in the collections team at Derby Museums and Art Gallery has given me a close insight into the issues affecting those collections. An area of particular personal interest is the numismatic collection: I have always had a fascination for coins and this developed into a professional and academic interest during my time working for the Portable Antiquities Scheme as jobshare Finds Liaison Officer for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The role gave me the opportunity to handle and study coins of all archaeological periods and highlighted their variety and beauty as well as the wealth of information they hold about the people, culture and society of the past. This interest led me to consider the coins held by Derby's museums service. Brief observation led to the rather worrying feeling that the collection was not only being underused but was in danger of being neglected. I therefore decided to use this research as an opportunity to investigate and quantify this feeling and hopefully to suggest some practical ways to help address the situation. The timing is also opportune as Derby is currently undergoing a service review so it is a general time of evaluation and potential change within the service.

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v. Abbreviations Used in the Text and Bibliography

| | |
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| CAN | Collections Australia Network |
| CCNB | Co-ordinating Committee for Numismatics in Britain |
| DCMS | Department for Culture, Media and Sport |
| DMAG | Derby Museums and Art Gallery |
| ICOMON | International Committee for Money and Banking Museums |
| LCMS | Leicester City Museums Service |
| LMAG | Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery |
| MA | Museums Association |
| MLA | Museums, Libraries and Archives Council |
| MMN | Money and Medals Network |
| NASAC | Norfolk Archaeological Services Advisory Committee |
| NCMG | Nottingham City Museums and Galleries |
| REM | Renaissance East Midlands |
| RWM | Renaissance West Midlands |
| SSN | Subject Specialist Network |

1. Introduction

1.1 Aims of Research

The initial aim of this research was to suggest ways in which Derby Museums and Art Gallery could make more effective use of their numismatic collection. This continued to be an overarching aim of the study but it quickly became apparent that in order to make useful recommendations, other ideas needed to be established and commented on.

Before recommendations for the future could be made it was necessary to assess the current situation and usage of the numismatic collection in Derby. To direct this assessment the author developed the hypothesis that:

“The numismatic collection of Derby Museums and Art Gallery is marginalised within the organisation.”

Testing this hypothesis became an important objective of the research.

In testing the hypothesis, it became clear that the situation of the numismatic collection could only be quantified by comparison with other organisations. Contextual background research into the general situation across the heritage sector was enhanced by close comparative study of specific other institutions. For useful comparisons to be made it was important that the organisations chosen for this study were similar in size, administration and purpose to Derby's museums service. Practicalities also suggested that they should be fairly local, for ease of access. It was therefore decided that other urban, local authority-run museums services in the region should be studied and the author developed the second hypothesis that:

“Numismatic collections are marginalised across the urban, local authority museums services in the East Midlands.”

The research aims to test this hypothesis also.

Finally, to aid with making recommendations, it became a further aim of the research to identify examples of best practice for using marginalised collections to fulfil current museums' aims and agendas. These could then be adapted into recommendations for use in Derby Museums and Art Gallery.

In addition to these research aims it is important to note that this paper forms a thesis for evaluation for the award of a Masters degree. The paper therefore aims to showcase and highlight the process of research, as well as its results, and this should be acknowledged as a factor affecting the style and presentation of the research report.

1.2 Scope and Limitations of Research

The scope of this research is to investigate the current situation and usage of numismatic collections in specified museums in the East Midlands region of the UK. The timescale for the study was November 2009 to September 2010 and all data gathered are accurate as of that period, to the best knowledge of the author. Contributors to the research are professional staff working in heritage organisations. The scope does not include conducting any numismatic research on the collections or collecting data from other stakeholder groups, such as the general public. It also does not include close investigation of the situation in other types of museums service, such as national museums or university museums, as these may have different issues to the organisations included in the study.

Examples from outside the scope of the research have been considered for background context but they have not been subject to close and structured examination.

The study is limited by the time and resources available to the author. This has meant that the comparative case study organisations have been chosen partly for their proximity to the main study organisation in Derby. Additionally, the author has not been able to complete a comprehensive programme of visits to other organisations for background information and the schedule of sites visited has been somewhat arbitrary, relying on available resources and taking advantage of existing plans for travel for other purposes.

The research is also limited by the expertise of the author. Issues which could be informed by disciplines outside the author's knowledge, such as the psychology of attitudes to numismatics, have necessarily not been studied in great depth in those areas.

Finally, the author acknowledges a personal bias in the research. As a current member of staff at Derby Museums and Art Gallery the author has personal knowledge and interest in the collections there and is not necessarily objective in considering the issues surrounding those collections. Additionally, the author has existing working relationships with most of the responders to the research and as such could unwittingly temper the conclusions and recommendations of the study to preserve those relationships and avoid causing offence.

1.3 Definition of Terms

The term 'marginalised' is open to a number of interpretations. As this term is key to the hypotheses at the heart of this research, it is important to clearly define the sense in which it is being used. In order to do this it may be useful to consider other terms which are broadly comparable, although not synonymous:

A commonly used term to describe collections of this type is 'orphaned'. The term is used by both Lane (2001) and MacLeod & Guralnick (1997) and is defined by Cato et al (2003) as "A collection that

has lost curatorial support or whose owner has abandoned it”.

Seemingly this term would accurately apply to a collection where there were no staff (or volunteers) within the organisation who held specialist knowledge of that collection in order to advise on the care and use of the objects and where consequently the collection was largely ignored by the existing staff. In other words an ‘orphaned’ collection is one which has no-one to look after it – its care does not fall clearly within the remit of any particular member of the organisation’s staff. A ‘marginalised’ collection may fulfil elements of this criterion in that, for instance, there may not be a subject specialist on staff with expert knowledge of that particular collection. However, a ‘marginalised’ collection is not actually ‘orphaned’, where it is considered to be part of another, broader collection area and thereby under the responsibility of a member of staff who has knowledge of a related discipline. So, for instance, many numismatic collections are not under the care of a specialist numismatist but are considered to be part of the archaeological collection and therefore under the care of the archaeological keeper. In these circumstances the collection may not be considered to be ‘orphaned’ since it does have someone to look after it and that person would have responsibility for finding sources of specialist knowledge which they may not have themselves. Instead it could be considered ‘marginalised’ since it does not have a subject specialist keeper but is considered as part of a broader collection area.

Another term which is sometimes used, for instance by Clercq (2004), is ‘abandoned’. This term has more extreme implications than ‘orphaned’ as it applies to collections which not only have no clear keeper but in addition have no clearly established ownership. This is the sense in which Clercq uses the term and it is clear that an ‘abandoned’ collection could not be considered to be simply ‘marginalised’. In addition to this there is a suggestion of volition in the term ‘abandoned’ in the sense that there may have been a decision taken, either by an individual or, more likely, by an organisation to change responsibility, staffing and structures in such a way as to leave a collection without care or ownership.

The term ‘underused’ is another potential alternative to ‘marginalised’. Glaister provides a useful definition of ‘underused’ collections as “...not displayed, published, used for research or even understood by the institutions that care for them” (Glaister, 2005, p.8). All these elements could indeed be applied to the type of collection considered in this research. The lack of use of a collection, together with the lack of collections information and knowledge held by the organisation, would be reasonable criteria for identifying ‘marginalised’ collections. However, the term ‘underused’ is not synonymous with ‘marginalised’ as used in the hypotheses of this research, since it does not fully explain the concept of marginalisation. Under use is an element of marginalisation but it is not the whole.

A ‘marginalised’ collection is not just ‘underused’, it is also “treat[ed] as insignificant or peripheral” (Oxford Dictionaries Online, 2010). This element of the definition is rather conceptual but seems to reflect the element of marginalisation which is based in people’s perceptions: a ‘marginalised’

collection will be perceived to be peripheral to an organisation's main collections and aims. This could potentially be a perception held by individual staff or embedded, albeit subconsciously, in the philosophy of the organisation itself. Of course this element is subjective and difficult to quantify but it may be evident in people's attitudes, in the literature and policy of the organisation or even in the physical location of the collection in displays or in stores.

It is difficult to refine this into a succinct definition but a suggested working definition of the term 'marginalised collection' could be: A collection which is under the care of staff with no specific subject specialist knowledge and which is underused, poorly understood and perceived to be peripheral to the organisation's main aims and collections.

I would also note the deliberate use of the term 'marginalised' as opposed to 'marginal' as this indicates that the collection in question has been given this status by the people associated with it, rather than it being inherent in the collection itself. I do not believe that any collection is inherently marginal, it just becomes so by virtue of the way it is used and perceived.

2. Methodology

To set this study in context much background research was done, mostly through reading published material, studying online content and discussing with colleagues and personal contacts. This background work covered areas of general museological theory, general numismatic theory and the subject of numismatics in museums, both historically and currently. Visits to museums for comparative observation and to seek examples of good practice were also made (see Appendix 3).

The main body of specific research was done by case study (see Appendix 1 for Case Study Protocol, after Yin, 2008). The cases identified for study were:

Derby Museums and Art Gallery

Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

Leicester City Museums Service

Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery

The case studies were conducted using various methods. Background on the organisations and their numismatic collections was gathered by documentary interrogation which studied policies relating to collections, the services' collections databases, object history files and the organisations' published publicity material. (See Appendix 2 for relevant sections of collections policies.)

The documentary interrogation was supplemented by personal observation through visits to case study sites to observe current permanent and temporary displays.

Finally, the bulk of information about the collections and their use, as well as some attempt to gain insight into staff's personal attitudes to the collections, was gathered through personal interview. In most cases this was done face to face but some discussions were held by telephone or through email correspondence. The staff identified as the main contacts for numismatic collections in each organisation were formally interviewed. However, the interview process did not take the form of a rigid questionnaire but rather used prompt questions, repeated as necessary for each interviewee, to provide consistency while still allowing the conversations to flow naturally (see Appendix 4). Staff with less direct responsibility for the numismatic collections were interviewed in a less formal fashion with only some of the prompt questions being used. This was to avoid duplication of factual information which had already been gained from the main interviewee and to avoid asking questions which were not relevant to that particular person's area of work. Additionally some discussions, especially those performed by email, were even less structured, focussing on a particular question or point of information. The use of email or telephone correspondence was mostly for practical reasons relating to the availability and accessibility of respondents so, for instance, when it became impracticable to find a convenient date for a second visit to Lincoln to speak to staff at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, details were discussed by email. (For interviews and email correspondence see Appendices 5 and 6.)

3. Literature Review

The academic literature on the museology of numismatic collections is sparse: The standard texts on museology do not often consider the particular issues of coin collections while numismatic texts focus on the study of the coins with only rare references to the care, interpretation and display of public collections. However, useful information and context can still be gained from this general literature in both the areas of museology and numismatics.

Museological texts can help to identify issues which are common to many types of collections and can be more specific about areas related to numismatics, such as archaeology. There is also a branch of useful information in the literature regarding 'orphaned' collections. This is a term which is related to the hypotheses of the marginalisation of numismatic collections and theoretical work on orphaned collections can usefully be extrapolated to numismatics and to the notion of marginalisation.

Likewise, useful information can be gained from the numismatic literature. Numismatic works give insights into the wealth of information which can be extracted from coins, which is an indication of the potential for interpretation of numismatic collections. Occasionally, too, the numismatic literature touches on museological issues, such as when Grierson briefly mentions public collections of coins and thereby gives an interesting insight into how a numismatist might view the purpose and potential of museums' numismatic collections (Grierson, 1975, p.185).

Beyond these informative books and articles it is useful to look into the area of comment and appraisal literature, such as conference proceedings, society newsletters and exhibition reviews. The specific subject of the museology of numismatics is much more fully covered by this type of literature. The conference proceedings of the ICOMON conferences have been particularly valuable for this study, although it must be remembered that these papers were written by numismatic professionals with personal interest in the subject they are discussing and with knowledge that their intended audience was primarily made up of sympathetic colleagues. This leads to the papers often being emotive and subjective and these biases must be considered when using the papers for research.

Further useful information can be found in cultural sections of the press, arts magazines and professional journals. These give insights into attitudes within the industry and set the specific plight of numismatic collections in the context of the wider issues surrounding the cultural sector. A quick survey of references to numismatic issues in the non-specialist press has provided an interesting contrast to this, giving a rough indication of the attitudes of the general public, as expressed through the style and extent of reporting in the press.

Additionally, it is important to consider the situation for heritage collections in the industry as a whole. This sets the situation with numismatic collections in context. The papers published by the industry

professional bodies over the last decade prove interesting reading. A train of discussion regarding the purpose of museums and the use of collections can be followed through reports from the DCMS, the MA and other sector bodies. These find an interesting and pertinent addition in the Renaissance East Midlands collections policy for the region “The Heart of all We Do” (REM, 2009) which sets out specific aims for the use of collections in the region where the case study organisations for this research are based.

4. Discussion

4.1 Background

Numismatic collections are one of the most traditional holdings of museums. From the earliest history of collecting, coins and medals have been seen as valuable and appropriate for retention and, as such, numismatics are represented in some form in most museum collections.

Grierson traces the history of the discipline to 16th and 17th century collectors' attempts to describe and classify 'medals', usually of the classical civilisations of Greece and Rome (Grierson, 1975). These 'medals' were circular metal objects with designs and inscriptions, including both coins and what we would now see as commemorative medals. Olmi suggests that these early private collections, or cabinets, were an attempt to impose order onto a complex world and thus reclaim dominion over it (Olmi, 1985) and Pearce indicates that by the 18th century this had developed into an expression of the "new rationalism" of Enlightenment thinking (Pearce, 1990, p.21). As such, collections which could be classified and arranged taxonomically were very popular and, since coins and medals are perfect for this type of arrangement, they were enthusiastically collected.

Over time the study of numismatics was expanded to include all economic items, such as tokens and banknotes, as a complement to the coins which were a traditional mainstay of the discipline. Concurrently, the study of commemorative medals was continued and expanded to include all types of military and civilian medal, including prize medals and those commemorating events. The discipline and collecting of numismatics continued to be viewed as a worthy exercise and this area of study was carried from the private collectors into the emerging world of public collections and museums.

Museums of the 19th century developed the lofty aim of educating the public through serious scientific discussion, "orderly arrangement" and "appropriate classification" of artefacts (Coombes, 1988, p. 281). Petrie, for example, concurred with this ideal, stating that his collection was established with the aim "that it should be as complete and typical as possible, in a small space, so as to serve for teaching purposes" (Petrie, 1893) and early incarnations of the Petrie Museum were arranged in strict typological order. It should be noted, of course, that the Petrie collection was specifically intended for use by students of Egyptology but MacDonald points out that "At this date taxonomic displays were common even in more publicly oriented museums" (MacDonald, 1996, p. 71). In analysing these early displays, Coombes suggests that the scientific classification and ordering of objects was a way to reinforce the existing social order by implying to the public that it was equally as natural and inherent as the order of objects and specimens (Coombes, 1988). This was especially important in a time of global colonialism and Pearce points to the theories of both Pitt Rivers and Sir John Evans in establishing ordered, taxonomic display as the accepted style for interpretation of museum collections (Pearce, 1990, pp.28-29).

In this environment, numismatic collections thrived, since they lend themselves perfectly to close classification and ordering. Typological displays of coins were common in many museums and they continued to be collected and studied. There was a prevailing view that these collections were primarily there for the benefit of serious research and education and, as such, the displays should try to facilitate this. As late as the 1970s, Grierson commented that public collections are “the reference libraries of the numismatic world” (Grierson, 1975, p. 185) and emphasised the importance of access and facilities for numismatic researchers.

However, in the latter part of the 20th century the idea and purpose of museums as public institutions began to be reviewed. In the 1980s a great shift in museological thought began to occur and it has been identified that in the UK this was partly prompted by a change in government and the subsequent re-evaluation of public services: Stoddart and Sugden note that the Conservative government under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher started to question the usefulness of the traditional role of museums as bastions for the care, preservation and research of objects (Stoddart & Sugden, 2008, p. 2), while Cummings and Lewardowska state that the Thatcherite government broke the 'sacrosanct' link between museums and public finance (Cummings & Lewardowska, 2000). For museums services who continued to receive public money, this meant a greater need for justification of that money, while other services found that they now needed to attract private finance. This naturally led to a rethinking of the aims of museums across the whole sector with a greater emphasis on market forces and the need to engage and entertain the public as well as educate them. The potential audience became an increasingly important factor in the planning of museums' work. This new way of thinking eventually led to recognition of the importance for museums to become socially relevant and inclusive and to increase their accessibility for all members of society. The concept was embraced by the New Labour administration in the late 1990s, albeit for ostensibly altruistic, rather than business, reasons relating to a need to move away from the 'elitism' of traditional museums (cf. Stoddart and Sugden, 2008, p.2). It was made concrete in 2000 in a report from the DCMS which suggested that museums should be “Centres for Social Change” (DCMS, 2000) and should form an important part of government programmes for increasing social inclusion.

The importance of this area of museums' work is now almost universally recognised and the discussions of this period are acknowledged as an important step forward in the development of museums in modern society. However, Stoddart and Sugden point out that in the late 1980s and early 1990s the emphasis on this area of work was so high that traditional priorities, such as research, were neglected and traditional methods of interpreting objects became entirely unfashionable (Stoddart & Sugden, 2008). The Museums Association itself recognised this in 2005 when its report “Collections for the Future” indicated that a balance needed to be recovered between the emphasis on access and social inclusion and the more traditional roles of collecting, caring for, researching and interpreting collections (MA, 2005).

A further consequence of the changing aims of museums seems to have occurred in the roles of museum staff. Stoddart and Sugden note that jobs for specialist curators have become less common and there are now more roles for 'generalists' (Stoddart and Sugden, 2008). This is reflected in the MA's "Collections for the Future" which states that "Museums need to renew their sources of expertise, both internally and externally" (MA, 2005, p. 6) but goes on to suggest that it is not desirable or practical to have all expertise 'in-house', thus implying that some specialist knowledge may now need to be sought outside the organisations.

For numismatics, this change in emphasis within museums services has had a very noticeable effect. As a specialist academic subject, which most obviously lends itself to traditional methods of classification, display and interpretation, the shift away from traditional priorities has led to a shift away from numismatics as a high status museum subject.

A feeling seems to have developed within the heritage profession that numismatic collections are not relevant to current museum aims. There is a strong assumption that numismatics, as traditionally represented, is not a populist subject. In his paper looking at numismatic work at the British Museum, Orna-Ornstein states that "The truth of the matter is that many people find displays of coins inaccessible and boring" (Orna-Ornstein, 2001 [1]) and this feeling is borne out by interviews with staff in local museums (see below, for instance Hilland, 2010 and French, 2010). Even Stoddart and Sugden acknowledge the difficulties of 'selling' numismatic collections to the visiting public, stating that "Numismatics [...] will never be able to compete for a museum audience, adult or child, with Egyptian Mummies or dinosaurs, or even archaeology [...] It is not 'sexy', and it is notoriously difficult to display" (Stoddart and Sugden, 2008, p. 5). This difficulty is indeed notorious: The small size and intricacy of many numismatic items, together with the perceived need for background numismatic knowledge or complex explanation of the designs and inscriptions makes the collections seem daunting, academic and elitist – the antithesis of the open, accessible collections of modern museums' aims.

This perception may be reflected the status of many numismatic departments and collections: As the discipline has become unfashionable, due to being seen to be less relevant to current organisational aims, its status has dropped and it seems to have become a lower priority collection area. This can be seen in a reduction in both numismatic exhibitions and specialist numismatic jobs. Across the country traditional, specialist coin galleries or displays have been removed. For example, the display in Leicester was removed in 2005 and when the new archaeological museum The Collection opened in Lincoln in that year, the coin display from the previous museum was not reinstated. In some cases, such as Lincoln, coins from the displays have been integrated into new displays but in many cases, including Leicester, they have simply been removed into storage. At almost all sites the area of display dedicated to numismatic material has been reduced and the visibility of the collection has thereby gone down. It also seems that this trend is not confined to UK museums, as Doty shows by pointing

out that the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC also closed its coin gallery in 2003 (Doty, 2004).

Similarly many organisations have lost specialist numismatic staff in recent years. Blackburn noted in 2008 that over the preceding decade numismatic posts had been closed at the Ulster Museum as well as museums in Leeds, York and Liverpool. He pointed out that specialist numismatic roles were now almost exclusively to be found in national museums, with Birmingham being the only exception he could bring to mind (Blackburn, 2008). This loss of staff also seems to be an international trend: Doty notes that the numismatic department at the Smithsonian numbered 11 staff in 1986 but by 2004 there were just three (Doty, 2004). Talvio states that at the National Museum of Finland a member of the numismatic staff who retired in 2000 was not replaced (Talvio, 2001) and more recently the Geldmuseum in Utrecht had to make several members of staff redundant due to financial constraints (Pol, 2008).

This rather bleak picture is not, of course, the whole story. The perception that numismatic displays are not popular with the visiting public is countered by a feeling that numismatics have a great deal of potential and that the public can, in fact, be greatly enthused by numismatic subjects. Talvio notes that while most of a coin exhibition at the National Museum of Finland in 1993 was poorly attended, the case which contained coins from visitors' own lifetime was very popular. He states that "Quite clearly most people are genuinely interested in coins and banknotes" (Talvio, 2001, p. 51) but goes on to suggest that they need to be able to relate the displays to their own experience.

A brief survey of articles published in the press can serve as a further window into public interest (based on the idea that newspapers would not sell if they were reporting things of no interest so articles must be considered by the newspaper editors to have at least potential interest for their readers). The term 'numismatics' is only rarely used in the press: A search of all English language publications from the year ending 3/3/2010 revealed only 65 instances of this word used in conjunction with the word 'museum'. The majority of these were obituaries or uses of the word in the proper name of organisations (source: Nexis online database of press articles, accessed 3/3/2010). However, a search on the combination of the word 'coin' with the word 'museum' produced a vastly greater number of articles. Searching in just the UK press, over 150 results turned up for the 6 month period to 3/3/2010. Approximately a quarter of these entries were reports of recent discoveries of important coins or hoards, with their subsequent deposition and valuations, suggesting that there is a concrete public interest in coin finds. A broader search revealed some interesting discursive articles (such as Fenton, 2004) and a particular example of a story about a coin which aroused huge public interest: In 2007, while auditing some collections for the Museum of Antiquities in Newcastle, a Roman coin depicting Antony and Cleopatra was found. The Assistant Director of Archaeological Museums for Newcastle University decided to do a press release about the coin to coincide with Valentine's Day and after being initially reported in the local press, stories about the coin were picked up by most national and a number of international newspapers and magazines (Pickersgill, 2010). Coverage was

also notable for being spread across the intellectual and political spectrum of newspapers, with *The Guardian* running the story under “Antony and Cleopatra: coin find changes the faces of history: Profiles of the Egyptian queen and her lover on a silver denari [sic] belie fabled beauty” (Wainwright, 2007) while the more low-brow newspaper *The Sun* used the headline “Cleo the Minger” (Perrie, 2007)! The fact that the story appeared in publications as far afield as Canada (e.g. Mills, 2007) and Australia (e.g. *The Australian*, 2007) indicates that there was great interest in this story about one particular aspect of numismatic study, namely images on coins viewed as portraiture.

