



## Policy for the Strategic Development of the Collections of The Hunterian, University of Glasgow

Approved by: Hunterian Strategic Development Board, University of Glasgow

Approval date: 11 March 2013

Review date: March 2018

## **1. The Mission of The Hunterian**

The overall strategic objectives of The Hunterian are aligned in support of the University of Glasgow's Strategic Plan *Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision* and address the key actions of 2020:

- To deliver excellent research
- To deliver excellent student experience
- And to enhance global reach and reputation
- To create the infrastructure that will deliver these goals

These objectives also reflect and align to objectives and performance measures set by the Scottish Funding Council for its Museums, Galleries and Collections Grant funding for 2011-14. These require The Hunterian to provide:

- An appropriate level of collections care and management
- A service to the wider research community
- A high-quality teaching and learning experience to the wider HE community
- Contribution towards SFC's widening participation objective

The Plan aims to deliver a new mission for The Hunterian as a facilitator and contributor to the research and learning objectives of the University of Glasgow and as a cultural asset with national and international reach. The Hunterian will make a tangible contribution to the University of Glasgow's mission to provide an intellectually stimulating learning environment. Drawing on our encyclopaedic historical collections, we will support and engage with University of Glasgow ambitions for interdisciplinary approaches to research, teaching and knowledge exchange.

**To this end, we will focus on our core mission to care for and develop our collections and share and communicate our knowledge about them.**

## **2. Collections overview**

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian is Scotland's oldest public museum and home to one of the largest collections outside the National Museums and is the largest university museum in Scotland. The Hunterian is one of the leading university museums in the UK and its collections have been Recognised as a Collection of National Significance<sup>1</sup>. The Hunterian collections are built on Dr William Hunter's founding bequest of 1783, which included paintings, prints, manuscripts, books, coins, natural history specimens, ethnographic objects and an extensive anatomical teaching collection. The manuscripts, books and some of the prints are now held in the Special Collections of the University Library. The Hunterian's collections have grown over the last 200 year to include: scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; outstanding Roman artefacts from the Antonine Wall; major earth and life sciences holdings; one of the world's greatest numismatic collections; ethnographic and natural history objects from Captain Cook's Pacific voyages; art collections including Old Masters, the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler and the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk/the-programmes/recognition/>

## **Art Collections**

(42,000 objects - decorative and applied art – 1,745; drawings – 1,300; oils – 970; prints – 36,000; sculpture – 130; watercolours – 1,000)

When the Hunterian opened in 1807 the presence of Hunter's cabinet of pictures meant that it was the first museum in Britain with a gallery of paintings, although two paintings, a copy of Raphael's Entombment and a Martyrdom of St Catherine by Jan Cossiers had been acquired by the University in 1776. Hunter's collection included 30 old masters, mainly Dutch and Flemish, but with interesting Italian and French works. The important masterpieces are Chardin's Lady taking Tea, a large canvas by Philips Koninck which is one of the finest examples of his panoramic landscape paintings, and a fine Still Life with Dead Game by Frans Snyders. Among Hunter's smaller paintings are Rembrandt's oil sketch for the Entombment, a head study by Rubens, a painting on copper by Simon Vouet, and a group of paintings from the circle of Guido Reni, including a fine version of the Virgin Sewing. A further 26 Dutch and Flemish pictures were given in 1963 by Miss Ina Smillie, which extended the range of still life and genre painting and included a major work, Artemisia by Erasmus II Quellinus. There are also fine portraits by Mor, Sanchez-Coello, and Michele di Ridolfo di Ghirlandaio.

The Hunterian houses the major collection of the work of the Scottish architect and designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928), centred on the architect's Estate and the Davidson Gift of 1945. Following Davidson's death in 1945, the Mackintoshes' heir Sylvan McNair transferred ownership of the Estate to the University of Glasgow. The Estate included over 800 works on paper and a small but important archive of photographs, papers and publications. The collection provides in-depth representation of all aspects of Mackintosh's output, including furniture and interior design, architecture, graphic design and watercolour painting. Highlights include the reassembled principal interiors of the Mackintosh's Glasgow house, presented as The Mackintosh House, a permanent installation within the Art Gallery. It is complemented by strong holdings of the work of Margaret and Frances Macdonald and J. Herbert McNair, and representative examples of works by other Glasgow Style designers, including Annie French, Jessie M. King and George Walton. Whistler's art is represented by 80 oils, several hundred drawings and watercolours, and more than 2,000 impressions of his prints. The holding provides a particularly good representation of Whistler's late work and his portraiture. In addition the Collection includes furniture, silver and ceramics, an extensive holding of the artist's materials, and a varied group of personalia.

The Hunterian also houses significant collections of works by the Glasgow Boys and Scottish Colourists. The Glasgow Boys collections consist of some 200 paintings and drawings from their early careers to their later, more established years. The exceptional collection of paintings by the Scottish Colourists represents most aspects of their art, from landscape to still life and from Peploe and Cadell's sparkling representations of Iona to Fergusson's portrayal of women. With more than a hundred paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures, it is among the best collections of their work and includes Fergusson's Les Eus, one of the most important Scottish paintings of the period.

