



Collections

Development Policy

The Dock Museum

The Dock Museum
2013 to 2018
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THE DOCK MUSEUM

Name of governing body: Barrow Borough Council

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: 20 March 2013

Date at which this policy is due for review: March 2018

1. Dock Museum's statement of purpose

The Dock Museum collects, preserves, documents, interprets and displays material relating to the social and industrial history of the people of Barrow and surrounding district. It serves to educate, inspire, entertain and inform the widest possible audience by communicating the knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of its collections to visitors and residents in the Borough alike, and to a regional, national and international audience. It is further committed to ensuring that the significance of Barrow as a major British shipbuilding and engineering force is accurately represented at a national level.

2. An overview of current collections

The Dock Museum has a mixed collection. It has approximately 10,000 glass plate negatives (shipyard material) and a further 12,000 objects (approximately) from the following subject areas: geology, maritime heritage, archaeology, Fine Art, social and industrial history as well as 4 boats.

Barrow Shipyard

2.1 Approximately 55% of the collection is linked to the shipyard (including the glass plate negatives). This collection principally represents the shipbuilding tradition of Barrow (nineteenth and twentieth century) and therefore constitutes a key element in the work of the Dock Museum. However, the collection also aims to represent all of the non-shipbuilding, armaments and engineering activities of the Shipyard, which are traditions in their own right.

2.2 Barrow Shipyard has undergone several changes of ownership and is currently owned by BAE Systems. To limit confusion, the Dock Museum refers to the Shipyard by the term 'Vickers' because this company owned it for much of its history and the name is familiar to those with interests in Barrow shipbuilding.

There are four categories of material within this collection: -

2.3 Vickers Photographic Archive

The Vickers Photographic Archive consists of approximately 10,000 glass negatives, film negatives, positive glass slides and cine films which provide detailed visual evidence of a wide cross-section of work undertaken by the Shipyard between the 1870s and the 1960s. Due to its size and scope, this collection is considered to be of national importance.

The copyright of those images and films was also transferred to the Dock Museum in 2000.

2.4 Models

The Dock Museum currently holds approximately 58 ship, submarine, armaments and engineering models of actual or proposed Shipyard products. The collection dates from 1873 (the date of the

first launch) to the 1980s and many of the models were made in the Model Shop of the Shipyard. The majority of the models are builder's models and thus of a very high standard.

2.5 Shipbuilding Material

The Dock Museum has collected general shipbuilding objects from the nineteenth to twentieth century: equipment from the different departments of the Shipyard, souvenirs of vessel launches and items relating to the subsequent service of vessels with shipping lines and navies.

2.6 Non-Shipbuilding Material

The Dock Museum has a tiny twentieth century collection relating to the engineering side of work at the shipyard (engines, airships etc). Collecting has been restricted by the size and specialist nature of the material (i.e. making it accessible and understandable to a wider audience).

The Port, the Dock System and Marine Life-saving

2.7 The museum has a very small collection of objects relating to Walney's lighthouse (and female lighthouse keeper, Peggy Braithwaite) and objects associated with the service of Herbert Leigh (see below).

Boats

2.8 There are currently four vessels in this collection (launch dates in brackets):

- Morecambe Bay Prawner, Nance (1914)
- Barrow-built (Ashburner) Racing Yacht, White Rose (1899)
- Barrow Lifeboat, Herbert Leigh (1951)
- Pilot Boat, Banshee (unknown, probably early twentieth century)

Iron Mining

2.9 This important industry is represented by fewer than thirty objects (equipment, costume etc dating from the late nineteenth century) in the Dock Museum's collection.

Iron and Steel Production

2.10 Again, this important industry is represented by few objects in the collection. Machetes (from Barrow Steel) and other steel samples are the most obvious examples.

Transport

2.11 A local collection of Furness Railway objects was purchased in 2004. The Furness Railway was literally the engine behind Barrow's growth (1846-1922) and therefore had to be represented in the museum. The collection is fairly eclectic and consists of equipment, uniform (life on the railway) and (life on the platform) signs, seats and even a decanter and knife and fork. In addition, the museum has a small collection relating to buses and trams. Less than 1% of the collection is related to transport.

Satellite Industries

2.12 Of the important satellite industries set-up prior to the First World War, including the jute, brick, wagon, salt, and jam works and mills for paper and flour. The local breweries are best represented in the collection (photos, ephemera and bar windows and furniture largely related to the twentieth century).