This acknowledged public interest has been one of the contributing factors to some larger and national museums services creating new and revitalised coin displays to replace their older, traditional coin galleries (e.g. Howgego, 2010). In 1997 the British Museum opened its new 'Money' gallery and in 2009 the refurbished Ashmolean Museum in Oxford opened, containing not just a new numismatic gallery but also boasting numismatic material integrated into many of the other refurbished displays. These new galleries have both attempted to interpret the collections in a more thematic way, eschewing the traditional taxonomic displays, and have thereby tried to make the collections more accessible and relevant to modern museum visitors. A similar approach can be seen in new displays across the world, with innovative exhibitions described in Jerusalem (Gitler, 1996), Rome (DeCaro and Angeli, 1999) and Vienna (Dembski, 1999) to name a few. Additionally, some organisations which had previously greatly reduced their numismatic display and staff may now be starting to move towards greater use and visibility of the collection again. Doty notes that despite the setback of the closure of the coin gallery at the Smithsonian Institution in 2003, the numismatic team there have recently erected a small new permanent display and are working on a prominent programme of touring exhibitions (Doty, 2010).

However, much of this more optimistic work is clearly centred on national museums and those large services with a broad remit. It must be noted that the aims and objectives of these services are wide-ranging and are often not limited to telling stories with tight boundaries of geography, period or theme. In relative terms they also have large budgets and staff bases. Therefore these larger services may have the scope to explore areas of heritage which could be seen as more obscure and less populist than others and which may not be appropriate to smaller services. In the 1970s Grierson noted that there were differences in purpose, and therefore in approach, between national and regional museums (Grierson, 1975, p. 185) and experience indicates that this is still the case.

All of this begs the question of where regional, local authority-funded museums services fit into this picture. The East Midlands region of the Renaissance in the Regions programme has published aims, for completion by 2019, which include understanding the significance of the collections held in the region, creating collections that are fit for purpose, promoting engagement with collections and researching and re-interpreting collections (REM, 2009). The current status of numismatic collections in the region's museums and the potential for the use of those collections to contribute to these

regional aims, as well as more local, service aims, can be assessed by studying the cases of some of the services within the region.

4.2 Case Studies

An initial analysis of the situation and usage of the numismatic collection at Derby Museums and Art Gallery produced some interesting results and will allow a test of the hypothesis that this collection is currently marginalised within this institution. A similar analysis of the collections of Nottingham City Museums and Galleries, Leicester City Museums Service and Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery can allow for comparisons and provide evidence to test the hypothesis that numismatic collections are currently marginalised across urban local authority museums services in the East Midlands.

4.2.1 Derby Museums and Art Gallery (DMAG)

DMAG is a service which includes three museum sites within the city of Derby, as well as a number of off-site store buildings. The collections of the service cover most areas of heritage study, including archaeology, fine and decorative art, military history, social history, industry, technology, costume, transport and natural sciences. The mission statement for the service is “To inspire creativity, innovation and application through the museums and heritage of Derby” (DMAG, 2010).

The numismatic collection of DMAG is wide ranging. The collections database reveals that it has been collected in a rather piecemeal fashion over the last 140 years: acquisition has been through donations of both individual items and collections, purchase of various pieces and deposition of complete archives from archaeological excavations. The collection contains important coinage of local significance, including a number of late Saxon and early Norman pennies from the mint at Derby as well as hoards excavated in the local area, including both hoards of complete coins and a potentially unique hoard of clippings which had been illegally cut from the edge of restoration era coins with the intention of being melted down in order to reuse the silver. There are also local trade tokens, banknotes from early Derbyshire banks, some pub checks and tokens from local businesses and examples of locally-issued commemorative medals. Additionally, there is a quantity of military medals, mostly awarded to members of local regiments. Beyond the items of local significance, the collection also includes a large number of general, national issues of British coins, of various dates, as well as numerous foreign coins and coin weights and some commemorative medals and banknotes with no specific local connection.

The size of the collection cannot currently be accurately confirmed but it is estimated to be around 5000 objects. This estimate is based on the audit of a sample drawer of coins made by the author in 2008, which found that only about one third of the objects had records on the computer database. At

the time of writing, the database has a total of around 1800 records for numismatic items so 5000 is given as an extrapolated suggestion of the size of the full collection.

The classification of the numismatic items within the collections of the service is somewhat confused. The word 'numismatics' is used as a classification term in both policy documents and collection documentation but it is not universally applied to all numismatic items. Some are classified as 'social history', some as 'archaeology' and some as 'military'. Of these, 'archaeology' is the only term for which there is a written definition: the Collections Development Strategy states that "Archaeology is taken to mean anything man-made that has been removed from the ground." (DMAG, 2008, p. 11). In policy terms the collection is briefly mentioned in the 'Archaeology & World Cultures' section of the Collections Development Strategy (DMAG, 2008, p. 12) and is dealt with as a sub heading within the main collection areas of 'Military Collections' (DMAG, 2008, p. 15) and 'Social History' (DMAG, 2008, p. 18). In all cases additional collecting is planned to be done on a 'passive' basis and will be limited to items of local relevance. The 'Social History' section of the document indicates however that the important local collections (including the archaeological ones) "should continue to grow" (DMAG, 2008, p. 18).

As with the classification, the responsibility for the collection is split. There is no specified Keeper of Numismatics so coins from excavation fall under the remit of the Keeper of Archaeology, military items are the responsibility of the Keeper of Military History and trade tokens, civilian medals, banknotes and coins of general issue fall into the care of the Keepers of Social History. Enquiries relating to coins are split by date, with coins minted before 1750 being examined by the Keeper of Archaeology and coins minted after that date being dealt with by the Assistant Keeper of Social History. Interviews with staff reveal some confusion about these areas of responsibility, for instance around coins minted before c.1750 but purchased or donated, as opposed to being collected from archaeological excavation.

No staff within the service have specific numismatic expertise, although there is some knowledge: The Keeper of Archaeology is also part-time Finds Liaison Officer for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and, together with her jobshare partner for that role, has received training in identification and recording of archaeological numismatics. She has also acquired working knowledge of numismatics through her role, as has the Senior Keeper of Military History/Assistant Keeper of Social History.

Very little of the numismatic collection is comprehensively documented in the service's collection database. Around 500 items have full documentation records and a further 1300 items have computer records with skeleton information. The Access and Learning Officer identified this lack of thorough documentation as a primary cause for an acknowledged lack of comprehension about the collection (Hilland, 2010). Even the staff with direct responsibility for parts of the collection felt that they did not fully understand what the collection contained or comprehend its full value and importance. Staff with only limited contact with the collection (such as learning and exhibitions staff) felt that their

understanding was very poor.

Most of the numismatic collection is unpublished, although archaeological excavation reports include details of numismatic items which came from the excavation. Additionally the pennies of the mediaeval Derby mint are included in the relevant volume of the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* (Gunstone, 1971). The DMAG website includes details of a Victoria Cross (DMAG, ToD VC) and a medal group of four military medals, including another Victoria Cross (DMAG, ToD medal group) so these could be said to have been published electronically. However, no other numismatic items are detailed on the website and the collection is not otherwise mentioned. Similarly, the printed publicity material for the service does not mention the numismatic collection in any context.

Some items from the numismatic collection are included in the permanent displays within the service's museums. However, numerically this amounts to less than 2% of the collection. A few coins are included within period-themed cases in the archaeology gallery at Derby Museum and Art Gallery. These are presented within contextual displays illustrating the range of everyday objects from the given period. There are no representations of coin hoards and many particularly important coins are currently in storage, awaiting the purchase of a secure case to display high value items. A number of commemorative medals are displayed in the Bonnie Prince Charlie gallery, to give some idea of contemporary representations of the Jacobite uprising and its suppression. The military gallery has a number of medals on display, with contextual interpretation about the campaigns to which they relate and the individual, personal stories of the soldiers to whom they were awarded. Additionally there are a few lead tokens and seals, together with some lead alloy medals, shown within the leadworking section of the Derbyshire Industries gallery at the Silk Mill. Some British Red Cross medals and badges are also included in a 'health and wellbeing' display at the Silk Mill.

A few further numismatic items have been included in temporary displays in recent years. The archaeology gallery has included short-term displays of both the coins of the Derby mint and a selection of locally-found Roman coins. Both these displays were interpreted in a primarily numismatic way with the focus on the coins as objects and with little further context. Additionally a gold noble of Henry V, found during the excavations at Codnor Castle by the television programme "Time Team" is currently on temporary display in the gallery which primarily houses paintings by the 18th century artist Joseph Wright. Its placing is mostly for security reasons as that particular gallery is under constant invigilation. The noble is displayed on a mirror block to allow viewing of the reverse as well as the obverse and is accompanied by large pictures of both faces of the coin with explanations of the design and inscription, as well as some background information about Codnor Castle at the time of Henry V. Finally, a quantity of prize medals are included in a current temporary display about local athlete Arthur Keily.

The collection is used for research on an infrequent basis, with three academic researchers requesting

use of numismatic items in the last five years. There are also occasional public enquiries, mostly in the form of requests for identification of personal items, for which the service's collection forms a useful comparison, or for information about relatives who received military awards.

Further use of the collection comes through learning events and services, although again the collection is only rarely used in this context. A few items have been used for object handling sessions with the public in recent years, mostly at events organised by the Keeper of Archaeology. Formal learning sessions with schools use no numismatic material apart from a small number of replica Roman coins.

Staff perception of the collection is quite poor. Curatorial staff who have responsibility for numismatic items feel that use of the collection is falling far short of its full potential. Learning and exhibitions staff do not often consider numismatic items for their work, partly due to limited access to information about the collection. The Access and Learning Officer confirmed that she does not consider numismatics to be a priority area for learning activities and therefore cannot put resources into researching the collection any further than the information which is readily available. Therefore if no information is readily available, the objects will not be considered (Hilland, 2010). There is also a feeling amongst all interviewed staff that while numismatics have the potential for use in a modern museums service, they are quite hard to work with, being difficult to display in an appealing way and awkward to use for events due to the small size and security risk of many of the items in the collection. The Keeper of Military History commented that while locally significant items have great potential to tell stories of Derby's history and engage the local audience, many of the more general items in the collection do not easily fulfil the service's objectives (Galer, 2010). There is also a feeling among some staff that coins are rather boring (e.g. Hilland, 2010) as well as a deeply held perception that while the public could easily be engaged, inspired and excited by aspects of numismatics, they generally find numismatic displays academic and uninteresting.

The above information allows an assessment of the status of the numismatic collection at DMAG. It is clear that the classification of the collection is somewhat confused and that while it is not treated as a discrete collection area, it is also not integrated into other collection areas with full consistency and clarity. The collection is in the care of a number of different members of staff, none of whom have formal numismatic expertise. The use of the collection is infrequent and sporadic with only a very small percentage of numismatic items ever being displayed or used in events and learning activities. Likewise the research use and publication of the collection is minimal. Staff within the museums service do not have a good understanding of the collection, partly due to its poor level of documentation. This lack of comprehension exacerbates the low use of the collection for display and learning and is reflected in the fairly traditional approach to interpretation of those items which are accessible. While many staff recognise that the collection has the potential for a much greater contribution to the museum's aims and objectives, they are frustrated by a lack of time and resources

to investigate this (cf. Galer, 2010 and Atherton, 2010). The priorities for allocation of available resources lie elsewhere within the museums service's collections and the issues for numismatics, as for many other areas of the collection, cannot currently be adequately addressed. This in itself is an indication that numismatics are not perceived as a priority collection and are peripheral to what are seen as the service's main collections. The relative invisibility of the collection in the service's published literature is another indication of this and most staff seem to perceive that the collection cannot easily fulfil the museums' main aims and objectives.

It would indeed seem that the numismatic collection of DMAG is under the care of staff with no subject specialist knowledge, is underused, poorly understood and perceived to be peripheral to the organisation's main aims and collections. It can therefore be said to be a marginalised collection.

4.2.2 Nottingham City Museums and Galleries (NCMG)

NCMG is a service which runs four museum sites within the city of Nottingham as well as a historic house and grounds which are situated about 12 miles outside the city. The service also includes the Access Artefacts Team, who run an educational loans box scheme and are based in one of the city's libraries. The service has a similarly varied collection to that held by DMAG and it was acquired in similar ways – through piecemeal donation, purchase and the deposition of archaeological archives. In addition, the service included a field archaeology unit for some decades, which increased the collection of excavated material held by the service. The mission statement for the service is “To inspire and challenge the way people experience, explore and develop their ideas about the diversity of the world through the creative use of museum sites, collections and cultural resources” (quoted in King, 2010).

The numismatic collection held by NCMG contains around 10,000 objects. There are locally significant items in the form of coins of the mediaeval Nottingham mint as well as important hoards of both roman and mediaeval date which were found locally. There is also a large collection of Nottinghamshire trade tokens, some early banknotes from local banks and many local commemorative medals. In addition the collection contains a large number of national issue coins as well as a large and important collection of foreign coins. There are some military medals in the collection but most of the military numismatics cared for by the service are in fact part of the Sherwood Foresters' regimental collection.

The collection is almost universally classified as 'numismatics' in both policy documents and in the documentation of the collection objects. Numismatic items from archaeological excavation are extracted from the archaeological collection and classified as numismatics. The Collections Development Strategy treats numismatics as a separate area but notes that it is “closely entwined” with other disciplines, namely archaeology, social history, economic history and military history (NCMG, 2005, p.25). The statement on current collecting allows for the collection of local items and

items of wider significance where they fill gaps in the existing collection. It notes that there will be active collection in these areas, especially world coinage which fills gaps, Nottingham mint pennies, gold coinage and under-represented tokens, local medals and pub checks etc.

The collection falls under the remit of the Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences. She does not have a numismatic specialism but has acquired working knowledge through her career. She also works very closely with the Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire. The president of the society has been a regular volunteer for many years, working on identification and documentation of the collection. He also answers enquiries, helps run occasional events and provides numismatic expertise to staff and users of the museums service. As a result of his work with the collection, the vast majority of items are firmly identified and comprehensively documented on the museums' collection database.

The expertise of the president of the numismatic society, together with the comprehensive documentation of the collection, mean that the Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences has a very good understanding of the content, importance and value of the numismatic collection. However, the understanding of other staff members is somewhat less complete. It is felt that many staff understand the importance of the collection in financial terms as it was recently valued for insurance purposes but their understanding of its importance in historical terms, and its potential value for the service's aims, may be less complete (Inscker, 2010). The Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences stated that the information about the collection is readily available through the documentation records but also noted that staff will usually come to her for this information and she is often the one who suggests use of the collection in colleagues' displays and projects (Inscker, 2010).

All the coin hoards in the collection, with the exception of one, have been published (cf. Oswald, 1958; Mattingly, 1960; Archibald, 1967 and 1969; Danson, 1968; Bland and Carson, 1974) Additionally, the Nottinghamshire trade tokens have been published in a catalogue (Preston-Morley and Pegg, 1983) and the coins of the Nottingham mint are included in the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* (Gunstone, 1971). As yet, however, none of the collection has been published digitally and no numismatic items appear on NCMG's website. The collection is not mentioned in the current publicity material for the service.

The main permanent display to include numismatic items is the Story of Nottingham gallery at Nottingham Castle. This includes some coins from the medieval Nottingham mint, displayed with interpretation about both the mint and the coins themselves. A few 'Newark siege pieces' are displayed with other items in the context of the story of the civil war and a number of trade tokens are on display, with monochrome reproductions of their reverse sides next to them. An illustration of a penny of king Offa is used in the introductory text about the kingdom of Mercia. The Sherwood Foresters' regimental

gallery includes a large number of polished military medals, displayed in a traditional, fairly intensive, grid arrangement with some details about their receivers. A small number of numismatic items have also been included in temporary displays in recent years, mostly as part of wider, socially-themed exhibitions rather than in specific numismatic displays (Inscker, 2010). However, overall this only represents a tiny proportion of the collection.

Research on the collection has been fairly regular over the last few years, with about five to ten academic research enquiries each year. Additionally, the president of the numismatic society frequently uses the collection for his own research projects. There is also a steady stream of public enquiries, mostly for identification of objects.

Numismatic objects are only rarely used for learning events with replica Roman coins being the only representation of the collection used in formal learning sessions. However, the Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences includes some numismatics in events such as behind-the-scenes store tours and handling sessions and a number of coins are put on display for an annual event run in conjunction with the Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire during the Festival of British Archaeology.

Staff perception of the collection is rather ambiguous. The Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences feels that colleagues would benefit from considering the collection more when planning displays and events and she tries to bring the collection to their attention. However, the Schools Programmes Officer expressed concern about the security risk of using coins in learning events (Coyne, 2010) and all staff interviewed acknowledged the difficulties of displaying coins effectively and noted that it takes a lot of effort and work to use them well in displays and events.

Overall, the status of the numismatic collection in NCMG is somewhat difficult to pin down. The collection is clearly defined and classified and given into the care of a specified member of staff. While that staff member does not have particular subject specialist knowledge, that knowledge is supplied externally by the close relationship with the president of the local numismatic society who works with the collection in a voluntary capacity. Research on the collection is quite common and a fair amount has been published. Other use of the collection, however, is quite low, with only a tiny proportion being included in displays. Additionally, the displays which do include numismatic material are quite traditionally interpreted and confined to areas where numismatic input might be said to be expected – the themes of archaeology and military history. However, within those themes the numismatic material is integrated and well contextualised. The use of the collection in public events is very low. The collection is well understood by those with responsibility for it, although the comprehension of other members of staff is less clear. It is acknowledged that the collection is important, partly because of its financial value, but its value for fulfilling the service's aims seems less universally understood. In general there seems to be a perception that the collection is important as an academic resource and

priority has been given to comprehensively documenting the collection and promoting it for research use. However, the collection seems to have been less prioritised for public access. It does not have a high profile in the publicity material of the organisation or in its public display or events programme, suggesting that it is not considered a main collection for fulfilling the service's access or engagement aims.

It could therefore be said that although the collection is not in the care of staff with subject specialist knowledge, that knowledge is acquired and applied to the collection. The collection is well understood but only by a few specific staff and it is underused for display, learning and public access, although it is well used for research purposes. In general the perception seems to be that while the collection is important, it is still peripheral to the organisation's main aims. A sensible, if rather unsatisfactory, conclusion therefore seems to be that the numismatic collection of NCMG is somewhat marginalised.

4.2.3 Leicester City Museums Service (LCMS)

LCMS is a service which runs seven heritage sites within the city of Leicester, as well as a collections store and resource centre. In 1997 Leicester City Council became a unitary authority and the museums and galleries within the city were disaggregated from the County Council heritage service. The collections of the service were also split and at that time it was decided that most of the numismatic collection would be transferred to the City Council service, with only locally-found hoards and tokens of specific local relevance left with their local Leicestershire museum. The numismatic collection now forms part of an overall collection which is as eclectic and wide-ranging as the collections described above. The aims of the service are quite varied but the Collections Strategy, Policies and Working Practices document states that an overarching aim is "To be relevant to and reflective of communities of modern Leicester" (LCMS, 2005, p. 6)

The service's collection database indicates that the numismatic collection contains around 35,000 items which have been collected over the last 150 years in the usual variety of ways, and this is confirmed by staff. The collection contains local material, including coins of the medieval Leicester mint, local trade tokens and business checks as well as locally excavated material. There is also a fairly complete sequence of national British issues together with military and commemorative medals. An important and sizeable part of the service's holdings was a personal collection of world coins, mostly of the British imperial territories, donated in the mid-1950s by its collector.

Numismatic objects are given various classifications. Some items are classified as 'numismatics' and given the code 'N' on the collection database. However, items from archaeological excavation are classified as 'archaeology' and given the code 'A'. Most of the trade tokens and medals, together with a few coins, are classified as 'social history' and coded 'H'. Military items are not separately classified but are instead included within the social history classification, with the sub-heading of 'regimental'.

Within the collections strategy, the numismatic collection is not treated separately but is instead mentioned within both the categories of 'Archaeology' and 'Social History'. The archaeological numismatics are considered to be of local significance (LCMS, 2005, p. 27) while within the social history collection numismatics is noted as being of regional significance (LCMS, 2005, p. 29). It is also noted that acquisition of new numismatic material will not be limited to the local collecting area since the existing collection is of wider than local relevance.

Responsibility for the numismatic collections is split between the Principal Curator of Collections and the Curator for Leicester History. The former has responsibility for the archaeology collection, while items classified as either 'numismatics' or 'social history' fall within the remit of the latter. Neither of these staff have specific numismatic expertise, although they have both acquired some knowledge on the job. The main specialist knowledge for the collection resides with a previous keeper who worked for the service between 1997 and 2005 and is now Head of Museums for Leicestershire County Council. She is a trained numismatist and worked closely with this particular collection in her time with Leicester City Council. The County Council also employs the Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire and Rutland, who has had training in identification and recording of archaeological coins and who is happy to offer her help to museums across both the city and county.

The documentation of the collection classified as 'numismatics' is quite complete, with most items having a record on the collection database, although many only include basic information. This documentation process was greatly enhanced in the late 1990s when a role was funded with the specific remit to document the numismatic collection. The archaeological numismatics, however, are mostly not recorded on the database. Details of the coins are included in the paper site reports of the excavations where they were found but have only been transferred to the collection database in rare cases. This means that staff understanding of the collection is rather patchy. The curators with direct responsibility have a working knowledge of what the collection contains but other staff have no clear idea of the content of the collection or its importance, largely due to the lack of readily available information. The Principal Curator of Collections acknowledges, for instance, that learning staff would probably have to ask her personally for information about archaeological numismatic material (Hadland, 2010).

A small proportion of the collection is published, including some of the 17th century tokens (Young, 1913) and the 19th and 20th century tickets and checks (Gunstone, 1984). Additionally some individual items have been included in catalogues of wider research, such as the *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles* (Gunstone, 1971). There is no online publication of the numismatic collection, although some interesting numismatic material has been reported in the 'Recent Archaeological Discoveries' section of the service's website (LCMS, RAD) The museums' numismatic collection is not otherwise mentioned in their online presence or in their current promotional literature.

Virtually none of the numismatic collection is included in the permanent displays at the service's museum sites. There are only around a dozen coins included in archaeological period displays at Jewry Wall Museum and these have minimal interpretation. One additional coin is included in an interactive display element which offers visitors a 'taster' of the process of archaeology. There are a similar number of souvenir coins and some military medals on display at Newark Houses. These are more accessibly displayed with some contextual information and personal stories included in the interpretation. Beyond these few items on permanent display the numismatic collection is only rarely exhibited with no items having been included in temporary displays in the last five years. However, items are occasionally loaned to other organisations, such as the commemorative medals from the abolition of slavery which were loaned to the county museums service in 2007.

The museums service receives a number of public enquiries for identification of material, for which the numismatic collection is a useful comparative resource, but there are very few enquiries relating to the collection itself. Academic research requests are also infrequent, numbering only one or two each year in recent years.

Coins are used occasionally in formal learning sessions, with some 1940s pennies forming part of a shopping exercise looking at World War II rationing. Replica Roman coins are also included in activity backpacks which can be used by both formal and informal learning groups. However, numismatic material is not currently used in community learning events or activities.