Agriculture and Fishing

2.13 This collection is comprised of only a very small number of items dating to the twentieth century that are rarely used for display or other purposes (such as agricultural tools, e.g. cultivator points, seed bag).

Archaeology

2.14 3% of the total collection is related to archaeology. The bulk of this collection dates from the Prehistoric period, extending from the Late Mesolithic through to the Iron Age, and there are also a small number of Roman and medieval items. Some material falls outside the defined collecting area (Barrow Borough), the bulk of which are finds from Pike O'Stickle. However, the objects (largely roughouts and polished axes) are important in interpreting the axes found in the Barrow-in-Furness area as the Pike O'Stickle site (the Langdales) was from where the Barrow found axes were first hewn. Therefore, this material will remain in the collection.

Fine and Decorative Art

2.15 This collection consists of several hundred works of fine art, principally oils, drawings, watercolours and prints from the late nineteenth century and the twentieth century, and a small quantity of decorative art that is mainly comprised of chinaware. The bulk of the fine art depicts local scenes and figures and a few of the artists represented are of wider importance including Frank Copnall, Sir Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956), Edward Beckett (1920-2005), William McDowell (1888-1950), G.H. Andrews (1816-1898) and Eric Kennington (1888-1960). The museum has three oils by James Cranke (1707-1780), a regionally important portrait painter who is said to have taught George Romney.

Ethnography

2.16 This collection consists of a very small number of items, including edged weapons, acquired in the early years of the twentieth century. The weapons date largely from the nineteenth century and were collected from South Africa, Malaysia, India and New Zealand. The collection is known to include many early acquisitions and therefore forms part of the history of the Dock Museum itself and will continue to be cared for within the overall collections management strategy.

Natural History

2.17 This collection consists of 156 mounted birds, mammals and invertebrates. The objects were all mounted in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. All are to be found in Britain, with the exception of a case of Kakapos (the world's only flightless parrot and is endemic to New Zealand). In addition the museum has seed samples, sub-fossil remains, corals and fresh water and marine shells from round the world. Much of the material was donated to the Dock Museum in the first half of the twentieth century and includes some birds and mammals mounted by the taxidermist G. H. Murray of Carnforth, who is regarded as of regional importance.

Geology and Palaeontology

2.18 This collection is the third largest (comprising 7% of the total collection) after the glass plate collection and social history. It is a diverse collection of rocks, minerals and fossils collected early in the museum's history. Most of the fossils, rocks and minerals were not collected in the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness.

Oral History

2.19 An oral history project was established at the Dock Museum in 1996. The North West Sound Archive provided advice and training for volunteers from the local Civic Society and museum staff in interview training techniques. An initial project was subsequently carried out to record the experiences of a small number of workers in different shipyard trades and abided by the ethical guidelines of the Oral History Society. Interview tapes and transcripts from this project form the basis of this collection and more interviews were conducted by Museum Staff and added to it in 1998, 1999, 2007, 2008 and 2012. There are more than twenty oral history interviews and all but two have been transcribed and digitised.

Social History

2.20 The Dock Museum has a large collection of social history items dating mainly from 1880 to the present day. This material covers a number of subjects:

Education

Law Enforcement and Emergency Services

Health and Welfare

Local Government and Public Services (including the Museum)

Public, Domestic and Industrial Buildings

Customs and Beliefs

Warfare and Civil Defence (including firearms and edged weapons)

Household Management

Trades and Trade Materials

Recreation and Entertainment

Numismatics

Furniture

Costume

3. Themes and priorities for future collecting

3.1 Key principles

- Future collecting will continue to be tightly focused on fulfilling the stated purpose of the Dock Museum.
- Future collecting will particularly address areas where the collections are weak.
- The collections aim to represent the social and industrial development of Barrow and the surrounding area from c.1700 to the present day, reflecting the stated purpose of the Dock Museum. A notable exception to the previous statement is that archaeological material will also continue to be collected (especially with regard to Barrow-in-Furness's prehistory) as we have a strong prehistory collection. Material will be collected from the medieval period in exceptional circumstances if recommended by the Collections and Exhibitions Manager.

- The geographical area from which material will be collected is within the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness only. The main settlements in this area include Barrow, Dalton and Lindal.
- The size and condition of objects may well be a factor in determining whether an object will be collected. A reason for not collecting may be a very poor state of repair (unless the object is of sufficient importance, a unique example or funds have already been provided for conservation work). Outsized objects might not be collected unless there is identifiable and adequate storage.