Staff perception of the collection seems poor. The Principal Curator of Collections acknowledges that the collection is being greatly underused but she feels that it would take a great deal of time and resources to address the problems of the collection and these will not be available in the foreseeable future. The numismatic collection is not a priority for allocation of resources as there are so many other areas which she feels are in more urgent need of attention (Hadland, 2010). The Curator of Leicester History feels that numismatic collections do not easily fulfil the current aims of museums, noting that the previous Coins Gallery, which was removed at refurbishment in 2005, received some specialist interest but was not popular with the general public. He feels that coin displays do not lend themselves to current methods of interpretation which emphasise narrative over classification (French, 2010). There is a strong feeling that the collection is a high security risk, partly stemming from incidents in the past where material was lost from displays. Both curatorial and learning staff express reservations about using this collection for fear of losing the objects. This has contributed to the fact that the items which are on display, especially those in the archaeological displays, are not given prominence and are mostly unpolished and in cases with no lighting and little interpretation. Staff who do not work directly with this collection rarely consider numismatic items for displays or events, partly due to a lack of easily accessible, comprehensive information about the collection. It could be inferred that this is also partly because the collection is hidden away and not prominent in their thoughts.

This assessment of the numismatic collection of LCMS indicates clearly that it is underused. The collection is virtually never included in displays or learning events and the level of research use is low. The collection is the responsibility of staff with no subject specialist knowledge, although expertise is accessible through liaison with Leicestershire County Council staff. Curatorial staff have an understanding of the content and value of the collection but other staff seem unaware of its potential for fulfilling the service's aims. The collection seems to be only rarely considered by staff planning events or displays and is very much out of sight as well as out of mind. It is not considered a priority collection for allocation of resources and seems to be perceived as peripheral to the organisation's main collections and areas of work. In fact, when interviewed, the Curator of Leicester History repeatedly referred to numismatics as a "reserve collection" (French, 2010). Numismatics in LCMS can certainly be considered a marginalised collection.

4.2.4 Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery (LMAG)

Local authority-funded museums and galleries in Lincolnshire are all independent organisations but fall under the remit of the Communities, Culture and Adult Education Department of the council. There is collaboration and interaction between the various heritage sites but in many ways they operate independently. The collections are likewise mostly housed and cared for by each separate organisation, being split along lines of local significance and relevance to the specific theme of the site. However, within the city of Lincoln there are two museums and one art gallery which have a broader remit covering, respectively, the social history of Lincolnshire, the archaeology of the county and an important collection of fine, decorative and contemporary visual art. The coin collection is almost exclusively housed at The Collection in Lincoln, with most military and commemorative medals located within the city at The Museum of Lincolnshire Life. A small number of trade tokens and locally issued commemorative medals are housed further afield in local museums around the county. The mission statement for The Collection, as confirmed by the Collections Officer, is "...to inspire enjoyment and understanding of Lincolnshire's archaeological heritage" (quoted in Lee, 2010 [2]). The key outcomes of the service, as stated in the Collections Policy include "rais[ing] awareness of collections...", "enhanc[ing] people's sense of identity and place" and "foster[ing] a greater understanding of potential use of the collections by the public" (LMAG, 2008).

The numismatic collection is recorded as including around 25,000 items, per the collections database, and this figure is agreed by the Collections Officer. The collection includes a large number of locally significant coins comprising items excavated locally as well as a good collection of coins from the important mediaeval mints at Lincoln and Stamford. There are also local trade tokens and banknotes, as well as commemorative medals of both local and national issue and military medals, mostly awarded to members of the local regiment. As with other numismatic collections there are additional coins of general national and foreign issue. The collections database indicates that collection of these items has been largely through deposition of archaeological archives, as well as by donation and,

occasionally, by purchase of particularly significant items.

The classification of the collection is split: most coins are classified as 'numismatics', although those which have been collected as part of excavation archives are classified as 'archaeology'. Military items are classified as 'regimental' and commemorative medals and tokens are given the 'social history' classification. In policy terms, the numismatic collection is dealt with separately in the Collections Development Strategy Position Statement, although it is noted that this refers only to coins collected through donation, bequest or purchase and does not cover items from systematic archaeological excavation. Other numismatic material (tokens, medals, banknotes etc) is not specifically mentioned. The Statement indicates that material of all dates will be collected where it relates to the history of Lincolnshire and "selected pieces" of other local and British coinage will also be acquired. Non-British material will not normally be collected (LMAG, 2007).

The responsibility for the collection is also split, following the lines of the split in classification. The coins (both archaeological and otherwise) fall within the remit of the archaeology team at The Collection and are looked after by the Collections Officer there. Other items are dealt with by the social history curators at other sites. The collections housed at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life are the responsibility of two Collections Officers, one with a remit for military collections and one with a social history remit. There are no staff within the service who have specialist numismatic expertise, although the Collections Officer has a personal interest in this area and has acquired some specialist knowledge through informal learning.

The documentation of the collection varies across the different sites within the service. The coin collection at The Collection is almost all included in the computer collections database, although many of the records include only basic information. A member of staff was employed in the 1990s specifically to document this collection and ensure it was all added to the database. However, the Collections Access Officer notes that less than half of the overall collections at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life have been included in the collections database so he cannot be certain of the level of comprehensive documentation of the social historical and military numismatics (Heath, 2010). The Collections Officer at The Collection feels that this low level of thorough documentation contributes to a general lack of understanding of the collection amongst the staff of the service and suggests that most staff wouldn't be able to identify the importance or strengths of the collection: While the raw, numismatic data are accessible through the collections database, most staff do not have the specialist knowledge to interpret those data (Lee, 2010 [1]).

Some of the collection has been published, although very little publication has happened recently. The relevant coins are included in the *Sylogae of Coins of the British Isles* (Gunstone, 1971) and some of the hoards have also been published (Higginbottom, 1980 and White, 1980). There is also an online catalogue at the service's website (LMAG, CC) which includes around 700 coins, with photographs.

However, the information about the coins is currently minimal and provides very little in the way of identification or numismatic detail, with no attempt at interpretation. The Collections Officer at The Collection confirms that work is underway to improve the online content (Lee, 2010 [1]).

Numismatic items do have a strong presence in the permanent exhibition at The Collection. Coins are included in a number of displays, mostly as part of cases of general objects reflective of a particular period of Lincoln's history. The coins are well lit and some are accompanied by large illustrations. The interpretation is mostly contextual, with little detailed explanation of the coins themselves, indicating that the coins are largely used as evidence for wider interpretation of periods rather than being explained in numismatic terms. Illustrations of coins are also used extensively in background panels and title signage. Additionally there is an area of display looking at public collecting (through metal detecting and fieldwalking, for instance) and the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. This area includes a number of coins, both as illustrations and in drawers of objects which can be pulled out for close examination by visitors. However, the numismatic presence within the displays at The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is much more patchy. There are many medals within the regimental displays, which are fairly traditionally displayed and are interpreted with some contextual information and personal stories. There are also some large, wall-mounted displays of prize medals won by local engineering firms. It seems likely that these displays were put together by the firms themselves but there is no interpretation of these items and they are displayed on the wall of the museum shop with shop display cases standing in front of them. Numismatics are not used elsewhere in social historical displays. Some military medals have been used in temporary displays in recent years, such as the current display in the Lincolnshire Archives (Frisby, 2010), but no other numismatic items have been used in the last five years. However, the Collections Officer points out that temporary displays at The Collection are almost always borrowed from external exhibitors and do not include items from the service's own collections (Lee, 2010 [1]).

Research use of the collection is fairly regular but very infrequent with only about one academic researcher per year requesting to use the collection. Public enquiries about the service's collection are also rare, although enquiries for identification of personal items are more common.

Numismatics are also made accessible through public activities and events. There are numismatic items in the handling collection and these are often included in loans boxes and in handling events. The Community Engagement Officer notes that numismatic items are used in a number of school sessions, mostly for shopping role-play activities but the Roman Lincoln session includes an activity to sketch coins and discuss what can be learnt from them. However, she also notes that many of the coins used in these sessions are actually replicas (Workman, 2010). There are occasionally quizzes and family archaeology events which include numismatic items and military medals have very occasionally been used in outreach sessions for university students (Frisby, 2010).

The general feeling about the collection within the service is rather ambiguous. The Collections Officer at The Collection feels frustrated that numismatics are not being well used and suggests that learning and exhibitions staff do not view coins as popular with the public and therefore rarely consider them when planning events or displays. However, the learning team do seem to use numismatic items within some of their events. Additionally, there is a clear worry about the security of numismatic items, such that original coins are only rarely used in public events. The Collections Officer also acknowledges the difficulties of displaying small items and the problems of interpreting coins, especially where numismatic knowledge is needed (for instance in reading and translating inscriptions) and a great deal of explanation would therefore be needed in the interpretation. He cites this as a possible reason for the relative lack of close interpretation of the numismatics in the displays and suggests that in this respect, numismatics are a “casualty of the dumbing down of museums” (Lee, 2010 [1]).

The position of the numismatic collection within Lincoln museums is rather less clear than for some of the other cases studied. The collection is split, both in classification and in practical terms and could also be seen to be split in the perception of the staff of the service, with the coins being viewed as a separate collection while the social historical and military numismatics are integrated within wider collections. In all cases the numismatics are under the care of staff with no specialist numismatic knowledge. The collection is quite visible within the displays at The Collection and is used in public learning events. However, detailed information about the collection is not readily available to either staff or the public and this may be reflected in the relatively low use of the collection for research. The numismatics which form part of the social history collection are much less visible than the archaeological and military items, being virtually unused for either display or events. Staff perception of the collection seems to recognise its importance within the archaeological and military collections quite well but its potential for use to fulfil the service's aims does not seem to be recognised. It does not seem to be viewed as a peripheral collection but it is perceived as peripheral to the organisation's main aims. Within the social history collections the numismatics seem to be less well recognised or used and these items do seem to be seen as peripheral to the main collections in this area, as well as to the aims of the service.

To summarise, the numismatic collection of LMAG is under the care of staff with no subject specialist knowledge and most of it is poorly understood. However, while the social historical and military numismatics are underused and perceived as peripheral, the archaeological and other coins are more widely used and have a higher priority within the service's collections and perception. It would seem reasonable to say that while much of the collection is marginalised, some areas have a less marginal status than others.

4.2.5 Analysis

The urban, local authority run museums services in the East Midlands region have a broad remit in terms of subjects and intended audiences. However, the aims of all services are to be accessible and inclusive and words such as “engage” and “inspire” are commonly used. The missions of most of the services studied refer specifically to the heritage of their local area, with the exception being NCMG whose vision is to prompt consideration of the diversity of the world.

In all the museums services studied the numismatic collection is numerically significant, with the smallest being Derby's collection, estimated at c.5,000 items, and the largest being Leicester's collection of around 35,000 items.

The pattern of collection of these objects is similar across the region: all services have been collecting since the latter part of the 19th century and all show a diverse range of methods of acquisition, including donation, deposition of full archaeological archives and occasional purchase. Each service indicates that some parts of their numismatic collection represent donations of the collections of private collectors and in some cases these form backbones of the collection, for instance with the Mapp collection in Leicester (Courtney, 2010) or the Turner Jones collection in Nottingham (NCMG, 2005, p.26). This general reliance on donations and depositions means that numismatic collecting in all services has historically happened in a very piecemeal fashion and there is little indication of a clear, directed plan for collecting, especially in the early years of the services' activities. In fact, Nottingham's Collections Development Strategy states specifically that “It is doubtful if there was a deliberate collecting policy before the 1960s” (NCMG, 2005, p. 25). This type of piecemeal collecting is, of course, quite typical, following the pattern which Pearce identifies as common for most early museum archaeological collections, with transfer of private collections to the public realm being complemented by local excavation and occasional purchase of important items (Pearce, 1990).

In addition to this factual information it is interesting to note the occasionally perceptible indication of attitudes to collecting. All the services' collecting policies note areas where there is hope that continued collecting will occur. However, discussions with staff gave the impression that this is certainly not a priority and in Derby's policy it is specifically stated that continued collection of numismatics should happen on a 'passive' basis (i.e. by taking advantage of fortuitous opportunities for acquisition without actively seeking specific types of object) (DMAG, 2008, p. 18). This is an area which would warrant further investigation.

As with the methods of collection, the resulting content of the region's numismatic collections is broadly similar. All services have holdings of local significance, with each collection representing an important medieval mint (or mints) and including examples of local trade tokens, banknotes and commemorative medals. There are also locally-found coin hoards and numismatic items which have come from local excavation, whose chief significance, therefore, lies in the information which they can provide about past life in specific geographic sites or areas. Additionally, all services hold collections of

military medals awarded to members of the local regiments. The local collections are all supplemented by large holdings of general, national issues of coins and medals and each collection also includes foreign material, in greater or lesser numbers. Staff within the services all identified the local material as being particularly important within the collections with some staff noting that the more general material is less important and less useful, particularly in services whose stated aims are to relate to the history and people of their local area: the Assistant Keeper of Social History in Derby commented that the local material can be used to tell more stories and has greater potential to engage the local audience (Galer, 2010), while the Curator of Leicester History noted that the general items are more common within all museum collections and are therefore less exciting for the public and less useful for inter-service loans (French, 2010).

Across the cases studied the classification of numismatic collections, and the resulting responsibility for their care, seems somewhat confused. The collections are often split, with coins from excavation being regarded as part of the archaeological collections, military medals and souvenir items being part of the regimental collections and trade tokens, bank notes and civilian medals being considered as social history. However, these splits are sometimes not detailed with clarity, for instance in Derby, and the situation is often further confused by the fact that the classification 'numismatics' is sometimes used in addition to the above terms. The consistency of these terms is often low with items being given alternative classifications on a seemingly arbitrary basis so, for instance, in Leicester items described on the database as "medals" are mostly classified as 'social history' but 767 medals are classified as 'numismatics' instead (Emery, 2010 [1]). The clarity seems to be greatest in Nottingham where all material is considered part of the numismatic collection, under the care of the Collections Manager for Archaeology, History and Natural Sciences. In the other three services the numismatic collections are not considered to be separate, self-contained collections areas and the organisations instead attempt to integrate them into other collections areas. These attempts have had varying degrees of success but observations and interviews indicate that numismatics within archaeological collections are quite well integrated, especially in Lincoln, as are military numismatics but items in social history collections seem to become somewhat lost and are generally less visible.

The split in the classification of numismatic collections has led in most cases to them being the responsibility of more than one member of staff. None of these staff have particular numismatic expertise although many of them acknowledge that they have acquired some subject specialist knowledge through their work. Across the region the only employee identified who has formally studied numismatics is the Head of Museums for Leicestershire County Council, although the network of Finds Liaison Officers have also had training in identification and recording of archaeological numismatics. In addition external expertise has been identified and harnessed in Nottingham through the volunteering activity of the president of the Numismatic Society for Nottinghamshire.

This lack of expertise may be one contributing factor to a lack of information about the collections.

While Nottingham, Leicester and Lincoln have computer records for most of their coins, it is acknowledged that in both Leicester and Lincoln many of these records contain only basic information. In Leicester too it is notable that most of the archaeological numismatic items are not represented on the collections database and it is estimated that in Derby only a third of items have a database record, with around three quarters of those records containing only minimal details. This is a potential source of concern for services with no in-house subject specialist expertise. Stoddart and Sugden suggest that one of the attempted justifications for the drop in specialist numismatic posts within museums is the fact that many collections are well documented and this has led to a feeling that specialists are no longer as vital as in the past because “a new class of museologically-trained professionals [...] can simply move between collections with the help of the relevant database.” (Stoddart and Sugden, 2008, p. 1). Certainly in Leicester there is a feeling that the numismatic collection is well served with regard to documentation. The Collections Access Assistant commented that he did not expect to be asked to do any documentation work on the numismatics as this collection is considered to have already been done (Emery, 2010 [2]). However, if the information in the collections databases is in fact incomplete this leaves a large gap in the knowledge and available data about the collections.

Public access to the collections can be seen to be low in all cases. Numismatic items do appear in permanent displays within all services but even in Lincoln, the service with the most visible numismatic contribution to the galleries, the proportion of the collection which is exhibited is tiny. These permanent displays are supplemented by numismatic inclusions in temporary displays, most commonly, it seems, in Derby. However, this also only represents a small proportion of the collections. In addition, the items which are visible are mostly displayed in quite traditional ways, with small groups of coins or medals lined up next to each other. The acknowledged difficulties of displaying numismatics are apparent in these exhibitions where the small size of the items means that they are often 'lost' in cases with larger, more eye-catching objects. Their size also makes it difficult to see the intricate designs and inscriptions and in most cases the objects are not well lit, which makes it even more awkward to examine them. A further problem is the controversial issue of cleaning coins for display: for conservation the coins should not be cleaned but the design of an unpolished coin is even more tricky to make out than usual. Finally, the problem of displaying a flat item which has information on both faces is a perennial one for numismatics and one which is generally ignored in the displays in the case study museums. Only one coin in Derby is displayed in a way which alleviates this problem – all other visible numismatics can be seen from one side only and in only a small proportion of cases are illustrations of the reverse side available.

While traditional methods of display are common, traditional schemes of interpretation are less so. There are no galleries where coins are displayed and interpreted typologically as a series and instead attempts are made to give the coins contextual interpretations or to tie them to clear narratives. This is especially noticeable with military medals where all services now try to provide the personal stories of some of the recipients. It is hoped that this thematic method of interpretation will make the collections

more accessible to a non-specialist audience and allow for greater engagement, through the facility of personal stories to allow visitors to relate the objects to their own experience. However, this aim is somewhat hampered by the fact, acknowledged by the Collections Officer at The Collection, that to fully interpret a coin you need access to a lot of background information, such as expansions and translations of inscriptions or explanations of the symbolism of designs (Lee, 2010 [1]). It is unwieldy and impractical to include that level of detail in general interpretation so in many cases the interpretation of the coins on display has been reduced to a minimal statement about their significance to wider themes or, in some cases, to simply labelling the objects with their date and denomination. It could also be inferred that the lack of specialist knowledge and information about the collections may be a contributing factor to this brief interpretation of exhibited items.

An interesting case is the example from Derby where a number of commemorative medals of the Jacobite rebellion and its suppression are still shown as they were originally displayed, with a modern label which points out that they are exhibited with their "original museum labels and mounts". This is the only additional label so in effect the objects themselves are still interpreted in the traditional fashion but there is a hint that this style of interpretation is in fact worthy of classification as 'heritage' in itself. Unfortunately the modern label does not explore this idea or give any indication of how the objects would be differently displayed and interpreted today.

Across the region the level of publication of the collections is quite low but two of the services are starting to explore the idea of online publication and this seems to be an expanding area. The Curator of Leicester History comments that the public are increasingly using the internet for research and identification enquiries where previously they may have brought their queries to the museums services (French, 2010). However, all services do still receive a number of public enquiries about numismatics, mostly in the form of requests for identification of items or for tracing relatives who were awarded military honours. Additionally, academic research is done on the collections of all services, although the level of this research is low across the region.

Learning and public events is another area where the use of numismatics is currently only sporadic in East Midlands museums. The Access and Learning Officer in Derby noted that this situation is partly caused by the lack of accessible information about the collections (Hilland, 2010). In addition, a particular issue which was identified by staff in all four services is the question of security, with actual collection objects being only rarely used for public events and most learning sessions being run with replica coins. Security is generally a concern for numismatics in all areas with acknowledgement that many items do have a significant monetary value but also that it is a collection area which is perceived to be of value so items may be tempting even if their actual value is low (cf. Atherton, 2010). This issue is reflected in other ways in the work of the museums services: the coins on display at Jewry Wall in Leicester are almost invisible in their lack of prominence and the Principal Curator of Collections cites security concerns as a reason for this (Hadland, 2010). Similarly in Derby many coins which the

Keeper of Archaeology would like to display are currently in store awaiting purchase of a secure case (Atherton, 2010) and the one gold coin which is on show is housed in a gallery with unrelated 18th century paintings since the security in that gallery is higher than in other areas.

Overall there seems to be a perception that numismatic collections are difficult to use and that it would require a significant investment of time and resources to make the collections fit to be used effectively (cf. Hadland, 2010 and Hilland, 2010). Additionally there is a feeling that traditional uses of numismatics are boring and are not popular with the visiting public (e.g.. Hilland, 2010) but there does not seem to have been much work done on identifying how the collections could be used in innovative ways to make them popular. The collections are generally not viewed as priority areas for fulfilling current museum aims and thus the visibility of the collections across the region is low. It is fair to say that, with some exceptions, the numismatic collections in urban, local authority museums in the East Midlands have become marginalised.

4.3 Good Practice

The situation regarding the status and use of numismatic collections in the heritage sector is neither uniform nor consistently bleak. There are examples of innovative ideas and good practice in all areas of work with these collections. Some examples can be found within the museums of the East Midlands region and others can be seen in museums further afield.

Additionally, it is important to realise that numismatics is only one area of museum collections which has suffered in recent years from the threat of marginalisation. Other traditional collecting areas have also seen similar situations arising. Examples include areas of natural sciences, such as geology (e.g. Clercq, 2004) and botany (e.g. Edmondson, c.1997) and other areas such as palaeontology (e.g. MacLeod and Guralnick, 1997). All these disciplines have similarities to numismatics in that they are collections which lend themselves to traditional, taxonomic methods of classification and interpretation and which were therefore popular in 19th century museums but are not so obviously relevant to modern museum aims. Colleagues working in some of these subject disciplines have long been aware of the problems of marginalisation of their collections and measures have been taken to try and address this. Some of these measures can be transferred and applied to numismatics.

It is clearly good practice to comprehensively document numismatic collections. The best example of this locally is Nottingham where all the coins have been closely identified and the information is available on the collections database. This has been achieved through the voluntary work of the president of the Numismatic Society for Nottinghamshire and highlights the important role that volunteers can play in helping staff who do not have sufficient capacity or resources to adequately complete work on their collections.

The close relationship between Nottingham staff and the president of the local numismatic society shows a further area of good practice: staff within the museums service do not have subject specialist expertise for numismatics but that expertise has been provided by an external specialist. This is an important and efficient method of filling a knowledge gap. Within the region knowledge is also gained through close links with colleagues in other organisations. In Leicester staff can consult with the Head of Museums for the county council, who is an ex-curator of the Leicester City collection. The Finds Liaison Officers for the region are also happy to share their knowledge and have valuable insights into current archaeological finds made by the public, of which the museums services may be unaware.

Closer links between colleagues are encouraged in both the MA's "Collections for the Future" report (MA, 2005) and the Renaissance in the Regions report (Evans et al, 2001). In the late 2000s the Renaissance programme provided funding for heritage organisations to set up Subject Specialist Networks so staff could easily contact colleagues with specialist knowledge (MLA, SSN). In 2007 an unsuccessful bid was made for funding for an SSN for numismatics (cf. NASAC, 2007, item 7.2 and Stoddart and Sugden, 2008, p. 8). However, in recent months the long established CCNB rebranded itself as an SSN under the title Money and Medals Network (see MMN online) and is looking to promote sharing of numismatic knowledge.