3.2 Future collecting by subject area

Shipyard

3.2.1 The Dock Museum will actively seek to extend its representation of the scope of work undertaken by the Shipyard through the acquisition of shipbuilding and non-shipbuilding material, including equipment. Submarine building (dating from 1886) is considered to be especially significant. Space restrictions mean that the acquisition of large objects will be considered only with due care. The Dock Museum has an already large collection of ship and submarine models and therefore the collection of such models is no longer a priority and will not be actively sought. The Dock Museum will not collect Vickers material that is of no relevance to Barrow.

Non-Shipbuilding Material

3.2.2 Historically, the engineering and armaments work undertaken by the Shipyard has proved to be as significant as its shipbuilding arm, but has been overshadowed by the success of the latter. The Dock Museum aims to redress the balance by collecting material that relates to the manufacture of airships and other aircraft, land-based armaments, railway engines, dock equipment, pumps, condensers and soap, cement, mining and oil extraction machinery. Much of this work and the individuals involved in it have been of national importance (e.g. Barnes Wallis).

The Port, the Dock System and Marine Life-saving

3.2.3 The coastal location and subsequent development of port and docks in Barrow is a key element in the social and industrial make-up of Barrow. The Dock Museum will seek to acquire material that reflects the relationship between town and sea and the changing face of the docks and port from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. This will include material relating to the Docks and Harbour Board, Coastguard Agency, Walney Lighthouse, the Lifeboat Service and marine businesses including James Fisher & Sons, TW Ward Ship breakers, other shipbuilders such as Ashburners and the Ferro-concrete Ship Construction Company and the Dock Museum site itself (in so far as there is a direct connection with these businesses, objects and the Barrow-in-Furness area).

Boats

3.2.4 The four boats in the collection have been priorities for conservation and circumstances dictate that this work is undertaken as part of a long-term, phased programme.

3.2.5 No further vessels will be acquired unless their acquisition includes specific resources for their upkeep and the museum can adequately store them. However, documentary material that relates to local vessels, including the vessels already in the collection, will continue to be collected.

Iron Mining

3.2.6 Material will be collected that reflects the rise and decline of iron mining in Furness, with particular reference to the period from the 1880s to the 1960s. This includes items relating to the

lives of quarry workers and iron miners and of significant figures in the development of quarrying and mining operations.

Iron and Steel Production

3.2.7 The manufacture of iron and steel is a key ingredient in the history of the local area and the Dock Museum aims to represent the local iron and steel industries from their early beginning (c.1700) to their decline and demise (1980s). Particular reference will be paid to material from the Barrow Haematite Iron and Steel Works (once one of the largest iron and steelworks in the world), the iron works at Askam and independent local foundries such as Cairds. In addition to industrial items, material relating to the lives of the iron and steelworkers and their employers will also be collected.

Transport

3.2.8 The development of local transport networks, particularly the Furness Railway, is a key element in the history of the local area and it remains a topical issue. Material reflecting the railway, bus and tram services and other types of transport will therefore be collected, including both industrial objects and items relating to the lives of associated workers and significant figures in the rise and, where applicable, decline of the different transport forms. Resources dictate that large machinery cannot be collected in this area.

Satellite Industries

3.2.9 The Dock Museum aims to represent the development, decline and demise of all of the other local manufacturing industries established in the wake of the Shipyard, Iron Mines, Iron and Steel Works and Furness Railway and which depended on the fortunes of these four industries for their survival. Most of these important satellite industries were set-up prior to the First World War, including the jute, brick, wagon, salt, and jam works, mills for paper and flour and local breweries, and few traces of them now exist.

Utilities

3.2.10 The Dock Museum aims to represent the development of service industries in the local area including gas, water and electricity supplies, all of which are now taken for granted.

Agriculture and Fishing

3.2.11 This collection is comprised of only a small number of items that are rarely used for display or other purposes. No further material will therefore be acquired.

Archaeology

3.2.12 The Dock Museum will collect additional material of local provenance and will also collect material of relevance to the industrial development of the defined collecting area.

Fine and Decorative Art

3.2.13 The Dock Museum will continue collecting works, in all media, relevant to the social and industrial development of the defined collecting area, including work by significant local artists and work depicting significant local figures. Work predating the nineteenth century and contemporary pieces are under-represented and will be actively pursued.