Similar networks exist for other potentially marginalised collections areas, such as the Natural Sciences SSN or the Geology Curators Group. Further afield, in Canada and the USA, natural science professionals have come together to create a network specifically to support threatened collections. The Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections was founded as early as 1985 and continues to offer specialist expertise as well as help and advice to curators. They have also published a toolkit with advice on how to avoid a collection becoming orphaned as well as on what to do if that does occur (SPNHC, uncertain date).

In the Renaissance West Midlands region an innovative solution has been adopted to address a problem of lack of specialist expertise in the area of geological collections. In March 2007 RWM authorised recruitment to a Supporting Stewardship Traineeship for geology. The post ran for two years and involved the trainee doing short term placements in various museums in the West Midlands, working on their geological collections and thereby sharing her expertise. She was based at Stoke-on-Trent museums, working with the staff geologist (the only geological specialist in the RWM hub museums) and she also liaised closely with local specialist networks, such as the West Midlands Natural Sciences Curators Group. When the traineeship ended the post was evaluated and reworked and the same staff member became Assistant Collections Officer (Regional Geology) for Stoke-on-Trent museums, the funding now being provided by the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. Her role has developed so that it now involves less project work and more consultancy with organisations across the region. This allows her to share her expertise with a wider range of institutions, although pressures of time mean that she can provide less practical work with collections, focussing instead on providing

advice and expertise. Staff within RWM consider this post to be a great success and are currently applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund to try and instigate more subject specialist posts in the region (Tunstall, 2010, Tinsley, 2010 and Steward, 2010).

Good practice can also be found in the various areas of public accessibility. Publication of collections is currently low and the cost, in time as well as money, of traditional publication in catalogues or academic journals is restrictive. Additionally these traditional publications usually only reach limited, specialist audiences. However, many organisations are starting to expand their online presence and to make collections more accessible by publishing electronically. In the studied cases, Lincoln has put a database of collections online, albeit with only minimal information at present, and Derby has started to add some objects to its website too. Further afield there are some good examples of online access to collections databases, such as the Early Mediaeval Coins index, hosted by the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge (see EMC online).

The main form of public access to numismatic collections is still through display, although there are acknowledged problems with displaying numismatics. However, some simple solutions can be found to alleviate these problems. Within the region there are examples of large illustrations accompanying coins to make their study easier or show the reverse side which is hidden in the display (for instance in Lincoln and Nottingham). A similar technique is used at both the British Museum in London and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. In Derby an important coin is displayed on a mirror block which allows viewers to see the reverse side in reflection while also viewing the obverse side on display. The need for close examination of the intricate designs of coins is sometimes addressed by the provision of magnifying glasses. In some cases, for instance at the Ashmolean, the magnifiers are available for visitors to carry around with them. In other cases, such as the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, magnifiers are built in to the case so they can be slid over particular coins. Technology can also be used to provide a viewing aid for coins: staff interviewed noted that in both St Albans (Galer, 2010) and Bedford (Inscker, 2010) cameras are linked to computer screens and coins can therefore be projected onto the screen to be examined.

An innovative technique for display can be seen at Market Harborough museum where the Hallaton hoard of Iron Age silver coins is exhibited: much of the hoard is displayed on a specially created mount which has circular, clear perspex trays arranged horizontally in a stack, rather like a cake stand. The coins all sit in their own separate indentation in the trays, making each coin separate but part of a whole. Coins on lower trays can also be seen through the clear perspex of the upper trays. This allows each coin to be viewed individually but also gives an overall impression of the size and impressive nature of the pile of coins which make up the hoard. Individually important coins are displayed in nearby cases in a more traditional manner.

The problems of display also prompt theoretical discussion, for instance in Feria's account to an

ICOMON conference of the problems of exhibiting numismatics (Feria, 1995). Southard suggests a potential solution for combined storage and display in specially designed cabinets which have horizontal trays with clear lids and bases and which can be flipped over to allow viewing of both obverse and reverse. This would allow greater public access through accessible storage but unfortunately at present such a cabinet is not commercially available (Southard, 1995).

Another area where innovation can be seen is in the form and style of interpretation of numismatic collections. It has been noted that most displays now attempt to interpret numismatics for their stories and their contribution to exploration of wider themes, rather than for their typological data: coins are now rarely interpreted by comparison to other coins but are instead viewed in the context of all the other items of contemporary material culture. It is common to use numismatics to illustrate themes of wealth and trade or to make political points about the issuing authorities (for instance, in current display at Nottingham, Lincoln and Derby). However, coins can also be used for less obvious interpretations. In the University of Nottingham Museum portraits on Roman coins are used to illustrate changing fashions in hairstyle, while as early as 1977 Price and Trell indicated how depictions of buildings on coins could be related to actual ancient architecture (Price and Trell, 1977). In Leicester there is a plan to include coins in a forthcoming exhibition showing varying depictions of animals (French, 2010). Similarly the designs on coins have been interpreted for their artistic value, for instance in the exhibition *Anglo-Saxon Art in the Round* which toured from the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to Norwich and Ipswich during 2008-2009.

There is much theoretical material which indicates how valuable numismatics can be to interpretations of important issues. The link between numismatics and the formation of identities, for instance, is strong. Kluessendorf shows how coins and banknotes represented both the split loyalties and combined heritage of society in the politically divided East and West Germany in the mid-20th century (Kluessendorf, 2004). The link between numismatics and religious identity is explored by both Wasserstein (Wasserstein, 1993) and Oster (Oster, 1982), respectively looking at Islam and early Christianity. Wisehn suggests ways in which numismatics can be linked to current concerns such as drugs, the status of women or crime (Wisehn, 2006). He also mentions the theme of slavery and in this instance at least, the bridge between theory and practice has been made, as can be seen in the use of numismatic material in a number of displays which celebrated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in 2007, for instance, in Leicestershire (French, 2010) and Birmingham.

The interpretation of museum objects in general is a subject which has received much attention in recent years. The "Revisiting Collections" programme (MLA London and Collections Trust, 2009) and various schemes to reassess the significance of collections (cf. CAN, 2005 and REM, 2009) aim to involve museum users much more in the interpretation of collections. It is hoped that schemes of this type will be applied to numismatics as much as to other collections areas.

Interpretation of numismatic collections can be enhanced by the use of interactives within displays. At Market Harborough there are both electronic and physical interactive elements to the display of the Hallaton hoard and similarly in the money gallery at the Ashmolean visitors can examine large models of coins, create their own coin design from separate elements or solve puzzles using the information on coins. These parts of the display have been particularly well received and well used (Howgego, 2010). In the HSBC Money Gallery at the British Museum opportunities for interaction with the collection are provided in the form of handling tables in the gallery where members of staff and volunteers make original collection objects available for visitors to handle and discuss with them. From observation this is also a very popular section of the gallery.

Opportunities for handling objects from the collection can greatly enhance visitors' engagement with it. Handling sessions are well used in events at Derby and Nottingham and can also be used in more formal learning sessions. A good example of using coins for learning can be seen in the sketching activity in LMAG's Roman Lincoln session. National museums also use numismatics for learning and resources are provided for wider use, for instance, in the series of lesson plans produced by the Royal Mint which link numismatics directly to the National Curriculum for diverse subjects including maths, English, art, science, and design and technology (RM *Coins in the Classroom*).

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The urban, local authority-run museums services in the East Midlands all contain substantial numismatic collections. The history of acquisition and use of these collections follows a pattern, described by Pearce (Pearce, 1990), which seems common to archaeological collections in museums of the Western tradition. Additionally, it is clear that the status of numismatics within these services has changed and it has become a discipline with lower priority than it previously enjoyed. This is in common with other museums services across the country and the world, as identified by Stoddart and Sugden, amongst others (Stoddart and Sugden, 2008). The decline in the status of numismatics can be linked to the changing purpose of heritage organisations in society and to changing fashions in display and interpretation.

There is a lack of clarity in the identification and classification of numismatic collections across the region and this has led to some confusion over the care and responsibility for the collections. This is compounded by an overall lack of comprehensive documentation (with Nottingham as an important exception) and a clear expertise gap in the region's staff. As a result the use of the collections, for research, display and learning, is low and the visibility of numismatics in the work and publications of East Midlands museums is minimal.

The numismatic collections of East Midlands museums have generally become marginalised.

It seems likely that both a cause and a consequence of this marginalisation, in a 'vicious circle' effect, is the attitude towards the discipline within the heritage profession. Interviews with local staff indicate that numismatics is still viewed as a complicated, academic subject which is difficult to access and therefore elitist. Coin displays are seen as boring and the subject is not viewed as popular with the public. There is a feeling that numismatics are difficult to use and that they are not easily relevant to current museums' aims. This can be felt in the great frustration of staff who work with numismatics and who are very aware that the collections are not being used effectively. It is apparent that there needs to be a change in perception of the discipline within the profession before the status of numismatic collections can change. The profile of numismatic collections needs to be raised within their host organisations and their potential needs to be emphasised. As the Finds Liaison Officer for Leicestershire and Rutland put it, "coins need to be reintroduced to curators" (Scott, 2010).

This is certainly a collection area with great potential: there is a demonstrable public interest in aspects of numismatics; the objects are easily recognisable and can be closely linked to visitors' current personal experience; there is a great wealth of information held in numismatic items and there is clear potential to unlock this information and use it to interpret a great variety of subjects. Indeed there are

excellent examples of good practice in all areas of numismatic work and these point the way to improving the situation for the discipline across the country.

Of course there are limitations to making changes in the East Midlands regional museums. The services have a purpose which is specific to the heritage and audience of the local area and displays therefore need to be relevant to the services' target audiences. In this regard it may not be practical or desirable to interpret numismatics as a discrete subject. There are also limitations of resources and capacity and there is not the scope to concentrate a great deal of effort on one particular collection area. There are areas besides numismatics which are suffering from similar problems and have similar unused potential. It would be unrealistic to suggest that numismatics should be prioritised above other subjects. However, it is possible to make suggestions which could improve the situation of the region's numismatic collections within these limitations. The sector as a whole is entering a time of review and uncertainty but this could be a timely opportunity to reassess the use of collections and instigate some important changes.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Recommendations for Derby Museums and Art Gallery

- The numismatic collection should be fully integrated into other collections. There is no specialist numismatist on staff and it is extremely unlikely that the service will create a specialist numismatic role. In the absence of this, numismatics cannot reasonably be treated as a separate collection area and the needs of the collection would be best served by integration into other collection areas. Numismatics are already somewhat split between the archaeology, military and social history collections and this split should be made official and defined with clarity. This would clearly allocate responsibility for the objects and would allow them to be more easily contextualised with other material culture of specific subjects.
- It should be considered whether the classification term 'numismatics' is helpful or relevant within the current collection. The term is academic and may not be meaningful for either the public or staff. Use of the term may itself help to perpetuate the perception that the discipline is elitist and not relevant to current museum aims. Admittedly the term can be a useful search term, especially for research purposes, but for general use it is outdated. Collection items should therefore be primarily classified in line with the integration mentioned above, perhaps with 'numismatics' as a secondary classification term.
- A timescale should be established for dealing with the backlog of documentation of numismatic items. This could form part of staff work programmes but could also benefit from work by volunteers.
- Closer links should be established with the Derbyshire Numismatic Society. In the absence of subject specialist staff the local society could be a good source of expertise and society

members may be interested in volunteering to help with documentation and research on the collection.

- The museums service should look to join the Money and Medals Network SSN in order to access expertise in the wider heritage sector.
- There should be advocacy for the collection within the museums service. The SPNHC toolkit (SPNHC, uncertain date) recommends advocacy to staff, senior management and even elected members as a way of preventing the marginalisation of collections. This would also allow staff with responsibility for numismatic items to promote their potential for meeting service aims through display, events and learning. Advocacy of this kind would be increasingly effective as documentation of the collection improves.
- The service could pilot some schemes to advertise the collection to potential users. Approaches could be made to local colleges and universities as students of various subjects may find the collections useful for research and may also be interested in volunteering. Alternatively, once the collection has more comprehensive documentation it could be advertised to local interest groups, such as the Young Archaeologists Club, metal detecting clubs or local history societies, as a resource for study or learning.
- In the longer term, numismatic collections should be reinterpreted and redisplayed. This need not involve a high allocation of specific resources or time but could instead form part of wider projects of redisplay of collections, especially if the numismatic items are fully integrated into other collections areas. Interpretation and display could look to use good practice from elsewhere (see section 4.3 above) and could tap into research projects completed by external researchers and volunteers.
- Numismatic items should be included with other collections in significance assessments and 'Revisiting Collections' projects. This will enhance any reinterpretation or display as well as raising the profile of the collection with the museums' audiences.
- Numismatic collections should be considered more often for events and learning sessions, possibly following published examples such as the Royal Mint's lesson plans (RM, *Coins in the classroom*). The use of collections in this area will become easier and more effective following improved documentation and research.
- As the service expands its online object database, numismatic items should be included and publication of the collection in this way could be a valuable long term aim.

5.2.2 Recommendations for the East Midlands Region

- Partnership working between East Midlands museums services could be beneficial for numismatic collections across the region. This would allow sharing of expertise and facilitate loans of important items or provide the possibility for touring exhibitions or joint events.
- A collections mapping exercise could be useful to establish where important local items are

held as well as where regional collections overlap. It seems likely that each service has similar collections of general, national and international issues of coins and medals. In the long term it may be worth considering the option of a single regional collection for these more general items, thus allowing individual services to rationalise the more general areas of their collections and thereby concentrate their resources more closely on the unique local items. Services and users would still be assured that the general items were available somewhere within the region and items could be loaned between services as necessary.

- It could be incredibly useful to establish a regional specialist post for numismatics, maybe following the example of the Assistant Collections Officer (Regional Geology) in the West Midlands area (Tunstall, 2010, Tinsley, 2010 and Steward, 2010). This would provide important subject specialist expertise and make consultancy and advice available to all services in the region. Research into potential funding and management of such a post is strongly recommended.

5.3 Evaluation and Further Research

The information gathered by this study is interesting and is sufficient to get an overview of the current situation in the case study organisations and to fit that into its wider context. It allows conclusions to be drawn, with a fair degree of confidence, concerning the generalities of the marginalisation of numismatic collections in the case study East Midlands museums. However, there is some inconsistency in the level of data gathered for each case study organisation and there is also a degree of subjectivity in the analysis of the data and the subsequent conclusions drawn from it. To a certain extent this is a result of the type of data received and it may be that a more formal interview technique and stricter criteria for choosing interviewees would give more consistent and quantifiable results.

The study would be greatly enhanced by further research to alleviate the limitations of the current work:

- A greater number of organisations in different areas of the UK (or the world) should be studied to see whether the situation in the East Midlands is part of a trend across the sector.
- The study should be extended to include other stakeholder groups as respondents, such as academic and hobby numismatists, students, school teachers and the general public (both museum visitors and non-visitors).
- Closer study of other potentially marginalised subject areas would make for interesting and useful comparative research.

Additionally, some concepts which arose during the course of the research would benefit from close study in themselves; this too would enhance the findings of the current paper:

- The potential for numismatic collections to interpret diverse subjects in line with current museological theory is clear but requires a closer study to identify specific methods and areas where collections can link to the sector's aims and objectives. Quantification of this potential and robustly evaluated, practical recommendations would greatly enhance the suggestions made in this paper.
- Perceptions of numismatics and numismatic collections are difficult to assess and quantify, especially in a general, short study. More work, possibly with a psychological basis, could be done on attitudes to the subject amongst heritage staff and the public.
- Museological work on styles of collecting and attitudes towards collecting in the current climate would be useful, especially if it were focussed on marginalised collections areas. The possible disparity between collecting policy and actual, practical collecting is an interesting idea which deserves further investigation.

Finally, a follow up to this paper would be useful and interesting, maybe in around five years' time. This would allow a researcher to discover whether the situation has changed in the East Midlands museums, either by the influence of ideas identified in this paper or by the potential changes which may occur in the coming climate of cuts in public spending and re-evaluation of the purpose and work of heritage organisations within society.

6. Appendices

6.1 Case Study Protocol

Case Study Protocol (as per Yin)

Anja Rohde

Updated 22/05/2010

Overview of Case Study Project

This project forms the substantive part of a thesis for the MA degree in Museums and Heritage Management, run by the Nottingham Trent University. As such the process of conducting the project is of high importance, in addition to the results which arise from the research.

The thesis is being conducted by Anja Rohde (Collections Access Manager for Derby Museums and Art Gallery). It aims to test the hypothesis that numismatic collections are marginalised in regional museums in the UK and to make recommendations to address this marginalisation, if the hypothesis is proven, in the case of Derby Museums and Art Gallery.

The case studies will provide evidence for the hypothesis from a sample of museums, that being the regional, local authority run museums services within the hub cities of the MLA's East Midlands region, namely Derby Museums and Art Gallery, Nottingham City Galleries and Museums, Leicester Museums and Galleries and Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery.

Field Procedures

The case studies will involve data collection in three ways:

Documentary analysis

I will contact the organisation in advance, by email, to request a copy of the collection policy for the numismatic collection, an idea of how many items within that collection have entries on the collections management database and representative examples of database entries. These requests would be best aimed at the Collections Access Assistants, with the consent of the curatorial staff who look after the numismatic collections. To specify: I can gather the data myself for Derby; In Leicester it will be Dean Emery with the consent of Philip French; In Nottingham it will be Louisa Selby with the consent of Ann Inscker; In Lincoln it will be Paul Heath with the consent of Anthony Lee.

Personal observation

I will visit the public galleries of the main museums for each organisation to observe the placement and interpretation of the numismatic collection within the displays. I will make these visits prior to interviewing the curatorial staff. I will inform the museum staff of the purpose of my visit and will ensure that I have paper and pens to make notes and that I take a camera and get permission or licences for taking photographs in the galleries. I will probably sit and write up my observations in the café or other public rest area. To specify: I will make observations at Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Silk Mill and Pickford's House by 20th May. I can write up notes in my office at the Silk Mill; I will make observations at New Walk Museum, Newarke Houses and Jewry Wall Museum in Leicester in the morning of 3rd June. I can write up notes in the café at New Walk or in the gardens at Jewry Wall; I will make

observations at Nottingham Castle, Brewhouse Yard and Wollaton Hall on 1st June. I can write up my notes in the cafes at the Castle and Wollaton; I will make observations at The Collection and the Museum of Lincolnshire Life on 2nd June. I can write up my notes in the café at The Collection.

Interviews

I will conduct personal, face to face interviews with at least one key member of staff in each organisation. I can have less formal discussions with other staff members by email or telephone following from the formal interviews. I will visit the key staff at times and places to suit them. I will ensure that I have pens and paper to make notes and that I can write up those notes in peace following the interviews. To specify: I will interview Mike Galer (Keeper of Military and Social History, Derby) on 20th May and Rachel Atherton (Keeper of Archaeology, Derby) on 24th May. I will have informal chats with Louise Hilland (Head of Learning) on 7th May and Louise Dunning (Assistant Exhibitions Officer) on 27th May; I will interview Yolanda Courtney (Head of Museums, Leicestershire but also former numismatic keeper for Leicester City) on 3rd June. I will have a telephone conversation with Philip French (Keeper of Social History, Leicester) in the week commencing 7th June and will also contact any learning and exhibitions staff recommended by Yolanda, Philip or Dean Emery; I will interview Ann Inscker (Keeper of Archaeology, Nottingham) and discuss with Grenville Chamberlain (Numismatic Society of Nottinghamshire and volunteer at Nottingham Museums) on 9th June. I will then contact any learning and exhibitions staff recommended by them or Louisa Selby; I will interview Antony Lee (Regional Collections Development Officer and former Collections Officer, Leicester) on 7th June in Derby. I will also contact any other curatorial, learning or exhibitions staff recommended by him or by Paul Heath. I must be careful not to lead my interviewees by my own preconceived ideas about the subject. Considered and pre-decided interview questions (for formal interviews) and prompt questions (for informal discussions) will be important.

Summary Timetable:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 7 th May | Discussion with Louise Hilland (Derby) |
| w/c 17 th May | Observations at Derby museums Collection of documentary data at Derby Emails for documentary data at Leicester, Nottingham and Lincoln |
| 20 th May | Interview with Mike Galer (Derby) |
| 24 th May | Interview with Rachel Atherton (Derby) |
| 27 th May | Discussion with Louise Dunning (Derby) |
| 1 st June | Observations at Nottingham Museums |
| 2 nd June | Observations at Lincoln Museums |
| 3 rd June | Observations at Leicester Museums Interview with Yolanda Courtney (Leicester) |
| 7 th June | Interview with Antony Lee (Lincoln) |
| w/c 7 th June | Telephone discussion with Philip French (Leicester) |
| 9 th June | Interview with Ann Inscker and Grenville Chamberlain (Nottingham) |
| w/c 14 th June | Telephone/email discussions with other staff identified |

Case Study Questions

1) Are the numismatic collections in these museums marginalised?

To break that down:

How and by whom are they administered?

Policies; Documentation records; Key interviewees

Is the collection underused?

In display?

Observation; Key interviewees & exhibitions staff

In publication?

Key interviewees; Documentary evidence

In research?

Key interviewees

In learning?

Key interviewees & learning staff

Is the collection well understood by staff?

Key interviewees; Documentation records; Documentary evidence

How is the collection perceived within the organisation?

Policies; Organisational literature and websites; Personal observation; All interviewees

2) Why are the collections marginalised (if they are!)?

Suggested contributing factors: lack of specialist staff; lack of clear, accessible collections knowledge & information; traditional perception of the subject as academic and dry; traditional methods of display and interpretation, which are dull; perception of collection as difficult to use; idea that public perception is that collection objects are small and boring

All interviewees

3) How can numismatic collections become less marginalised?

Examples of best practice

Personal observation; All interviewees

Guide for the Case Study Report

The report of these case study data may take the following format:

A factual summary of the background to each institution's numismatic collection including, where possible, figures of its size, a history of its acquisition and a statement of the current policies regarding it.

A narrative review of the information gathered about the use of the collection and the knowledge held within the organisation including, where possible, statistical figures for collections use, factual details of the administration of the collection, a review of collections information held as either staff knowledge or documentary references and a personal observation about the perception of the collection within the organisation.

A conclusion about whether the numismatic collection in that organisation is marginalised.

Some inferences about the reasons for the marginalisation (where it exists).

Any examples of good practice identified as part of the case study data gathering exercise.

6.2 Organisations' Collections Policies

6.2.1. Relevant sections of Derby Museums and Art Gallery : Collections Development Strategy 2008

**Derby Museums
and
Art Gallery**

**Collections Development
Strategy**

2008



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

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2. Archaeology & World Cultures

Archaeology is taken to mean anything manmade that has been removed from the ground. Occasional later material may be grouped with other parts of the collection. The world cultures collection includes both foreign archaeology and ethnographic material for all over the world. The archaeological and world cultures collections are large, but not inclusive.

a) **Local Material:** (passive collection)

There is active collection of material from the region comprising the City of Derby, South Derbyshire District, Erewash District, Amber Valley District and parts of Derbyshire Dales, subject to agreement with neighbouring museum authorities. An agreement was reached in 2003 with all Museums in Derbyshire regarding excavation archives and this is published as *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives: Museums in Derbyshire*. This lists all parishes that each museum collects from and should be consulted prior to the accepting of any material.