Ethnography

3.2.14 No further material will be acquired as it would not fall within the museum's collecting remit (the geographical area of the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness).

Natural History

3.2.15 No further material will be acquired as the museum would not be able to adequately store an expansion of material in this area. Objects not consistent with the Acquisitions Policy have already been disposed of in accordance with the Disposals Policy. All the non-British mounted birds and mammals, with one exception retained for rarity purposes, were transferred as a collection to Lancashire County Museum Service in 1998.

Geology and Palaeontology

3.2.16 The Dock Museum considers the material to be of sufficient scope to stop further collecting. However, the quality of some items is poor and replacements may be sought.

Oral History

3.2.17 The oral history collection is small but its continuing expansion is a priority.

Social History

3.2.18 Expansion of the collection is a continuing priority, with particular reference to the following areas:

Material connected with significant local industries

Material connected with significant local individuals/local societies or organisations

Contemporary Material

Material which reflects the relationship between the heavy and service industries

4. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

Responsible, curatorially-motivated disposal takes place as part of a museum's long-term collections policy, in order to increase public benefit derived from museum collections.

Curatorial rationalisation

Non-Barrow specific material is a priority for disposal. This is especially relevant for the maritime collection where some ship models, plans and ephemera have been collected belonging to vessels not built in Barrow. The shipyard book collection should not have been accepted by the Dock Museum as we have never been in a position to use them or give meaningful access to the public. They should be transferred to the local Record Office or another library.

The Numismatics collection contains many foreign coins and these are not in any way relevant to the Dock Museum's collection. Medals relating to other boroughs should also be transferred to the relevant museums.

A small collection of national newspapers were accepted with no relevance to Barrow-in-Furness. Similarly, Canadian railway advertising has no relevance at all within the Dock Museum's collection.

Financially-motivated disposal

Only in exceptional cases, the disposal may be motivated principally by financial reasons (see clause 13f). It is possible that the boat Banshee will be disposed of due to reasons of upkeep. However, all attempts will be made to move her into the museum and conserve her first.

5. Limitations on collecting

The museum recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation Standard. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.

6. Collecting policies of other museums

The museum will take account of the collecting policies of other museums and other organisations collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.

Specific reference is made to the following museum(s):

The Millom Folk Museum
Copeland Museum Service
Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery
Allerdale Museums Service
Lake District Art Gallery and Museum Trust
Lancaster City Museums
Merseyside Maritime Museum
Science Museum
National Maritime Museum
English Heritage

And

Barrow Record Office

7. Policy review procedure

The acquisition and disposal policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years. The date when the policy is next due for review is noted above.

Arts Council England will be notified of any changes to the acquisition and disposal policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of existing collections.

8. Acquisitions not covered by the policy

Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the governing body of the museum itself, having regard to the interests of other museums.

9. Acquisition procedures

- a. The museum will exercise due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.
- b. In particular, the museum will not acquire any object or specimen unless it is satisfied that the object or specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).
- c. In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the museum will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2005.
- d. So far as biological and geological material is concerned, the museum will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any specimen that has been collected, sold or otherwise transferred in contravention of any national or international wildlife protection or natural history conservation law or treaty of the United Kingdom or any other country, except with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.
- e. The museum will not acquire archaeological antiquities (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the governing body or responsible officer has any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures.
- e. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the procedures include reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure as defined by the Treasure Act 1996.
- f. Any exceptions to the above clauses 8a, 8b, 8c, or 8e will only be because the museum is:
 - acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin
 - acquiring an item of minor importance that lacks secure ownership history but in the best judgement of experts in the field concerned has not been illicitly traded
 - acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin
 - in possession of reliable documentary evidence that the item was exported from its country of origin before 1970

In these cases the museum will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

- g. As the museum holds or intends to acquire human remains from any period, it will follow the procedures in the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums' issued by DCMS in 2005.

10. Spoliation

The museum will use the statement of principles 'Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period', issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

11. The Repatriation and Restitution of objects and human remains

The museum's governing body, acting on the advice of the museum's professional staff, if any, may take a decision to return human remains (unless covered by the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums' issued by DCMS in 2005), objects or specimens to a country or people of origin. The museum will take such decisions on a case by case basis; within its legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance. This will mean that the procedures described in 13a-13d, 13g and 13o/s below will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.