The collection covers all periods from the Palaeolithic to post-Medieval, and includes portable artefacts, remains of industrial processes, structural remains, environmental samples, human remains, animal remains, plant remains, and associated documentary archives.

The material types include ferrous, non-ferrous and precious metals; glass;

pottery and other ceramics; stone and lithics; semi-precious stones, jet and amber; bone, antler, horn and ivory; wood; leather, textiles and other organics.

Pleistocene faunal remains are referred to the Natural Sciences section above; recent industrial archaeological remains are referred to the Industrial section; post-Medieval ceramics from recorded contexts are collected in liaison with the Ceramics section. The collection includes numismatics from archaeologically recorded contexts, but other numismatics are referred to the Numismatics section.

The bulk of the present collection is the archives formed by the excavations at Little Chester, Derby Racecourse, Repton, and Willington between 1970 and 1990. Any review of these collections will be in accordance with the professional guidelines on selection and retention of archaeological collections (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993). The Museum will not normally accept collections from old excavations without accompanying documentary archives.

The future acceptance of excavation archives will follow the professional guidelines on the transfer of archaeological archives to Museums (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995) to ensure standards in preservation and access, and the best use of Museum resources, these are now set out in the *Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives: Museums in Derbyshire*.

The Museum is an Approved Archaeological Store, eligible for English Heritage storage grant aid. Archives from developer-funded projects will be subject to a storage charge at least equivalent to the English Heritage grant (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995). All museums in Derbyshire collecting these archives agreed to this charge taking effect from April 2004. All archaeological curators and archaeological excavation units and contractors have been informed of this charge. The charge will not apply to material that the museums were informed of prior to this date.

Metal-detected finds nationally account for a third of all casual archaeological finds reported each year, but an unknown quantity remain unreported and are dispersed through the illicit antiquities trade (Dobinson and Denison, 1995). The Finds Liaison Officer now based in the museum as part of the Portable Antiquities Scheme is responsible for recording these finds for both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Their records will be transferred to the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by Derbyshire County Council in line with the policy of this Scheme.

b) Non-local British material: (no further collection, some available for loan)

After the acquisition of the Bateman Collection by Sheffield Museum in 1893, Derby Museum had little opportunity to form a significant collection of Derbyshire antiquities. There is a small number of important non-local Derbyshire specimens which will be retained, including flints from Creswell Crags (1877, 1921 and 1933); Bronze Age pottery from Stanton Moor (1926); excavation archives from Green Low, Aldwark (1968) and Melandra Castle (1977); surface collections of flint artefacts from north Derbyshire by Cooper (1976), Lomas (1978) and Radford (1995). In the latter case, Derby Museum was specified in the donor's bequest.

There is a small number of specimens from other parts of the British Isles. Type collections of flints from Kent, Sussex and Hampshire acquired from the British Museum in the 1910s formed the core of the early collection. Since the first Acquisitions and Disposals Policy (1990) several non-local collections have been placed on loan with appropriate institutions: Anglo-Saxon metalwork from Sleaford, and Bronze Age urns from Blankney to Lincolnshire Museums; the Thor's Cave collection to Stoke on Trent Museum (this is currently being transferred permanently); Iron Age pottery from Breedon Hill to Leicester Museums. Derby Museum retains title to all these items. Anglo-Saxon urns from Suffolk, on loan since the 1950s, have been returned to Cambridge. There remains a group of items from Thetford, on loan from a former Derby curator.

These collections will not be added to.

c) Non-local Foreign: (no further collection)

Foreign material collected in the 19th century and early 20th century will not be added to. This disparate collection includes flint and stone tools from Denmark, Egypt, France and India; Iron Age metalwork from France; Babylonian cuneiform tablets; Greek and Cypriot pottery. Egyptian pottery from Beni Hasaan is part of a larger collection dispersed among several museums in Britain.

The Egyptian mummies, purchased in 1859, are part of the Museum's earliest collections. They were re-displayed in 1993.

These collections will not be added to.

d) Ethnology- material from modern non-European cultures

West African material is best represented, partly due to a policy of exchanging other material for African specimens, which was adopted in 1947. There remain items from China, India, Japan, North America, and a large number from Melanasia and Polynesia. Better research and documentation is needed to extend the value and use of these collections.

These collections will not be added to unless they can be shown to have relevance to ethnic groups currently living in Derby.

3. Military Collections

a) 9th/12th Royal Lancers (passive collection)

This collection is on loan from the 9th/12th Lancers Museum Trustees and covered by legal agreement with Derby City Council. The collections also include material relating to the 24th and 27th Lancers. Active collection is undertaken by the Assistant Keeper of Military and Social History on behalf of the Trustees and by the Trustees themselves.

b) Derbyshire Yeomanry and Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry (passive collection)

This collection is almost exclusively the property of Derby City Council, but it does include some items on loan from the Leicestershire Derbyshire Yeomanry Trustees. Items relating to both units are actively collected by Derby City Council.

c) Derbyshire Infantry (passive collection)

These collections consist of items relating to the 95th (Derbyshire) Regiment, Infantry and Rifle Volunteers, Militia, and the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 14th and 16th Battalions of the Sherwood Foresters and the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters. Collections are mostly the property of Derby City Council although some items are on loan from the Sherwood Foresters Museum Trustees. Generally passive collection by Derby City Council.

d) British Army General (no further collection)

Derby City Council's collection of items relating to the military service of local men and women who served with corps or non-local regiments. Most items in this category are now passed, with the owners permission to the relevant regimental or national museum.

e) Foreign Military (passive collection)

Derby City Council collection of souvenirs and relics, including the Cunnington collection of Great War related items.

f) First and Second World War Home Front (passive collection)

Derby City Council collections used for temporary exhibitions and study. Some non-accessioned items held by the Education Department.

g) Royal Flying Corps, Royal Air Force and Royal Observer Corps
(passive collection)

Derby City Council collection of items relating to the service of local men and women for temporary exhibition and study. Passive collection except for items relating to 98 (City of Derby) Squadron which are actively collected.

h) Firearms (passive collection of local material: other material available for disposal)

Derby City Council collection of regimentally-associated; locally-manufactured or retailed; and general firearms. The former two categories are actively collected, the latter is being rationalised with a view to disposal.

i) Numismatics (passive collection)

Derby City Council collection of military and civilian medals, orders and decorations.

j) Para-military (passive collection)

Derby City Council collections include police and law enforcement, Red Cross, Fire Brigade, and Civil Defence.

k) Naval (no further collection)

Small collection of Derby City Council owned items, mostly consisting of medals.

4. Social History

While the breadth and range of material included in this classification is potentially

vast, the Museum's objective is to maintain specific collections which will enable displays, study and illustration to be made of domestic, working, personal and community life, and the majority of items collected will be of local provenance, manufacture, or have strong local associations. The collecting area includes all of the City of Derby, South Derbyshire and Amber Valley and parts of Derbyshire Dales material is only collected with discussion with other museums in these areas.

(i) Local History

a) Record Material (passive collection)

Photographic prints, postcards and negatives relating to Derby and its immediate area are actively collected. Those for other parts of the county may be passed on in exchange for a copy print or negative. The collection has grown in recent years and is a valuable resource for display and research. Building records are kept for the City area where possible. Some county records are retained in specialised cases. Some non-local postcards may be kept if they have a social history significance, but are only passively collected. Paper records are only collected where they relate specifically to the history of an object in the collection. Even in these cases these records may be offered to the Local Studies Library or County Record Office.

b) Specimens - Local Material (passive collection)

By basic definition most specimens will have a local provenance and relate to civic history, development of law and order, local trade, commerce, community, religion and events.

c) Specimens - Non-Local British (no further collection: available for loan)

From the early establishment of the museum items have been acquired from parts of Derbyshire where no museum then existed. Material will not now be accepted if there is a museum in that area.

Some collections are of particular significance, demanding specific policies different from the main body of social history and local history material. These are covered in sections 4(ii)-4(xv) below.

(ii) Radios, televisions, gramophones (no further collection, accept for specific purposes)

This collection comprises about 400 items, of variable quality, plus thousands of gramophone records and spare parts, mostly dating from the period before 1960.

The foundation of the collection is the material donated by Harold Ayres of Derby in 1977.

As the collection is of such quality and importance, it should be actively extended where appropriate, to make it as comprehensive as possible. Our plans for developing and rationalising their future collection are as follows:

- a) **No collection of post-1960 sets** except if an item is specifically required for display.
- b) **No further collection of televisions** except rare pioneer equipment, unless a specific item is required for display.
- c) **No further collection of radiograms.** Too bulky for storage and of little interest for display or as representative collection - most are variants of tabletop models.
- d) **No further collection of valves or other 'spare parts'.** We have a large collection of duplicate items, and this type of material is of more value to enthusiasts maintaining sets in working order.
- e) **No further collection of horn loudspeakers.** Large number of duplicates.
- f) We have a good representative collection of pioneer 1920s sets, including both home-made and commercial valve and cat's whisker sets. **No further collection unless of particular local interest** (eg local retailer/manufacturer).
- g) **No further collection of post-War portables.** We have a good representative collection because this type is common and frequently offered for gift.
- h) **No further collection of damaged or undistinguished 1930s and 1950s sets.** There is a large number of similar, poor quality sets of little interest.
- i) **Collection should concentrate on 'designer' sets of the 1930s,** notably the bakelite Eckos by Wells Coates; wooden Murphys by R D Russell, and to complete the Pye 'sunrise' series of which we have several examples including the very rare 1948 model.
- j) **No further collection of portable gramophones.** Large representative collection including several similar or duplicate models. Frequently offered for gift.
- k) Any future **collecting of gramophones should be limited to early**

17

(1890s/1900s) models, which are poorly represented at present.

I) The majority of the gramophone record collection is believed to be of no interest and should be disposed of appropriately. Specialist advice needed to identify what is of value. Retain a representative selection of labels and local retailer's sleeves, and a type series to illustrate the development of the gramophone disc. Extend this to include later developments in tape, cassette, and to reflect the replacement of the vinyl disc by CD in the 1990s.

(iii) Stamps (local passive collection only)

The British collection of new stamps and First Day Covers is first class after nearly 30 years of collecting. The basis of the collection is the local Walton Bequest of 1934, a first rate Empire and world collection. It is proposed that the Museum only passively collects local First Day Covers (eg featuring local firms or institutions), and accept Empire stamps on a passive collection basis.

(iv) Numismatics (passive collection)

Featuring: coins, medallions, tokens, checks, and other para-numismatica, (including banknotes), etc are collected on the basis of local relevance. The local collections are important and should continue to grow. They include:

- a) Anglo Saxon and Norman coins from the Derby mint.
- b) 17th century Derby and Derbyshire trade tokens.
- c) Later Derby and some Derbyshire tokens, checks (especially pub checks), tallies and other para-numismatic issues securely associated with the local area.
- d) Local archaeological coin hoards

See also section 3(i) and 3(j) for military numismatics.

(v) Firearms and weapons (passive collection of local examples only)

The good collection of recent firearms should be added to by guns of local manufacture or with strong local associations.

See also Military collections, section 3(h).

(vi) Photographic equipment (no further collection)

The Museum holds a collection of cameras, photographic and darkroom equipment. The collection will not normally be extended, except with material

relating to local photographers.

- (vii) Sewing and other domestic machines** (no further collection: available for loan)

This collection would only be extended by exceptional examples (e.g. specifically locally made or local retailed examples).

- (viii) Working life** (passive collection, but some items available for loan or disposal)

The Museum holds material representing local working life, such as craft workshops, shop interiors, and will collect further appropriate material. Some non-relevant material collected in the past could now be released to more appropriate institutions.

- (ix) Clocks, watches and scientific instruments** (passive collection)

- a) Clocks, watches and scientific instruments - local** (passive collection)

Particular significance is placed upon the work of Derby (and some Derbyshire) clock and watch makers. Clocks sold under the name of a local clockmaker, even with a non-local movement, would be valid to this classification, as would local black marble or alabaster cases containing non-local movements. Pieces by John Whitehurst, FRS (1712-1788) and by others associated with him (apprentices, colleagues, successors) are particularly sought because of Whitehurst's national, even international, importance in his field. Derbyshire material is collected following discussion with other local Registered Museums.

- b) Clocks, watches and scientific instruments - non-local British** (no further collection)

Collection may be considered in circumstances where material has local personal associations. This is only done in consultation with other Registered Museums

- c) Clocks, watches and scientific instruments - non-local Foreign** (no further collection)

A few items are held but more are not sought.

- (x) Musical Instruments** (passive collection)

Musical instruments – local makers and users only are collected. A small number of

musical instruments of local use or manufacture are held.

(xi) Agriculture (no further collection: available for loan and disposal)

The agricultural collection includes both local and non-local British material.

The larger items in this collection have been for two decades on loan to the County Museum Service which houses the main body of material in the county at Elvaston Castle.

(xii) Friendly and other local societies (passive collection)

Regalia, ephemera and records of local societies will be actively collected. Records without related objects will be referred to the Local Studies Library or County Record Office.

A good collection of material relating especially to the Holbrook Friendly Society, the Grand United Order of Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of Foresters and others is being expanded gradually as the opportunities arise.

(xiii) Books, manuscripts and paper ephemera (passive collection: some items available for loan)

The Museum collects paper ephemera of local relevance. It also accepts books of close relevance to the collections for use as reference material, but otherwise material is re-directed to the Local Studies Library as the correct repository (the same applies to manuscripts and other records).

(xiv) Domestic material (no further collection: some items available for loan)

Where this material does not fall under heading 4(i)(b) "Local historical objects", eg cast-iron gates from local foundries, domestic objects like sewing machines with local retailers' names thereon - it was collected for Pickford's House, where it is mainly on display. Other non-local domestic material will not be further collected except to fill specific gaps in Pickford's House displays. Some items will be available for loan.

6.2.2.

Relevant sections of Nottingham City Museums and Galleries : Collections Development Strategy 2005

Collections Development Strategy

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Museum: **Nottingham City Museums and Galleries**

Governing Body: **Nottingham City Council**

Date approved by governing body:

Date at which policy due for review:

THE COLLECTIONS

5 INTRODUCTION

This section deals in turn with each curatorial area, detailing the history of the collection, important holdings, the purpose and limitations of the collection, loans, targeted acquisition targets and potential for rationalization

6 ANTIQUITIES COLLECTIONS

The Antiquities section includes several major collecting areas – archaeology, antiquities, numismatics, military, weaponry and firearms, locks and keys – along with a few smaller collections. The most important collections are those of artefacts from the Temple of Diana at Nemi, local archaeology and numismatics, and locks and keys. There are small but useful collections of Greek pottery and Egyptian grave goods. Local Roman material is poorly represented. There is active research in local archaeology, mediaeval [...]

6.2 NUMISMATICS

6.2.1 History of the Collection

Although treated as a separate topic this collection is closely intertwined with archaeology, social and economic history and military history. Many of the items are important evidence of Nottingham's past. Some of the foreign pieces relate to British colonial history and to ethnography.

The collection was built up by continuous piecemeal acquisition: gifts or purchases of single coins, medals, tokens, jettons and banknotes punctuated by large acquisitions of whole collections, or groups of objects, sometimes hoards or ancient site finds. There were few years when no such acquisitions were made. Coins and allied objects are the subjects of frequent enquiry and gifts.

It is doubtful if there was a deliberate collecting policy before the 1960s, but since then effort has been directed to consolidating the general collections, filling gaps by gift, but concentrating on acquiring key numismatics. These are especially site finds and hoards; silver pennies of the Saxo-Norman Nottingham Mint; local tokens from late 17th century to early 19th century; pub checks and advertisement tickets; local banknotes and medals of local military units, civil organisations and commemoratives. The result is that apart from the great expense of completing a series of known Nottingham Mint pieces, the local tokens and medal collections need relatively few rare pieces to complete them. This was made feasible by the generous early gifts of men like John Toplis, the Nottingham rent collector in the 19th century, Frank Burton, J.P. of Newark, and latterly both gifts and advice from the late Harry Pegg of Beeston, and Ernest Danson of Derby. We should take advantage of this good start to develop these already fine collections. They are the subject of on-going research and cataloguing through generous volunteer work by Grenville Chamberlain of the Nottinghamshire Numismatics Society.

6.2.2 Current Collection

The museum possesses a moderately large collection of coins and tokens (c. 6,000), medals (over 400) with 7 panels of British Museum electrotypes of coins and medals. There is also a small collection of banknotes. These collections have been created by gift, purchase and excavation. The gifts have been miscellaneous with important collections from the Temple of Diana at Nemi near Rome in 1885, which
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included 684 republican roman issues;³ the Clayton Turner Jones collection of 1135 Greek, Roman and British coins; and Oriental issues, mainly Parthian and Indian. Local hoards both Roman and Medieval, and Nottinghamshire tokens form the backbone of the coin collections, as follows:

Roman. Stanford on Soar; Berridge Road, Nottingham; Broxtowe fort; Calverton; Hoveringham; the coins from the excavations at Broughton Lodge, and more hoards from Warsop, Kirkby in Ashfield and Newstead.

Medieval. The Nottingham Find (1880) of 100 pennies of Henry I and Stephen; Attenborough 1966 hoard, Skegby hoard and Saxo-Norman coins from the Nottingham mint (the Burton Collection) as well as individual finds from local excavations.

Nottinghamshire tokens. Ours is possibly the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of these issues: 234 items covering the 17th to early 19th centuries. Only 2 or 3 major types need to be acquired to make this complete except for minor varieties. Better specimens should be acquired by gift if possible.

There is also a small collection of local banknotes including two printing plates.

Noteworthy items

- NCM 1879-70. Clay roman coin moulds from Egypt were the first numismatic accession.
- NCM 1880-9. The Nottingham hoard of 100+ silver pennies of Henry I and Stephen. This important hoard was discovered in 1880 while redeveloping Rose Yard, behind King John's Palace, on Bridlesmith Gate. The hoard may have lain in or near the infilled Saxon ditch. Many of the coins are burnt and their date coincides with the burning of Nottingham by Robert, Earl of Gloucester in 1141. Eleven of our coins were minted in Nottingham.⁴
- NCM 1880-88. John Toplis, a Nottingham rent collector, gave 34 Nottinghamshire 17th century tokens, the beginning of our excellent collection of local tokens.
- NCM 1885-10 to 63. Part of the Andrews collection of Roman and Medieval British coins.
- NCM 1890-895. A large collection of ancient Persian coins, including Greek and Middle Eastern, was part of a larger gift of Persian objects by J. Hornsey Casson, surgeon at Isfahan.
- NCM 1908-203 to 223. Copper tokens.
- NCM 1910-108 to 172. Roman bronze coins from the Berridge Road hoard together with fragments of the pot container.
- NCM 1919-20 to 1135. The donation of 1115 coins of England and the Ancients by Thomas Clayton Turner Jones forms the backbone of the British section of the numismatic collection.
- NCM 1926-12 to 115. The Frank Burton Gift of 103 local tokens and medals.
- NCM 1934-7 to 27. English, Scottish and Irish silver coins and tokens.
- NCM 1934-46 to 55. English silver crowns.
- NCM 1934-65 to 103. English silver, Edward I to Victoria.

³

Mysteries of Diana. The antiquities from Nemi in Nottingham Museums. A.G. MacCormick (ed.), Castle Museum, Nottingham, 1983.

⁴

V. Danson, *British Numismatic Journal* 37: 1968

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- NCM 1934-104 to 117. English and Irish copper.
- NCM 1935-3 to 40. English and Irish copper coins and tokens.
- NCM 1935-65 to 75. English silver coins.
- NCM 1938-100 to 118. German ceramic tokens c. 1920.
- NCM 1948-50 to 101. Nottingham Mint pennies. Frank Burton bequest.
- NCM 1960-242. Part of Roman coin hoard, late 3rd century from Calverton.
- NCM 1963-104 to 111. Anglo-Saxon and Medieval coins from excavations, Stoke Bardolph Manor house.
- NCM 1963-214. 13 Roman coins from hoard no 2, Calverton.
- NCM 1963-215. 32 Roman coins from hoard no 1, Calverton.
- NCM 1968-354 to 360. 7 Medieval gold coins from the Fishpool Hoard.
- NCM 1968-385 to 391. 6 electrotypes of other coins from Fishpool Hoard.
- NCM 1969-103/1-372. Skegby hoard of Edward I silver pennies.
- NCM 1969-147/1-40. 40 silver Medieval coins from Attenborough Hoard.
- HH-X 110/1-219. Warsop hoard of Roman Constantinian *folles*.
- NCM 1991-536/1-29. Kirkby-in-Ashfield hoard Roman silver *denarii*.
- NCM 1994-12. Newstead hoard of c. 2300 late 3rd century roman *antoniniani*.

Medals

In medals, the collection's great strengths are local commemorative or prize issues, built up by individual acquisitions rather than major collections; and the British campaign medals, with one major gift (NCM 1947-277 to 443) of 166 medals down to the Boer War given by Edwin Mellor. More recent campaign issues are represented, together with some gallantry awards to local people, most notably Albert Ball, VC.

Nottingham Banknotes

The collection is small but with good coverage of the Nottingham-based banks, including two printing plates. Most of the acquisitions were made in the 1970s to early 1980s.

6.2.3 Aims and Purpose of the Collection

This is a separate collection field containing elements of the main collections areas of Archaeology, Ethnography, Social History and Military History. Collection aims are covered under those headings.

To be used as evidence of the past, and to illustrate aspects of politics, economics, social and military history, technology and design. Coins and medals can be used in displays and education; as examples for better recognition of public enquiries (by far the most popular enquiry of the Antiquities section); and as research tools for specialists.

6.2.4 General Collecting Policy

The coin collection as a whole is deficient in gold pieces and it is now beyond our means to collect in this field except by gift or very limited purchase of outstanding locally-found examples. The Roman coins are numerous for the imperial period in bronze and with moderate numbers of denarii. Filling gaps in our representation by gifts and by purchase of local hoards is probably the best policy to pursue. The acquisition of hoards retains their archaeological integrity for further study. Most important, and expensive to acquire, are the Nottingham Mint pennies. Examples of

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major types and reigns should be obtained rather than minor die varieties, unless obtainable by gift.

Other collections and individual coins should be accepted as a gift but not purchased unless they are (a) better specimens of those already in the museum, or (b) represent major areas of world coinage not already covered; purchases should be considered if they are of local provenance and add to our knowledge of local sites or numismatics. This should also include the lead tokens and jettons which are partly represented in the collection.

Nottinghamshire medals and military medals and badges: the museum has a good collection of local medals (over 200) and a small but interesting collection of national and international issues. Attempts should be made to complete the known local issues and to add where possible representative pieces of types not adequately covered so far (pub checks and colliery tickets). There are also over 200 military campaign medals and awards which form part of the military collections for which there is a separate statement of policy.

The following tokens are needed to complete the 17th century series:

M&P no.⁵ Description

3 Blyth: Thomas Bucke halfpenny – B.M

39 Newark: Thomas Goddard halfpenny – B.M.

55 Nottingham: Chamberlains halfpenny – B.M.

61 Nottingham: Samuel Blackwell halfpenny – ex Norweb Collection

80 Nottingham: Hugh Farnsworth halfpenny – Manchester Museum

89 Nottingham: Salthyll Groves and George Borzowes halfpenny – ex. Tanenbaum Collection

124 Retford: William Bunbie farthing – Hull Museum

– Anglo-Saxon coins of kings associated with Nottingham

– Mercian Kings and Anglo-Saxon kings; Alfred; Edward the Elder; to Eadgar

– Coins of the Nottingham Mint: particularly the reigns of Harold I, Harthacnut, William II, Henry I and Stephen

6.2.5 Limitations

Numismatic items in good condition are easy to store and take up little space. In the case of excavated examples conservation needs to be carefully considered.

6.2.6 Current sources

Individual items are often brought as enquiries which may become gifts provided right of ownership can be established. Items of doubtful provenance or poor quality, unless of outstanding importance, are politely refused. In one notable case the police were informed, leading to the arrest of a thief. Exceptional items, individuals or hoards, may be purchased, usually with a V&A or NACF grant.

6.2.7 Relationships with other organisations

There are no formal agreements on numismatic collections with other museums. Archaeological collection policy controls the more ancient material and finds from

⁵

Catalogue numbers from *A revised survey of the seventeenth century tokens of Nottinghamshire* by Peter Preston-Morley and Harry Pegg (British Numismatic Society, 1983).

the soil. HM Coroner and the British Museum decide the nature and value of Treasure Trove and we liaise closely with them over legality and significance of coins we hope to acquire or inform them about. Information from public enquiries is also given to them. Information and advice is also sought from the British Numismatic Society and its members. Numismatic items more relevant to neighbouring museums are redirected.

6.2.8 Loans

None.

6.2.9 Specific Collections policy

Numismatics may be used to advantage in any redisplay of the History Gallery, particularly where the later prehistoric and early history of Nottingham is concerned. Acquisition of early Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon coins which better illuminate the period prior to the Roman conquest and reconquest of the Danelaw would be desirable.

6.2.10 Disposals

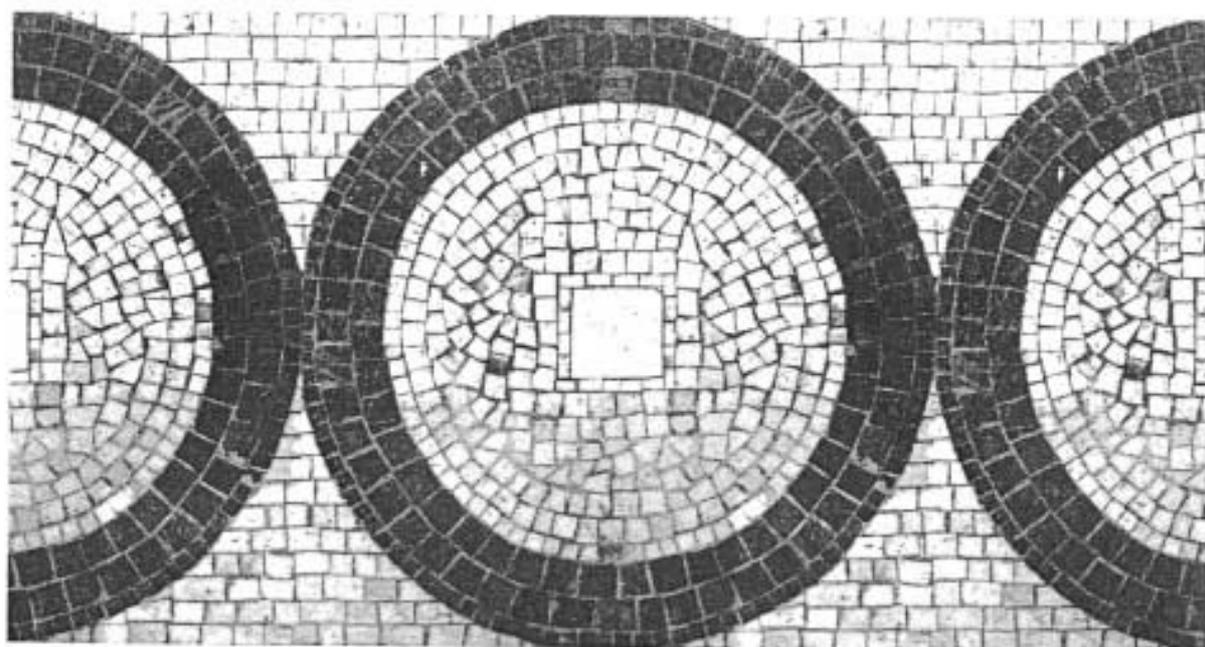
Until many other good examples are received there is no reason for disposals.

6.2.3.

Relevant sections of Leicester City Museums Service : Collections Strategy, Policies and Working Practices 2005

Leicester City
Museums
Service

Collections Strategy, Policies & Working Practices



2005 - 2010

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2 Collections Strategy

2.1 Using collections to serve 21st century Leicester

2.1.1 Leicester's collections provide many opportunities to engage today's citizens with the past and the natural world. They tell the story of the earth beneath Leicester, its natural environment, and people who have lived here since the first settlers came around 6,000 years ago. They reflect the different lives of these people, their beliefs and aspirations, how their communities developed and prospered, and their places as part of the cultures of the Midlands, England, Europe and the world.

2.1.2 They also present challenges. They have been developed over a century and a half, and for most of that time in a slightly haphazard way, continuing to grow, and to outgrow storage space. Information is not easily available, and the unsatisfactory nature of our stores has made items hard to get at. Our collections contain many treasures, but also much material that has not been used to any significant extent.

2.1.3 Despite these problems, it is important that we continue to collect: Museums like Leicester's need to continue to develop their most important collections, in order to meet public expectations of a museum in a major regional centre, and so support the city-centre economy. We also need to continue to tell the story of Leicester as it is evolving, to find new ways to tell the story of Leicester's past that have a resonance with people today, and to be dynamic and responsive to the people we serve.

2.1.4 In order to look after our collections and use them properly, as well as to be able to continue to collect without being overwhelmed by the scale of our holdings, it is essential to review and rationalise them, from time to time, following Accreditation requirements. The new store gives us the opportunity to do this, as does the strategic approach to the region's collections made possible by Renaissance in the Regions.

2.1.5 The following section gives more details about each of our objectives and why they are important, and sets out what we are currently doing to achieve them and our future plans. Cabinet agreed these objectives in 2004 as part of the Heritage Services Best Value Review Improvement Plan. Supporting objectives are also continually developed through our annual Service Improvement Plan.

2.2 To be relevant to and reflective of communities of modern Leicester

2.2.1 This overarching aim informs all of our collections related objectives and so it is explained in detail here.

2.2.2 Our collections already reflect Leicester as it was shaped by its past communities: The Corieltavi, an Iron Age tribe, created the first identifiable settlement over 2000 years ago. Roman occupation lasted from CE 43 (Common era) to around 400. Anglo-Saxons from Europe arrived in the 5th Century and Vikings from Scandinavia in the 9th Century. Norman rule began in 1066. In later centuries Dutch, Irish and French Huguenot workers are recorded. The development of professional classes in the Industrial Revolution meant more and more families moved home within Britain from the 19th Century onwards, including to Leicester. Cheaper labour also moved to Leicester, such as Irish settlers associated with Victorian canal and railway building.

2.2.3 The combined heritage of these people represents what is commonly thought of as "traditional English culture", in particular that of a 19th and 20th century East Midlands county town and industrial centre. Even the service itself is an expression of this culture, reflecting its interests, beliefs and aspirations.

2.2.4 However, our collections are not a comprehensive reflection of Leicester's
Collections Strategy, Policies & Working Practices 2005-10

English cultural inheritance. They do not cover all social classes, or types of people. Our collections strategy prioritises developing collections to fill these gaps. For instance we will seek out objects and oral testimonies reflecting poorer communities, Leicester post-1950, youth cultures, older people and those with disabilities. It is vital that our collecting reflects changes in the natural environment and biodiversity, and objects relating to other modern concerns, such as healthy living and education. Developing our collections in such ways will help to make them more interesting to and reflective of most people in Leicester, help us to convey important messages about the modern world, and support the local economy.

2.2.5 We also need to better reflect demographic change in Leicester over the last 50 years. The pace of change quickened because of Leicester's prosperity, cheap housing, and nature of industry. Good community relations and existing communities also encourage people to come. Jewish refugees arrived from around 1900. Other Eastern European refugees came after World War II together with African-Caribbeans and Punjabi Sikhs. Asians from Pakistan, Gujarat and Kenya came in the 1960s followed in 1972 by Ugandan Asian refugees. From the 1990s Kosovan, Sudanese, Somalian and other communities arrived. Today 38% of Leicester's population is from black and ethnic minority communities, and this percentage is expected to rise.

2.2.6 To support social cohesion today, and ensure the service is widely used and appreciated by Leicester residents in the future, our challenge is to:

- Ensure that our users who live in Leicester reflect its demographic breakdown.

- Meet the cultural needs of communities within this 38%, as well as the remaining 62%

- Promote social cohesion by enabling communities to develop better understanding of each other and a sense of shared heritage, local pride and cultural identity

- Increase satisfaction levels amongst Leicester residents from all communities who are both users and non-users of our service

2.2.7 For further details of the way in which we will collect to reflect this aim, see Part 6: Descriptions of Collections and areas for development and disposal.

6.6 Archaeology

6.6.1 Description of collections

The collection covers the Old Stone Age through to the end of the Middle Ages, primarily from Leicester, with some comparative material. Since the 1960s, most additions have been the result of fieldwork and excavation. Collecting is now almost entirely carried out as a result of archaeological intervention in the planning process. The Ancient Egyptian collection includes important items such as the mummies.

6.6.2 Overall significance of collections

Regional. Although neighbouring counties all have archaeological collections, the combination of a modern, purpose-built museum devoted entirely to Archaeology, on a Roman site of national importance within a significant Roman settlement gives the collections a wide significance.

6.6.3 Significant discrete collections

Local:

Type series of Roman, Saxon and Medieval coinage.

Hoards of coins or samples from hoards, of Roman and Medieval date

Regional:

Ancient Egyptian collection

Raw Dykes ancient monument

The Glen Parva Lady (Anglo Saxon burial)

Wygston's House painted window glass

National:

The Jewry Wall and Baths site

Mosaic pavements and wall paintings excavated in Leicester

Roman items e.g. milestone, and writing tablet inscribed to a gladiator

6.6.4 Areas in which we will develop the collections

Outstanding items reflecting Leicester life pre-1500

6.8 Social History

6.8.1 Description of collections

The collections span c.1500 to the present day. They reflect corporate and social life, working and domestic life in Leicester. The museum cares for the collections of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, which is a registered museum in its own right and its collections are described in detail elsewhere.

6.8.2 Overall significance of collections

Mostly local, but some collections, such as Numismatics, and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment's material, are of regional significance.

6.8.3 Significant discrete collections

Local significance:

Personal memorabilia

Civic life

Childhood

Regional significance:

Sanitary ware

Folk art

Local military collections

Daniel Lambert collection

Numismatics

National significance:

Joe Orton's life mask

Leicester-made clock, watch and barometer collections

Folk art

Mapp collection of tokens

Coin hoard from Cheapside (Leicester)

6.8.4 Areas in which we will develop the collections

Items reflecting modern Leicester, especially since 1950

Military items that help give a balance between elite objects and items reflecting the lives of ordinary soldiers and the victims of war.

Examples of exploitation of people and/or the natural world and associated political issues

Hosiery equipment

Modern office- and service- based local industries, e.g. banking, food, catering, retail and creative, which fit better with Social History than Industrial collections

6.2.4.

**Lincolnshire County Council, Communities, Culture and Adult Education Department :
Collections Policy 2008**

**COMMUNITIES
CULTURE AND ADULT EDUCATION
COLLECTIONS POLICY**

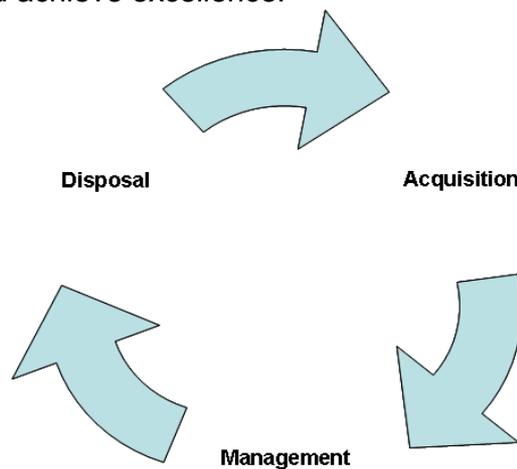
Approved by Executive Decision Number 1338, 12 December 2008

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for the development and care of the collections owned and managed by Lincolnshire County Council Culture and Adult Education through the network of cultural sites.
- 1.2 The policy aims to enable staff to develop collections across Heritage, Libraries and Archives in a holistic, ambitious and professional manner and to put customers at the heart of collections development.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Lincolnshire County Council Culture and Adult Education manages 6 museums; 48 static libraries; 16 Mobile libraries; Lincolnshire Archives; as well as Lincoln Castle and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre
- 2.2 The collections housed at these sites are the assets that make Cultural Services unique. The care and development of these collections is at the core of what Cultural Services does and this policy serves to establish a foundation for this work. The policy represents a fundamental change in approach to collections development and reflects the organisational change that has brought collections managers from the library, museum and archive professions together.
- 2.3 At the core of Collections policy is the Collections Life-Cycle model (see below). This model will be adopted as a basis for more focussed policies, strategies, operational procedures, action planning and performance management. The model emphasises the need to look at each living stage of the cycle in order to deliver efficient, effective, accessible, responsive and relevant collections, develop opportunities and achieve excellence.



2.4 The collections framework under development to deliver this model will have three parts:

6. Policy - setting out the core structure, principles and outcomes
7. Operational procedures - detailing how the policy will be implemented
8. Strategy and Planning – which will set out how officers will deliver the Policy and Procedures and monitor progress.

2.5 The key outcomes sought are:

2.5.1 Inspire and encourage greater engagement and participation in cultural activity

2.5.2 Help more people to enjoy cultural activity and be proud of Lincolnshire's collections

2.5.3 Raise awareness of collections and celebrate 'hidden treasures'

2.5.4 Increase access to cultural activity; especially through exploring the potential application of IT

2.5.5. Expand opportunities for learning, achievement and improving skills - supporting economic sustainability

2.5.6 Better promote Lincolnshire as one of England's most exciting, diverse and culturally innovative counties

2.5.7 Help more people to help themselves and lead a healthier, safer lifestyle

2.5.8 Increase connectivity through access to collections

2.5.9 Safeguard and enhance people's sense of identity and place - promoting social cohesion

2.5.10 Raise awareness of the full potential use of collections by the public

2.6 A number of these outcomes are closely based on material from: Collections for the Future (Museums Association 2005); Code of Ethics for Museums (Museums Association, 2008); Outcomes Framework for Museums Libraries and Archives (Museums Libraries and Archives Council, 2008)

2.7 Key legal and strategic documents which influence Collections development and care in the cultural sector are:

Museums

7.

- Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964
- Local Government Act 1972 (Sections 224 -229)
- The Treasure Act (England, Wales, & Northern Ireland) 1996 & Bona Vacantia (Scotland).
- Institute of Conservation: Code of Ethics/Rules of Practice Date?

Collections Policy Draft v 4 Decision Number 1338 12.12.2008

- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council: Museum Accreditation Scheme 2004
- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council: Benchmarks in Collection Care for Museums, Archives and Libraries 2002
- Museums Association: Code of Ethics 2007

Libraries

- Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964
- Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964
- Framework for the Future – the government's vision for public libraries for the next decade 2003

Archives

- Local Government Act 1972 (Sections 224 -229)
- The Treasure Act (England, Wales, & Northern Ireland) 1996 & Bona Vacantia (Scotland)
- Public Records Act 1958 and 1967
- Local Government Records Act 1972
- Parochial Registers and Record Measure 1978 and 1991
- Manorial Documents Rules (1959) and Manorial Documents (Amendment) Rules 1963 and 1967
- Tithe Act 1936
- Tithe (Copies of Instruments of Appointment) Rules 1960 and 1963 (Amendments)
- Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom 2002 (Third edition)
- Standards for Record Repositories 2004
- Museums Association: Code of Ethics 2007

2.7 Evidence in developing the policy has also been gathered from the following local strategic drivers:

- Lincolnshire County Council's LEADS Agenda 2005
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 (draft documents)
- Lincolnshire's Local Area Agreement date?
- Lincolnshire's Fundamental Library Review 2007
- Heritage Service Accreditation Action Plans dates
- Lincolnshire County Council's Archives Self Assessment 2008

2.8 The policy will be reviewed in the light of key national and local changes to the above documents.

2.9 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on this document.

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 Cultural collections enrich people's lives; they provide a pathway to accessing the past, engaging with the present and transforming the future. Collections are what bring people into cultural sites, without them the service would not be fit for purpose and would not meet customer needs. This policy aims to enable staff to develop collections across Heritage, Libraries and Archives in a holistic, ambitious and professional manner and to put customers at the heart of collections development.

4.0 POLICY PRINCIPLES

4.1

The core principles that Lincolnshire County Council Culture and Adult Education will apply when developing collections are to:

4.1.1

Develop collections which are responsive to people's needs, priorities and aspirations – engaging directly with communities and stakeholders

4.1.2

Develop collections on a county wide basis which reflect and champion the diverse and changing communities of Lincolnshire

4.1.3

Provide inspirational collections which bring people into sites, deliver connectivity and help improve quality of life

4.1.4

Monitor and manage collections so that they underpin improved performance across Cultural Services and have a clear focus on delivering outcomes

4.1.5

Clearly set out, efficiently develop and effectively manage collections across the county to provide value for money

4.1.6

Raise awareness of the local, regional, national and international significance of the collections

4.1.7

Provide, promote and increase access to all collections, especially through the use of IT

4.1.8

Ensure collections support learning, education and personal development

4.1.9

Work in partnership where this adds value to the collections provided

4.1.10

Use local, regional & national best practice in the development of collections

4.1.11

Strengthen and champion the central role of collections in our Heritage sites, Libraries and Archives

4.1.12

Ensure that the grant aid policies and strategies incorporate the six strands of the equality standard for the Local Government (IDeA) 2007: religion and belief, gender, sexual orientation, faith, age and disability.

Collections Policy Draft v 4 Decision Number 1338 12.12.2008

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Assistant Director Culture & Adult Education

- Apply the principles of the policy when formulating the Service Plan.

5.2 Heads of Service

- Ensure linkages are made with current Local Area Agreements.
- Ensure that staff across the branch are aware of and comply with this policy.
- Monitor and measure the impact of the policy against outcomes set in the collections Policy: Cultural Services.

5.3 Tier 5 Managers

- Ensure that staff across the Division are aware of and comply with this policy.
- Complete an Equality Impact Assessment of this policy.
- Provide information to enable Heads of Service to monitor and measure the impact of the policy against outcomes set in the collections Policy: Cultural Services.
- Apply the principles of the policy when writing service plans.

5.4 Culture and Adult Education Staff

- Actively employ the principles of the policy.
- Be aware of the policy, and the impact it has on their day-to-day work.

5.5 Elected Members

6. Review and set the policy every three years.

6.0 MONITORING

- 6.1 The impact of this policy will be monitored by officers through:
 5. The evaluation of individual services and projects.

The annual self assessment/improvement tool for Culture and Adult Education, which feeds into the annual Cultural and Adult Education Service Plan.

Delivery of action plans

7.0 REVIEW DATE FOR THIS POLICY

- 7.1 This policy will be reviewed by 31 March 2012.

6.3 Schedule of Site Visits

Schedule of Site Visits Undertaken as part of Research

| | |
|------------|---|
| 18/02/2010 | Nottingham University Museum |
| 05/03/2010 | British Museum, London |
| 17/03/2010 | Ashmolean Museum, Oxford |
| 20/03/2010 | Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge |
| 17/05/2010 | Derby – Derby Museum and Art Gallery; The Silk Mill (Derby's Museum of Industry and History); Pickford's House Museum |
| 01/06/2010 | Nottingham – Nottingham Castle Museum; Brewhouse Yard Museum of Nottinghamshire Life |
| 02/06/2010 | Lincoln – Museum of Lincolnshire Life; The Collection (Art and Archaeology in Lincoln) |
| 03/07/2010 | Leicester – New Walk Museum; Newarke Houses |
| 01/07/2010 | Leicester – Jewry Wall Museum Harborough Museum, Market Harborough |
| 14/07/2010 | Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Coventry |

6.4 Interview Prompt Questions

Interview Prompt Questions

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is x size. Would you say that's quite accurate?

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

Where is the collection stored?

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

any staff I should contact

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

any staff I should contact

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

When were these publications produced?

To complement these factual details, I'd be very interested to ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Finally, can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

6.5 Interview Notes (arranged alphabetically by surname of interviewee)

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.1800 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

No, there are considerably more items

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

No – PAS training only

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

Not sure – not specified in job description (of Keeper of Archaeology)

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

As for Mike's interview

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Of that which is on MODES, c.1/3 is comprehensively catalogued? (NB – where is the extra database?!)

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

None at the moment

- Where is the collection stored?

As for Mike's interview

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

- How much of the collection is on display?

- permanent display

R coins; couple of PM coins; treasure – still awaiting secure case

- temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

Codnor; Derby mint

- any staff I should contact

- How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

Roman coins used for handling at R days; Derby mint coins for Viking day; BPC event; R uses for handling (not part of learning team events)

- any staff I should contact

- Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the

public?

No – very few

- Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Gareth Williams – Tutbury hoard (c. 5 yrs ago); Pat Davis – trade tokens; Tom Gill dissertation on Derby mint coins. No others in last 5 years

- Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

- Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

Site reports include coins from excavation; D mint coins in syllogue. None digital

- When were these publications produced (approx)?

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

Should be; Some important items which are not used very often – should be used more

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

No. Rachel not know what is there due to poor documentation so most other staff have no idea. Why have we got some of these things?! Prob. Artificial distinction numismatics, archaeology, social history...

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Small, difficult to display; lack of knowledge; arch coins often in bad condition; security – actual or perceived monetary value

Great potential, esp for learning – people are very interested

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

Hallaton hoard at Market Harborough – different display options.

Jorvik?

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.27,000 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

Yes, pretty much. Collection mainly made up of the Mapp collection (donated 1955) of world coins – mostly imperial British. Also a fairly complete British sequence, 17th century tokens etc. Archaeological coins considered 'archaeology' not 'numismatics'.

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

Not in City anymore. Yolanda has knowledge but doesn't specifically work with collections now. Wendy has PAS knowledge.

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

City – Philip & Laura. County – each museum has responsibility for its own collection. At disaggregation the main collection went to the city. Hoards stayed with their provenance. Current archaeological work all being deposited at Barrow.

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

See above

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Yolanda had some funding to get all the numismatics onto the database (pre-Mimsy) before disaggregation in 1997. She would have liked to do it more comprehensively but at least it was all done.

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

Julia Farley – Leics Uni PhD student studying metal content of IA & R coins

- Where is the collection stored?