The disposal of human remains from museums in England, Northern Ireland and Wales will follow the procedures in the 'Guidance for the care of human remains in museums'.

12. Management of archives

As the museum holds / intends to acquire archives, including photographs and printed ephemera, its governing body will be guided by the Code of Practice on Archives for Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom (third edition, 2002).

13. Disposal procedures

Disposal preliminaries

- a. The governing body will ensure that the disposal process is carried out openly and with transparency.
- b. By definition, the museum has a long-term purpose and holds collections in trust for society in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons for disposal must be established before consideration is given to the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.
- c. The museum will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item and agreements on disposal made with donors will be taken into account.
- d. When disposal of a museum object is being considered, the museum will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.

Motivation for disposal and method of disposal

- e. When disposal is motivated by curatorial reasons the procedures outlined in paragraphs 13g-13s will be followed and the method of disposal may be by gift, sale or exchange.

- f. In exceptional cases, the disposal may be motivated principally by financial reasons. The method of disposal will therefore be by sale and the procedures outlined below in paragraphs 13g-13m and 13o/s will be followed. In cases where disposal is motivated by financial reasons, the governing body will not undertake disposal unless it can be demonstrated that all the following exceptional circumstances are met in full:
- the disposal will significantly improve the long-term public benefit derived from the remaining collection
 - the disposal will not be undertaken to generate short-term revenue (for example to meet a budget deficit)
 - the disposal will be undertaken as a last resort after other sources of funding have been thoroughly explored

The disposal decision-making process

- g. Whether the disposal is motivated either by curatorial or financial reasons, the decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken by the governing body only after full consideration of the reasons for disposal. Other factors including the public benefit, the implications for the museum's collections and collections held by museums and other organisations collecting the same material or in related fields will be considered. External expert advice will be obtained and the views of stakeholders such as donors, researchers, local and source communities and others served by the museum will also be sought.

Responsibility for disposal decision-making

- h. A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by gift, exchange, sale or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections or for reasons of health and safety), will be the responsibility of the governing body of the museum acting on the advice of professional curatorial staff, if any, and not of the curator of the collection acting alone.

Use of proceeds of sale

- i. Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions. In exceptional cases, improvements relating to the care of collections in order to meet or exceed Accreditation requirements relating to the risk of damage to and deterioration of the collections may be justifiable. Any monies received in compensation for the damage, loss or destruction of items will be applied in the same way. Advice on those cases where the monies are intended to be used for the care of collections will be sought from the Arts Council England.
- j. The proceeds of a sale will be ring-fenced so it can be demonstrated that they are spent in a manner compatible with the requirements of the Accreditation standard.

Disposal by gift or sale

- k. Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain, unless it is to be destroyed. It will therefore be offered in the first instance, by gift or sale, directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition.

- l. If the material is not acquired by any Accredited Museums to which it was offered directly as a gift or for sale, then the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of the material, normally through an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal, and in other specialist journals where appropriate.
- m. The announcement relating to gift or sale will indicate the number and nature of specimens or objects involved, and the basis on which the material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other Accredited Museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the museum may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations giving priority to organisations in the public domain.

Disposal by exchange

- n. The nature of disposal by exchange means that the museum will not necessarily be in a position to exchange the material with another Accredited museum. The governing body will therefore ensure that issues relating to accountability and impartiality are carefully considered to avoid undue influence on its decision-making process.
- o. In cases where the governing body wishes for sound curatorial reasons to exchange material directly with Accredited or unaccredited museums, with other organisations or with individuals, the procedures in paragraphs 13a-13d and 13g-13h will be followed as will the procedures in paragraphs 13p-13s.
- p. If the exchange is proposed to be made with a specific Accredited museum, other Accredited museums which collect in the same or related areas will be directly notified of the proposal and their comments will be requested.
- q. If the exchange is proposed with a non-accredited museum, with another type of organisation or with an individual, the museum will make an announcement in the Museums Journal and in other specialist journals where appropriate.
- r. Both the notification and announcement must provide information on the number and nature of the specimens or objects involved both in the museum's collection and those intended to be acquired in exchange. A period of at least two months must be allowed for comments to be received. At the end of this period, the governing body must consider the comments before a final decision on the exchange is made.

Documenting disposal

- o/s. Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate, of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM Procedure on deaccession and disposal.