As per Dean discussion; archaeology (inc coins) stored at Barrow

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

City – virtually none. County – basically just Hallaton treasure at Harborough

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

Displays with PAS input e.g. Vikings in Leicester which borrowed a hoard from the Fitzwilliam to supplement local collection or displays of detectorist finds recently acquired.

any staff I should contact

Helen re visitor evaluation of display techniques at Harborough

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

Wendy – handling collection of R coins etc. ‘Meet the Emperors’ panel with coin images; Helen Sharpe is including coins in the resource boxes she is creating for the S-E Leicestershire treasure.

any staff I should contact

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?

Many identification queries. Very few queries about the actual collection

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Quite a lot of research done but mostly inspired by personal contacts with Yolanda. Mostly supplementary cataloguing for wider cataloguing projects.

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

Hallaton treasure digitised but not yet publicly available. Parts of collection included in wider catalogues & publications e.g. on specific types of tokens. Yolanda will send me a bibliography

When were these publications produced (approx)?

To finish, I’d like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service’s collection?

Yolanda feels that numismatic collections have always been marginal in local museums. The collections are not large or important or special enough to justify dedicated staff or dedicated expression and this was certainly the case even before she came into museums.

She points out that there used to be a collecting policy specifically for numismatics. When did this go?

Both feel that it is a real shame that the collections are not used more as there is such potential which is currently being almost totally ignored.

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

Wendy says “Doc” (? Who is this?) doesn’t see the point of having a coin collection for the sake of it. He therefore is loath to acquire new coins.

Yolanda confirms that the lack of expertise does lead to a lack of understanding amongst other staff.

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Coins are small and difficult to use. Requires effort to make them effective. Display techniques all have problems. Also there is an intrinsic market value to the collection which not only leads to security issues but also make acquisition difficult.

However, there is great public interest in coins and it is a good 'way in' to collecting and history as it's quite easy to personally own an old coin (either to find or buy it). Also a good hobby for people with mobility difficulties.

Hoards are easier to interpret as they tell a story (also similar for local tokens and for medals)

Coins needs to be put into context. Numismatic collections need to be integrated.

Wendy "coins need to be reintroduced to curators"!

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

Numismatic museum at Copenhagen

National Museum of Archaeology (or similar!) in Italy – huge vault of coins v. impressive; also stratigraphic display; large magnifying glasses (not working when Wendy was there!)

Coin rubbings

Coins are not currently used in many exhibitions, partly because they are not brought to the attention of the exhibitions team during planning. The new procedures for exhibition planning will allow greater opportunity for this to happen.

They have a lot of potential

The display of coins is of interest to visitors because they can tell us a lot about:
history;

fashion (hairstyles for example);

styles of representation (ie the way heads are shown and how this changes and becomes more 'realistic' rather than 'stylistic');

they give a 'snapshot' of what was happening at that particular time in history;

they are also interesting in terms of where they were found, and what condition they were in when found/how they were 'hidden' or 'stored' (like the recent horde which was in many layers)

Interactives are effective and there are a number of coin-based interactive ideas around.

In terms of actually displaying coins themselves:

Hang in a perspex sheet vertically in a case so visitors can see both sides of the coins (they do this successfully at Norwich Castle);

Arrange the coins to spell out a relevant word like 'King';

Cover a pertinent object with coins (eg a 'gold cup' to show wealth, a sword to show military importance; a 'crown' to represent royalty);

display a coin with a large photograph behind it to show it in more detail (like the Staffordshire horde pieces are shown);

arrange coins in a repeated pattern to show as densely as possible (eg in transitional spaces)

The artist Cornelia Parker made a really powerful piece with silver coins which referred back to Judas' betrayal of Christ. This was the 30 odd pieces of silver coins hanging on thin (virtually invisible) wires from a grid. The coins are all suspended at about ankle height; Louise described this as an amazing piece of work which she saw at Norwich Castle a few years ago

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.27,000. Would you say that's quite accurate?

Some may not be accessioned – examples from 1951 accession register. (Are they still in collection?)

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

Philip French – social history; Laura Hadland - archaeology

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'

Mimsy – subject 'numismatics' (code N) or subject 'social history' (code H) or subject 'archaeology' (code A). Since 1996 no new records created with 'N'. c.24 new coins recorded, under code 'H'. (Military is not a separate subject – part of social history)

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Considered to be a well documented collections area. Yolanda employed someone to accession, but much done in quite a rush. Not especially comprehensive but is at least mostly there!

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

- Where is the collection stored?

Most in a strongroom at Newarke Houses, archaeology mostly at Jewry Wall

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

Per Mimsy c.4 coins at Newarke Houses & a similar number at Jewry Wall!

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

any staff I should contact

Interview with: Philip French

Date: 27/8/2010 (by telephone)

[some factual questions not asked as information already provided in earlier interviews]

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is x size. Would you say that's quite accurate?

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?
- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?
- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?
- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?
- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?
- Where is the collection stored?

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

Very little is on display since the refurbishment in 2005. There was previously a coin gallery but, while this got some attention from specialists it wasn't very popular with the public.

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

Possibly odd objects used but none spring to mind. However, there is a current plan for a display at New Walk entitled "Animal Stories" and if they want some more objects to fill the display, there are many examples of coins with birds and animals on.

Additionally, numismatics have sometimes been loaned out to other institutions for their displays, for example a couple of medallions were loaned to the county museums service for their slavery exhibition a few years ago [presumably this was 2007 for the 200th anniversary of the 1807 Abolition of Slavery Act]

any staff I should contact

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

There are some old pennies in the handling collection which are sometimes used for

reminiscence events but in general Philip would not usually use actual collection objects for events.

any staff I should contact

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?
Still get a few identification enquiries but enquiries about the reserve collections in general have dropped off significantly since the rise of the internet.

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Very few. Total enquiries, including public IDs and academic queries probably number 3 or 4 per year.

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

Mapp collection published in 1970s. Not otherwise

When were these publications produced (approx)?

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

The fashion within the profession is now more towards objects which boost narratives and can be used to tell a story and coin displays don't do that, hence the removal of the coin gallery at the redisplay in 2005. Numismatics are more important in early history where there are fewer objects to display.

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

[no clear answer on this point]

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

The collection doesn't get much use but, to be honest, many of the reserve collections don't get much use. Some other collections may be more likely to be used, especially for loans to other institutions. The locally significant coins will probably not be of interest to other organisations and the general collection is likely to be very similar to that already held by the organisation.

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

The National Museum of Ireland had an exhibition entitled "Gold" which was incredibly popular. People love shiny things!

Interview with: Mike Galer

Date: 20/5/2010

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.1700 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

Seems a bit low!

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

No staff, no training (except those with PAS training)

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

Split – archaeological coin Rachel, non-archaeological coins Mike. Military medals Mike

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

Coins – numismatics (NB – check excavation coins); Medals split – “military” and “numismatics”; bank notes “numismatics”; tokens etc “social history”? “industry”?

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Military medals well documented – easy to find info, often have supporting info & documentation when acquired. Rest of collection – not much!

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

V. little – as part of CAA work (not priority); 9/12L – offer of voluntary work being investigated

- Where is the collection stored?

Military medals in gun store; most coins in sensitive store, others dotted about!

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

Small percentage. Medals in Soldiers' Story (NB the regiments want more medals on display e.g. in traditional medal cabinets. However public consultation indicated that people aren't interested in seeing rows of duplicate medals therefore went for interactive map instead – context. Stories, not just objects). A few in BPC room – old fashioned interp.; few in Origins; one or two at Mill?

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

Temporary archaeological displays – e.g. Derby mint coins; R coins (at moment); Codnor coin in Jo Wright gallery; Devotion inc some military medals

any staff I should contact

Mark re tokens?

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

Some tokens in miniature museum; some money in WWII handling pack

any staff I should contact

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?

ID enquiries down at moment (palmed off on library!) Highest proportion are interested in own relative's medals

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

No research requests last few years.

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

None digital; Possibly ancient paper catalogues but not known?

When were these publications produced (approx)?

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

No, not really, coz mostly general national issues (except Derby mint); local stuff more interest and relevance e.g. Derby tokens – can tell more stories. These should be used more. Generic stuff hard to use.

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

No. Not enough documentation. Digitisation may assist.

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Military – high interest, personal family history –lots of easily accessible info. Context built in.

Potential security risk – small

Difficult to read & to display

Resource-intensive to improve documentation etc.

Enquirers often have a different agenda- interested in value no info.

Inherent dullness of colour – display problem “could say inherently dull”! Traditional displays – people switch off

Fakes interesting
Human context - story

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

BM – handling

St Albans (Verulamium) camera on computer monitor, can move around – view on screen

Big pictures too

Interview with: Laura Hadland

Date: 1/7/2010

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection contains c.27,000 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

Yes

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

As earlier interviews

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

Laura is responsible for all archaeological coins (those collected through excavation). There is no active collection of numismatics except through excavation.

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

As earlier interviews

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Archaeological coins are only comprehensively documented in excavation reports, not on Mimsy. Many do not even have individual records on Mimsy (therefore wouldn't come up in a search).

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

Not directly

- Where is the collection stored?

Dedicated secure coin store at Newarke Houses. This is monitored and is a stable environment, though it is not actively controlled at the moment.

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

Very little – that which was on display at Jewry Wall was repeatedly stolen as security is low. 1 coin in interactive area. c.6 on display in period cases.

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

None. There is potential but it hasn't happened in recent years.

any staff I should contact

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

It's not

any staff I should contact

[contact already made through Dean]

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?

The odd public enquiry, mostly for IDs. Enquiries split between Laura and PAS.

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Very few

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

Occasional articles include items from collection. Articles in local news. Bob Rutland catalogued non-arch. numismatic collection so on Mimsy, but not actually published, either on paper or digitally.

When were these publications produced (approx)?

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

Numismatics are not a priority collection within the holdings of the service. The general issues especially are not particularly useful. There are some nice Leicester mint coins which should be made more of.

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

Philip and Laura know and understand the collection. Philip does make use of it. Much of it is accessible on Mimsy so staff don't always have to come to them if they want to know about it. [NB – earlier Laura mentioned that the archaeological coins aren't actually on Mimsy. Also, how likely is it that other staff will think about numismatics if the info isn't easily and readily available? Finally, this also implies that other staff don't really understand the collection since Laura admits that they would need to come to her or Philip to get info about it.]

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Security is a problem e.g. coins previously stolen from Jewry Wall. No secure cases (and no financial commitment to improving facilities at the site [There is an undercurrent of concern that the site is maybe being run down]). There would have to be a big commitment of financial and staff resources to change the current displays and the service has to prioritise in these circumstances – with all the other work which is needed at the moment, numismatics are just not a high priority.

Some of the collection could be very useful, especially the Leicester-produced material and the Saxon collection, but the general issues and foreign coins are less useful.

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

The Fitzwilliam has brilliant searchable online catalogues, such as the EMC.

Discussion with: Louise Hilland
7/5/2010

Date:

Coin collection not used at all in formal learning activities, except a handful of replica Roman coins used as props during re-enactment (not specifically studied or described). Very occasionally used in informal sessions, e.g. for handling at Roman Day and commemorative medals displayed for discussion at Bonnie Prince Charlie event.

Reasons:

The learning team has limited access to information about the collection. (Only just got access to MODES.) State of documentation is important here too.

Not a priority area for the team so don't have the resources to research what's available. There are no specialist staff to highlight parts of the collection, suggest uses and provide information.

Coins "can be a bit boring". Need to handle them as they become inaccessible behind glass. Can't easily see both sides when displayed. The most interesting items are often the most precious and therefore the least accessible as can't handle for security reasons. *Coins are not easy to work with*

Traditionally this is a more academic subject. Traditional displays are overwhelming (lots of coins in rows) and public switch off quickly. It takes effort to find the actual interesting coins.

Coins need to be part of a bigger context – not interpreted as coins but telling human stories. People love the stories of coins – burial of hoards, criminal act of coin clipping, discovery of treasure. Can use money as a frame of reference for other object – concept of 'worth'.

Can see potential – e.g. folklore, images of gods etc.

Could use coin collections for numeracy. Coin rubbings – enlarged replicas.

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.10,000 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

About right

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

Ann has some knowledge learnt on the job. Gren is main expert – volunteer

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

Ann

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'
"numismatica" is a separate classification. Includes medals as a sub-set of numismatics. Coins from excavation are extracted into the numismatic collection.

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?
Most of it! ID'd to type series (except Persian coins. Also national medals for which there isn't a type series). Gren has done most of documentation.

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?
Gren ongoing!

- Where is the collection stored?

Most imp (hoards, Nottm mint, dies & coin matrices) in strongroom for security & ease of access. Others in printroom. No environmental controls.

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

Small fraction in Story of Nottm gallery. SF gallery all belong to the regiment (rotated biannually). Attendants medals in BY

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

Some added to touring Hallaton Hoard display; Fishpool hoard – 4 originals + electrotypes; displayed electrotype BM medals & some original material for FBA – Nottm items; Gren loaned some items for display at BY; Nottm art medal was in 125 display; Will be 2 hoards included in R.Trent display

any staff I should contact

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

1 session for "Time Travellers" (Tues p.m. summer hols); bring trays out for behind the

scenes tours; learning team not got any numismatics in their handling collections etc.

any staff I should contact

Jo Kemp

Louise Lowth re Access Artefacts

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?
ID enquiries – not often but quite regular. Usually ask to come in when Gren here! FBA event v. popular & does generate enquiries. Usually quite unusual items e.g. coins made into brooches, political manipulations

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

The odd one e.g. Leics Uni – war medals; Gren's research; c.5-10 per year. Mostly 'blind' enquiries

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

No digital as yet – imminent; BM publish all but Newstead hoard; Nemi material published; tokens published; Nottm pennies in syllogues; Gren etc – odd items to support catalogues.

When were these publications produced (approx)?

Ongoing

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

Ann understand importance

(although it seems to me that most of the focus is behind the scenes – on research and documentation – mostly numismatic importance rather than the importance & usefulness to wider museum aims & general museum audience.)

Some other staff understand that the collection is important but this may be mostly coz it was valued for insurance purposes recently & has a high monetary value

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

Gren has excellent understanding, Ann's is almost as good. The good documentation means other staff can find info on the d'b, don't always have to ask Ann.

Ann will look for items for other staff's displays. She feels other staff could do with considering coins more when planning exh & displays – the info is available to them if they need it.

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Gren: Most people in museums think numismatics difficult to display as small, often low quality. Can only show one side. Need specialist equipment to include them in displays.

Takes lots of work to include in display – need to examine each coin & maybe get special mounts.

Security

Easy to drop, esp if wearing gloves

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

Ann: Bedford – hoard in trays, moveable camera with link to TV screen. Also blank trays so can examine own coins etc in same way – compare.

Gren: Could use photo of reverse. BM coin gallery good coz inc. accoutrements with coins.
Handling.

Interview with: Antony Lee

Date: 7/6/2010

Your documentation database suggests that the numismatic collection is c.25,000 items. Would you say that's quite accurate?

Yes.

Almost all the numismatics collection is now housed at The Collection, there are very few items still part of other museums' collections. Those that are elsewhere are mostly local social history items (e.g. tokens) and are few in number. The military medals & most of the commemorative medals are at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life

I'd like to know about the administration of the collection.

- Do you have any specialist numismatic staff?

No. Numismatics d/w by the general archaeological curator or by social history curators at other sites. Antony has a personal interest in numis.

- Who is nominally responsible for the collection?

As above

- How is the collection classified? e.g. as 'numismatics' or as 'archaeology'?

Almost all coins classified as "numismatics" except those which are part of excavation archives, which are "archaeology". Military items are "regimental", commemorative medals & tokens are "social history"

- How much of the collection would you say was comprehensively documented?

Each museum has separate database but all working to the same procedural manual so there should eventually be consistency! Theoretically there are cross-county curators (and collections) but in practice the separate sites do remain separate. At The Collection virtually all the coins are on MODES with at least some details – mostly numismatic details – as they employed someone in the 1990s specifically to catalogue them.

- Is there any current work being done on the documentation or care of this collection?

Antony is currently rearranging the R coins in store. There are also some volunteers working on greater levels of documentation.

- Where is the collection stored?

The EM & Med collections are stored in wooden trays & cabinets. The R collection is stored in metal filing cabinets in paper wrappers. There was a discreet strongroom in the Usher gallery (which is being refurbished). They are currently in the art store. The store is monitored & controlled but set for art-friendly environment.

Now I'd like to get some information about the use of the collection

How much of the collection is on display?

permanent display

c.100 objects (The previous coin gallery had c.500 objects but displayed more traditionally)

temporary displays (e.g. in the last 5 years)

None, although it should be pointed out that temporary displays at The Collection very rarely use the service's own collection, they are almost always external displays.

any staff I should contact

How often is the collection used for learning activities & events?

There is quite a strong numismatic presence in the handling collection and this is used as part of workshops for schools & the YACs. Also in loans boxes.

any staff I should contact

Do you get many numismatic enquiries or enquiries about the collection from the public?

Most enquiries are for identification.

Do you get research requests for use of the numismatic collection? If so, how common are these? (figures?)

Sam & Roger have been recently to work on the collection. Another researcher was looking at specific Type 14 Med pennies. Antony estimates c.1 academic request per year.

Has the frequency of these requests changed over time?

Is any of the collection published, either on paper or digitally?

Not much recently. Historically, included in syllogues, hoards published (independently or as part of catalogues).

There is an online catalogue but it is fairly arbitrary in what it includes – records which had photos when it was uploaded. Many records just have photo & very little other info. In process of creating new “cultural gateway” & upgrading online content

When were these publications produced (approx)?

Paper – 1950s-1980s. Online – recent.

To finish, I'd like to just ask what your personal feelings are about the collection.

Do you feel that numismatics are an important and useful part of your museum service's collection?

Antony has personal interest so obviously understands the importance & usefulness of the numismatic collection. Is a little frustrated by its lack of use. “Coins can be an attractive & interesting part of archaeological collections”

Would you say that the collection was well understood by yourself and other staff?

No – most staff don't know much about the collection, couldn't ID strengths of collection etc. Info quite difficult to access – would have to look at individual coins to see what was useful

& what not – the raw data are there but staff don't have the knowledge to extract those data. There is no general info available for staff.

Coins are not on the radar as populist items in the minds of education & exhibitions staff.

Do you feel that the collection is well used? Are there limitations to this particular type of collection which you feel affect its use?

Difficult to display. Small & need to turn in light to properly view. Difficult to interpret – need lots of interpretation e.g. translate & expand abbreviations etc. Therefore takes time & effort. Lack of access to information big stumbling block. "Casualty of dumbing down of museums".

Can you think of any examples of good practice for using numismatic collections which you've seen elsewhere?

Coin gallery at the Vatican – moving magnifiers. Digital displays can be innovative.

6.6 Pertinent Email Correspondence (arranged alphabetically by surname of respondent)

From: Sara Basquill [<mailto:Sara.Basquill@lincolnshire.gov.uk>]
Sent: Thu 09/09/2010 2:49 PM
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: RE: Numismatics in your social history collection

Hi Anja,

I've had a walk around the museum (it's amazing how you become 'blind' to what's on display when you've worked in the same place for several years!) and, if you are counting commemorative medals as numismatics, the only other items I noticed were two Methodist medals displayed in the religion display in the upper galleries.

We have not had a temporary exhibition gallery for five years now and so no longer put on temporary displays (the temporary gallery is now our education room), but we do have a community gallery (the Gatehouse Gallery - it may have had a Girl Guide exhibition on when you visited) which is hired out to community groups, schools, individuals etc. for them to put their own exhibitions on - I can't remember any numismatic material being on display, apart from a WW1 exhibition which included medals.

In education sessions ration books are used in the WW1 and WW2 education sessions - clothing and fake food is used and given a 'value' and the children are asked to work out how many tokens each item costs and would they choose to buy a really nice coat or several shirts for the same value of tokens, look what a small piece of bacon you get for a week's worth of meat tokens etc. Victorian pennies are also used in the Victorian schoolroom (where children experience a Victorian classroom session with a member of staff in costume as the teacher) - each child is given a real Victorian penny to hand to the teacher as payment for their education. On an interesting note we sell real and replica pre-decimal money in the museum shop (not sure on the ethics of selling real historic material in a museum shop!) and also replica military medals.

As regards enquiries I have a couple of times in the last 8 years been asked by other museums (usually within the LCC service) if we have pre-decimal money that could be borrowed for use in a loans box or for an event/education session. I have also been asked several times about the trade medals on display in the reception area, which you noted during your

visit, e.g. what is their history, where have come from and more usually can we provide a photograph of them for a publication. I am sure you know Caroline through your REM work - Caroline is the Collections Officer for the military collections and she will be able to answer any questions you may have about military medals, death pennies etc. and the enquiries she receives - I think Paul has given you her contact details. Antony Lee is the Collections Officer who also has special responsibility for numismatic collections across the service - he now also works for REM part time, so if you don't have his details let me know.

I do think the numismatic collection is an important part of social history collections and works well in education sessions - I think the displays at MLL proportionally represent the size of our collection and its importance.

I hope this is useful information for you - if I can help further please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes,

Sara

Sara Basquill
Collections Officer (Social History)
Culture & Adult Education
Lincolnshire County Council
Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Gainsborough Old Hall & Church Farm Museum
Burton Road
Lincoln
LN1 3LY

Ann Coyne

Hello Anja

Jo has passed your request for information on to me, I'm sorry it has taken a few days to reply but I've been working off site leading a summer school at Wollaton and this is my first chance to reply.

We do use some coins in our Romans sessions for schools. It is a difficult judgement call; obviously we prefer to use genuine artefacts but these coins are so small and so desirable that security becomes a problem. With a class of 30 plus children led by one freelancer it can seem too risky to have these precious coins on show and therefore we often use replica instead.

However when we can use them safely we do as it's such a fantastic experience for the children to look at, or maybe even get to hold, something which is so old and so precious.

Hope this helps a little. If you think I can help any more please do call me on the number below.

Best wishes

Ann Coyne

Schools Programmes Officer

Nottingham City Museums and Galleries

0115 9153693

From: Doty, Richard [<mailto:dotyr@si.edu>]

Sent: 08 March 2010 15:12

To: Rohde, Anja

Subject: RE: Here I am

Dear Anja,

[... *personal conversation* ...] You raised very valid concerns, concerns that are shared worldwide, not only by numismatic cabinets (although we do, perhaps, operate as a form of early warning system) but by all museums everywhere. All museums face cuts in staffing, all face censorship at one time or another, and all face the threat of irrelevance in these days of virtual everything. I think this last is the most dangerous thing we face, and I find it deeply ironic that the Information Age (which has freed up knowledge and knowledge-sharing to a degree that no one could have imagined a decade ago) has also made it possible to never leave one's home, never need to interact with others in a shared experience, seeing marvelous objects for real, and not on a computer screen. I believe museums will survive because they always have survived; but I have no idea what they'll look like in the years to come.

As far as numismatic museums are concerned. The news is mixed. I'm sure you've heard about the cabinets at the Banque de France and the Bibliotheque Nationale. But these unhappy events have happier counterparts. In Germany, a major cabinet was nearly put up for auction, but it was saved at the last minute and is now secure. And our National Numismatic Collection is doing better than it was when I made my remarks in 2004.

We have regained a small but relatively permanent display space in this museum. The smaller size made it necessary to pick our objects for display very carefully, but I believe we have a stronger presentation as a result. We mounted a small but extremely elegant, temporary display in the Smithsonian Castle (the headquarters of the entire Smithsonian complex) at the end of 2005. By the time it was dismantled in early 2007, some four million visitors had seen it. We also have what we call the "Traveling Coin Program", wherein we take special coins from the collection for display at the two major numismatic trade shows held in the US each year. This program is now in its fourth year. Finally, we've just signed a contract with the United States Mint. We are preparing a joint, large, traveling display. It will go on view at the first of eight venues in July 2011, and it will tour this country for two years. All of this takes a lot of work (and we only have three full-time staff in the National Numismatic Collection; ridiculous but true!); but we think all the effort is worthwhile.

So, I'm happy to report that reports of our demise are premature, and exaggerated.

Cheers,

Dick

From: Dean Emery [mailto:Dean.Emery@leicester.gov.uk]

Sent: 24 May 2010 12:53

To: Rohde, Anja

Subject: RE: FW: FW: Research - coin collections

Anja

[... *personal conversation* ...]

I have attached our Policy and I think it is for public consumption as I have seen several copies kicking around here and there. It is NOT a great read so please be warned.

[... *personal conversation* ...]

As for the info...well...

For a start we still have old records from the County which have an 'R' prefix for Rutland and an 'M' prefix for Market Harborough which we need to ignore.

We do indeed have a Numismatics collection separate on the database, that is what I meant by 'N' records. it will make more sense when you see it. I just searched and 26,600 records came up.. When I searched under 'N' and 'Coin' I got 23,081 records. Beware of records described as 'Medal' there are 767 of them found in Numismatics too! Best to ask Philip why!

Under Archaeology I found 264 under 'coin' and 3 under 'token'.

Under Social History I found about 50 under 'coin' plus another 4168 under 'token' and FYI 3601 under 'medal'.

There is no one simple way of telling how many individual coins there are only the number of records containing the words used for a search. Ideally they will be made easy to find but this is not always the case. Plus of course we have stuff NOT ON the database and how much that is I can't estimate. With Archaeology I fear that may be quite a lot as modern excavated objects do not get as much attention as they should. Laura may be able to simply find the boxes they are contained in if you need a look.

Hope this helps more than it confuses!

Dean

From: Caroline Frisby [mailto:Caroline.Frisby@lincolnshire.gov.uk]

Sent: 02 September 2010 15:16

To: Rohde, Anja

Subject: RE: Numismatics in your military collection

Hi Anja,

Nice to hear from you.

Yes the medals have certainly been used in temporary displays, in fact there are some on display in the archives as I write. Coins are not at all popular though I don't recall any being used.

I have used medals in two education sessions for uni students over the last year or so but that's all.

Medals are very popular with the visiting public hence the large medal case at MLL (just about the whole collection is in there). I did spend ages researching each recipient, this info is available in the gallery and does get used a lot.

I get a lot of enquiries asking if we have particular medals although I have to say we rarely have the ones that people are looking for - this is usually because they relate to family history enquiries therefore if we have the medals the family usually already know.

I do feel that medals are a very important part of the collection as it is not only the individual medals but the groupings that are important. I also find them quite emotive as I recall entering them all onto Modes and realising that on a significant percentage they hadn't even bothered to spell the soldiers name right, I remember thinking that these men had been killed and all there was to show was a bit of metal with their name spelt wrongly.

Its also quite interesting to note the condition they arrive in. Some are still in their original boxes, never been threaded with the ribbon and in mint condition, others have been worn so much they become quite scruffy. I personally think you can tell quite a lot from them.

Again can't say much for the coins though.

Hope this helps

[Caroline](#)

Caroline Frisby

Collections Officer

Culture & Adult Education

Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire Archives

St Rumbold Street

Lincoln

LN2 5AB

Telephone Number Office: 01522 521754

Fax Number: 01522 537354

From: Paul Heath [mailto:Paul.Heath@lincolnshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 May 2010 11:15
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: RE: A favour!

Hi Anja

This link will hopefully get you to the page for our policies:

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catid=9050&docid=54119>

However I doubt any of them will mention anything specific to numismatics, so here are couple of sections from our 'Collections Development Strategy Position Statement' from April 2007:

A – Z of what we want to collect

NUMISMATICS

- Material will be collected relating to the period of human occupation in Lincolnshire from the earliest evidence of coinage through to the present day.
- There will be continued acquisition of selected pieces of local and other British coinage.
- Non-British coinage will not normally be collected unless there are strong local associations or display potential (e.g. Greek and Continental Republican Roman coinage to illustrate the development and influence on Iron Age coinage).

3.3 THE COLLECTION: ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Numismatics

The Collection (City and County) holds the county's largest collection of coins and medals, numbering c. 22,500. The collection dates from the earliest coins of the middle Iron Age to the 20th century, and includes foreign currency. The collection is

only seen to include coins from donation, bequest and purchase. Coins from systematic archaeological projects are treated as part of those archives rather than as part of the numismatic collection. The numismatic collection features a large and important number of coins produced at Lincoln's and Stamford's Saxon, Viking and Medieval mints, mostly obtained through the Francis Hill bequest.

The Collections Development Strategy is due for re-writing this year, so things may change.

Each museum in Lincolnshire Heritage Service has its own collection catalogued in its own fashion. With the introduction of MODES a classification called THEME was introduced, based on Nottingham Museums General Name List, to all sites. There is a classified name of 'currency' for coins & notes. If you are including medals then there is a 'medals' classified name. I have no knowledge about how museums other than Gainsborough Old Hall or Museum of Lincolnshire Life catalogue their collection or what their holdings are. Both the 2 museums I have knowledge of basically hold post-Georgian social history collections. You would need to contact the Collections Officers at Stamford, Grantham and The Collection (where Antony worked) to find out their holdings etc (let me know if you want contact details).

There are currently 63 items on the Museum of Lincolnshire Life database under currency and 590 under medals - note that less than half of collection is catalogued.

There are currently 705 items on the Gainsborough Old Hall database under currency and 57 under medals.

There is a limited Collections database which the public can access:
<http://culturalcollections.lincolnshire.gov.uk/kbroker/lincs/archives/search.jsp>

I just did a search under coin on the just the museum part and came up with 700+ records but most of the records have very restricted info (some pictures though!).

Cheers, Paul

Paul Heath, Collections Officer

Culture & Adult Education

Lincolnshire County Council, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, LN1 3LY

Telephone Number Office: 01522 528448 **Fax Number: 01522 521264**

From: Andrew King [mailto:Andrew.King@nottinghamcity.gov.uk]

Sent: Fri 23/07/2010 11:56 AM

To: Louisa Krzyz; Rohde, Anja

Subject: RE: Quick query [Scanned]

"To inspire and challenge the way people experience, explore and develop their ideas about the diversity of the world through the creative use of museum sites, collections and cultural resources."

Inspiring and to the point isn't it.

Cheers - Andy

From: Antony Lee [mailto:Antony.Lee@lincolnshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 July 2010 11:40
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: RE: Another quick query

Hi,

Here's a selection of nice, woolly sounding statements about The Collection. There's a mission statement, the rationale behind the figure in the logo, and the Culture and Adult Education Directorate outcomes.

Feel free to quote or ignore these as you wish!

Thanks,

Antony

Museum mission statement

This museum seeks to inspire enjoyment and understanding of Lincolnshire's archaeological heritage.

People have inhabited the landscape that is Lincolnshire for nearly half a million years.

Everywhere we move, people have been before.

Every view you see has been seen differently by others.

Every stone, every object holds the stories of the lives of people from the past.

The collections of this museum and the study of archaeology help us learn about the people who have lived where we live now.

Museum 'Col' figure rationale

Any study of the past or present, of Art or Archaeology, is a study of people; how they lived and continue to live, their perceptions of the world, how they interact with each other, their impact upon the environment around them and the impact of that environment upon them.

The Collection : Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire is also about people today; namely our visitors and our staff.

Our collection is also full of images of people. This reflects the fascination that people throughout

history have had for the human figure. Our figure is not based on any one object, but echoes figures from Roman coins, Medieval reliquaries, Anglo-Saxon stone carvings, pots, jewellery, weapons and many more.

Culture and Adult Education outcomes

Inspire and encourage greater engagement and participation in cultural activity.

Help more people to enjoy cultural activity and be proud of Lincolnshire's collections

Raise awareness of collections and celebrate 'hidden treasures'.

Increase access to cultural activity; especially through exploring the potential application of IT

Expand opportunities for learning, achievement and improving skills - supporting economic sustainability

Better promote Lincolnshire as one of England's most exciting, diverse and culturally innovative counties

Help more people to help themselves and lead a healthier, safer lifestyle

Increase connectivity through access to collections

Safeguard and enhance people's sense of identity and place - promoting social cohesion

Foster a greater understanding of potential use of the collections by the public

From: Henrietta Mott [mailto:Henrietta.Mott@leicester.gov.uk]
Sent: 02 August 2010 14:47
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: Fwd: Query - coins in learning events

Dear Anja

Apologies for the delay in response but here you go...

Real coins

We use 40s/50s pennies during a world War 2 session as part of a rationing exercise. However they serve only as an incidental prop rather than as a historic handling object with specific learning outcome.

Replica coins

We have replica coins in our Roman activity backpacks but have encased these in toughened glass with a wooden frame. This is primarily to avoid 'loss' of these during an outdoor exploration of the site. We then have laminated card coins which are used in a numeracy exercise about shopping at the Roman baths. Originally we intended to use the replica coins for this exercise but the pilot made us reconsider our strategy!

For information, we include a fact file within the backpack which has a small section about Roman money and Roman numerals.

Hope this is helpful. Please let me know if you require any further information.

Best Wishes
Henrietta

Henrietta Mott
Learning Officer, Leicester Arts and Museums Service, Leicester City Council
The Jewry Wall Museum & Site, St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 4LB
Tel. (0116) 225 4967
Email: Henrietta.Mott@leicester.gov.uk

From: Don Steward [mailto:Don.Steward@stoke.gov.uk]

Sent: 28 July 2010 11:08

To: Rohde, Anja

Cc: 'Tinsley, Philippa (ACS, Cultural Services)'; Vicky Tunstall

Subject: RE: Query about your role

Hi Anja,

The original traineeship was proposed by the Museum Development Officers (MDO's) for the West Midlands - Glynis Powell at Warwickshire being heavily involved.

Attached are a couple of items regarding this initial traineeship that may be of interest, but maybe not too helpful. We might still have other things that would be of interest to you so let me know if there is anything specific you are looking for.

Regards

Don

Don Steward - Collections Officer (Natural History)

Stoke-on-Trent Museums | Adult Social Care, Health and Communities

The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, City Centre, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW

t 01782 232323

e don.steward@stoke.gov.uk

stoke.gov.uk/museum

Supporting Stewardship project: Collections traineeship

Outline of expectations and responsibilities between the Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent, MLAWestMidlands and Renaissance in the Regions.

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Background

Renaissance in the Regions West Midlands Hub has approved the funding of a work package (WM3-EAR3) entitled Supporting Stewardship.

MLAWestMidlands is overseeing and commissioning the work to be carried out to fulfil the aims of the project. The package as a whole seeks to:

“Increase subject specialist knowledge in the region to improve stewardship and management of collections and to establish mechanisms to share this knowledge across the region to museums practice and the user experience.”

Part of this package is to establish 2, two-year traineeships in specialist collections areas. The two traineeships will run across the whole of the period of the workpackage (2006-08) and both will run beyond this period.

1.

Scope

This document seeks to set out the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the **first** of the traineeships.

MLAWestMidlands, on behalf of the funders (Renaissance West Midlands) is initiating and monitoring the traineeship project as a whole.

8. Any legal responsibilities arising from contractual employment of a trainee rests with the host body, in this case the Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent.
9. The day to day management of the trainee will also be the responsibility of the host (*see section 3 for details of other management reporting expected*).
10. The responsibility for drawing down the agreed funding for the delivery of traineeship project (see below for breakdown) will be the host museum's.
11. The host museum is expected to familiarise themselves and comply with the overall reporting expectations and grant conditions of Renaissance West Midlands (*see attached 1.*)

2.

Funding: what, where and how.

See attached spreadsheet (2)

M.A.

Fees for the MA at Ironbridge Institute will be paid directly from Renaissance West Midlands to the university on receipt of an invoice from the University and following the approval of MLAWestMidlands.

The host museum is responsible for initiating and confirming arrangements on behalf of the trainee. A place has been provisionally held open for the trainee, it is advised that the host contacts the Institute as soon as possible after the trainee is in post in order for appropriate starting dates and other matters to be confirmed.

Contact: David de Haan, 01952 432237, d.dehaan@bham.ac.uk

(See section 3 for other management)

Trainee's Reimbursement

It is likely that throughout the 2 year period the trainee will be paid a salary through the normal channels of Stoke city council. The salary will be at the rate and grade as agreed, no variation can be made without agreement with MLA.

It is the responsibility of the Stoke project management team to comply with the reporting regime required by MLA and the Hub in order to ensure that funds are drawn down at regular intervals to cover the trainees salary.

The level of the bursary is in line with Museums Association salary guidelines 2006 for an Entry level 1, and is equivalent to Scale 3 local government.

The total fund available for 2 years of employment is £41,086.

*This figure includes any local on-costs **and** consideration of any statutory redundancy payment which may arise at the end of the traineeship .i.e. The rate of pay should include 24 months + 2 weeks.*

Other Funding Support to Host Venue

See spreadsheet.(2)

The total for the 2 year period is £10,975 (not including trainee salary and MA fees)

This management fee is to cover the following;

Recruitment costs

Computer and management costs for host venue

Costs to be expended for outreach projects: digital cameras, documentation and other materials, mentor and trainee travel, trainee expenses (M.A.)

Nb. It is expected that the other collection host sites (appx 4) will benefit directly (in cash or materials) from the allocated £850, if there is any surplus this should go directly to the partner site.

See spreadsheet for suggested apportionments.

On receipt of invoice to Renaissance and report to MLAWestMidlands, these funds can be drawn down, by the host,

From Renaissance West Midlands: **March 2007 £27,275**

From MLAWestMidlands: **September 2007 £19,650 (to be confirmed)**

2008/9 £5,136.00 to be confirmed

It is envisaged that some changes in timetable and activities may arise during the life of the traineeship. Any significant changes in activity, timetables and costings must be agreed in advance with the MLA.

3.

Management timetable/reporting

See attached management group document (3) and narrative reporting template (4)

Short narrative and financial reporting is required by MLAWestMidlands at quarterly intervals in order to trigger funding.

March '07, Jun '07, Sept '07, Dec '07 and so on.

Financial report should be made quarterly, on actual funds spent in quarter, against the headings already outlined on the spreadsheet.

4.

Outline activities and expectations of the traineeship

- The trainee will be recruited via targeted advertising to appropriate university departments and other relevant networks.
- MLAWestMidlands will be actively involved in the shortlisting and interviewing of candidates, and where appropriate, will be represented at both points.
- The host venue will draw up a general training plan for the entire period in conjunction with Subject Specialist Reference Group, and with the approval of the MLAWestMidlands.
- As a guide the trainee will spend the first year (approximately) working with the collections at the host venue learning documentation, collection care and curating skills, as appropriate. The second year will be a mixture of work for the host and at, or on behalf of, up to four, other collections in the Region.
- The host will arrange the workload of the trainee with reference to the requirements of modules and assignments of the MA.
- The Subject Specialist Reference Group will, in conjunction with MLA and the host venue, suggest, liaise and support the partner non-hub sites which will benefit from the trainees work programme.

5.

Contacts

Glynis Powell, Funding Advisor (until April '07), MLAWestMids project liaison. 0121 631 5828, Glynis.powell@mlawestmidlands.org.uk (discussions about delivery and detail of the project, needs quarterly reports)

Michael Cooke, Museum lead, Learning and Social Policy Director, MLAWestMidlands, 0121 631 5818 , (overview of project and finances as a whole, needs quarterly report)

Nicky Smith, Hub Administrative Officer, 0121 303 6697,

Nicola.s.smith@birmingham.gov.uk, (the person to talk to about payments, Hub invoices to be submitted to her.)

Carol Bowsher, Hub Manager, 0121 303 6698, carol.bowsher@birmingham.gov.uk, (general implementation matters of overall project only, needs copies of quarterly reports)

6.

Branding

MLAWest Midlands and the Renaissance West Midlands branding and logos must appear on all printed materials and the style guide be followed in all other publicity.

For the Renaissance West Midlands logo:

The logo should be used to promote any activity associated with Renaissance. Follow these instructions:

Go to www.mla.gov.uk

Click on "Programmes" on the toolbar

Click on "Renaissance" on the left-hand menu

Click on the "Renaissance Communications and Logo" link

Click on "Renaissance logos - West Midlands" and use the logo appropriate for your needs

For the MLA logo:

Anything that is Renaissance branded should also include the MLA logo (yes, another one to add to the list!). Because of the changing relationship between MLA and the regional agencies, all branding for MLA and the regional agencies has been updated. Follow these instructions for the NEW logo:

Go to www.mla.gov.uk

Click on "About Us" on the toolbar

Click on "Our Name and Logo" on the left-hand menu

Click on the "MLA Partnership" link and use the logo appropriate for your needs

Styleguides are also available on the MLA website.

Please contact Susannah Penn, 0121 303 4778, Hub Communications Office

From: Tinsley, Philippa (ACS, Cultural Services) [mailto:PTinsley@worcestershire.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 July 2010 09:34
To: Rohde, Anja
Cc: Don Steward
Subject: RE: Query about your role

Hi Anja,

I put together the original proposal for the WM Renaissance business plan, think it was 2006?

It had grown out of successive work the area museum council had done about orphaned collections, geology being a key gap in the WM. Worthwhile asking Michael Cook what's still in the archives – WMRMC funded a project in the 1980s which employed Rosemary Roden in many of the collections. Rosemary still works as a volunteer with us here at Worcester and would be happy to talk to you if you wanted. I think it would have been Jane Arthur that started that project off so maybe worth asking her?

I've also copied Don (Collections Officer for Nat Hist at Stoke) into this as he was both part of the original project and did the proposal for WM Renaissance with me, as well as continuing it since I left Stoke, getting funding from other places. Don, have you got any of the background papers that would be of use to Anja?

Fast Forward was also excellent justification and I would imagine you could extrapolate a similar set of info from it on numismatics.

P

From: Vicky Tunstall [mailto:Vicky.Tunstall@stoke.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 July 2010 14:17
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: Answer: Query about your role

Hi Anja,

Again, sorry for the delay - not sure if I'm coming or going this month. Hooray it's nearly August and I can start a new set of panic and lists!

Anyhoo,

I began life in Museums in a two-year funded post, March 2007, working with non-Hub museums and their geology collections.

The post was designed to increase subject specialist knowledge in the West Midlands region, hence Supporting Stewardship Traineeship.

It built on the conservation and collections care work completed by Kate Andrew and Rosemary Roden some 20 years previously with geology collections across the region.

Stoke was chosen because it was the only Hub museum in the WM to have a geologist on staff, and it was Renaissance money of sorts that was funding the project through groups like the Marches Curators Group. For details you are really best speaking to Philippa or Kate as they had a lot to do with setting up the project.

This isn't to say that there aren't other geologists in the WM - there most certainly are and they formed a support group for me when I was on my traineeship.

They've also been a huge support in my current role and don't mind me asking of their time and expertise! It's also reinvigorated regular meetings of the West Midlands Natural Sciences Curators Group. Anyone who looks after a natural science collection in the west midlands can attend - well anyone can attend if they are really that interested. We have two meetings a year and basically it's great to see and talk to like minded people and find out what they are doing with their collections - it's an off-shoot to the Subject Specialist Networks like NatSCA and GCG, but operates at a regional level.

The differences between what I do now and what I did do, is that the traineeship involved small placements in non-hub museums.

I took an aspect of their geology collection to work with whether it be conservation (cleaning), repacking, labelling, documentation and sat either at the museum in question or brought it back to Stoke to work on.

Then when the traineeship finished, we had to put my continuing work package in to MLA as a 'new' project - which confused matters and delayed start dates etc.

Which in the end is why my salary comes from Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. Renaissance contribute to some conservation and travel money, but the biggest part of their concern is the Outreach side which is looking to get these little-known-about collections used and visited by the public. To be really cynical, a numbers exercise...not really caring about the staff knowledge or the collections.

Great, but not necessarily useful in practice. I've struggled to get visits to geology collections - especially those I'm targeting that are often neglected/orphaned or abandoned.

Geology is "not a priority" at the moment...hence lots of rotten boxes of rocks decaying still further and if you wanted to use them with the public you can't because none of the staff, with the greatest respect, actually know what they are looking at - I'm sure you can sympathise.

So, the project was written to be used as a template for geology collections wherever you may be in the country, or for extending outwards to other subjects - hence replace geology with numismatics and West Mids with East Mids etc....

On this vein, Kate has recently applied for HLF funding for more subject specialist projects across the region using 'my' traineeship as a template - so that might be useful to look at.

So, I focus on the collections side -visiting people, make recommendations, assess the condition and composition of the collection - all more consultation work rather than the 'doing' which is a shame cos I like the doing side and it's actually what most people need. I don't mind if I make more than one visit to the same collection - indeed some of the people I'm working with now actually stem from me doing work for them during the traineeship. In terms of finding out where collections are held I used the West Midlands document Fast Forward, MDOs and my network people of geology specialists mentioned earlier - the latter forming a mini-non-Hub group themselves.

I've composed a Benchmark Assessment to complete when I'm visiting the collection and provide an Advice Pack for the care of Geological Collections which should cover everything you never needed to know about geology specimens!

I'll let you digest everything I've just scribbled down, but if there are any documents you might find useful let me know.

Depending on file sizes I can either burn them to disc & post off, or whiz them through the email.

Hope this helps?!

Vicky

.....
Vicky Tunstall | Assistant Collections Officer (Regional Geology)
Stoke-on-Trent Museums | Adult Social Care, Health & Communities Directorate
The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Cultural Quarter
City of Stoke-on-Trent

From: Theresa Workman [mailto:Theresa.Workman@lincolnshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 July 2010 09:53
To: Rohde, Anja
Subject: RE: Query - coins in learning events

Hello Anja,

yes we do use coins and tokens in our learning activities. Many of our workshops have a 'shopping' role play element.

- 1) Roman Invasion - shopping using replica roman coins - learning how to convert them and calculate change required.
- 2) Vikings in Lincoln - shopping at the market using replica Viking coins and tally sticks.
- 3) Ancient Greece Timetravellers - Voting tokens, used to judge plays and vote for winner.
- 4) Big Dig - archaeology activity, pupils excavate trenches and discover coins and other artefacts.
- 5) Roman Lincoln - sketching coins and discussing the information we get from them.

Hope this is of help to you,

Kind Regards

Theresa Workman
Community Engagement Officer
The Collection
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Tel 01522 550958

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