The collection of about 40,000 prints, with an emphasis on works of art, covers the history of printmaking from the 15th century to the present day. The holdings of Dürer and early German engraving are good. Holdings of Italian prints from 1500-1700 are very good, with broad coverage, and fine examples of prints by most important masters provided by the collection of the political economist Professor W.R. Scott (1868-1940). The 18th century is represented by portraiture and caricature. Holdings of 19th and early 20th century prints are strongest in the area of the etching revival, with particularly good holdings of prints by and after J.M.W.Turner. The modern and contemporary collection is distinguished by its breadth,

with good representation of 20th century Scottish artists. Prints were a part of the legacy from William Hunter's founding bequest in 1783. While his collection, especially bound volumes of prints, and loose anatomical drawings, is mainly located in the Special Collections Department of Glasgow University Library there are eight volumes of Hunter's prints are in The Hunterian, together with several intact volumes from historic print collections (notably that of the Duke of Essex).

In addition there are approximately 1200 drawings of all periods, including a few old master drawings, but British works from the 18th century onwards are more numerous. There are small holdings of decorative art, furniture, sculpture and modern and contemporary works of art.

## **Historical Collections**

### **Archaeology and World Cultures**

(Archaeology – 51,000 objects; World Cultures – 2,500 objects)

Strengths include Roman material from the Antonine Wall and the periods of military occupation in the first and second centuries AD; finds from excavations at brochs and other settlements of the Scottish Iron Age; human activity in both Scotland and Western Europe from the earliest hunters and fishermen to medieval times; smaller bodies of material from the early civilisations of Egypt and the Mediterranean world. Ethnographic collection includes early contact material from the pioneering voyages of Captain James Cook and that acquired on Pacific Islands by missionaries in the 19th century.

The Roman collection in the Hunterian Museum dates back to the late 17th century, when the third Marquis of Montrose presented a stone made by the Twentieth Legion, found at Old Kilpatrick at the western side of the Antonine Wall, to the Old College of the University of Glasgow. The Hunterian Museum now holds the pre-eminent collection of Roman artefacts in Scotland, and the Antonine Wall became part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site in July 2008. The Legionary stones, or "distance slabs", found on the Antonine Wall record the length of wall completed by the various legions. Of the nineteen known, seventeen are in the Hunterian Museum. This body of material is unique and nothing similar has been found on any other frontiers of the Roman Empire. Other stones found on the line of the wall include tombstones and altars giving important information about the people who manned, and interacted with, the Roman forts.

### **University and General History**

(2,600 objects)

The Hunterian houses three-dimensional documentary objects of famous staff and students at what is Britain fourth, and Scotland's second oldest university founded in 1451. There are fitments and fragments from the structure of the 'Old College' built in the 17th century and demolished in 1870 when the University relocated to the Gilmorehill campus. Star items include the University's silver-gilt mace dating from 1465, the silver Loving Cup and Quaich and the 18th century Blackstone Chair once used for oral examinations. The historical collection includes medieval and modern pottery, Scottish and English glass and pewter, medallions by James and William Tassie, and death-masks.

### **Numismatics**

(70,000 objects)

The Hunterian houses one of the world's great, and Scotland's premier, collections containing coins, medals, tokens and related objects. About half is the original Hunter collection put together at the end of the 18th century, when it was second only in importance to the French Royal Collection. It contains Ancient Greek, Roman, Medieval and Modern coins as well as medals from the Renaissance to contemporary Scotland. Many of these are unique or extremely rare and most are in superb condition.

## **Scientific Collections**

### **Scientific Instruments**

(5,000 objects)

The Hunterian cares for a large collection of scientific and medical instruments accumulated from the 17th century onwards as a result of research and teaching activities in the University. Notable amongst the instruments are those worked on by James Watt including the model Newcomen Engine said to be the inspiration for his development of steam power. The collection of research and demonstration apparatus gathered together by Lord Kelvin is probably the most important single collection since it includes apparatus used in his pioneering research into electricity, telegraphy and thermodynamics. There are items used or created by Hunter, Joseph Lister, James Prescott Joule, Frederick Soddy and other leading scientists, as well as significant collections of items used for observing and measuring such as telescopes, microscopes and mechanical calculators. Recent acquisitions include the tide gauges designed by James Deas and used for a century to record the tides along the River Clyde.

### **Anatomy and Medical**

(7,000 specimens)

These collections are a unique medical teaching material amassed by Hunter in his career as anatomist, obstetrician and doctor. They differ from other parts of The Hunterian Collection in that they represent things which Hunter and his school made and used professionally rather than acquired for leisure interests. The collections comprise wet preparations of human tissues and organs, skeletal material and some animal taxidermy specimens. Both Pathology and Anatomy also have considerable amounts of post-Hunter material and this includes comparative (animal) anatomy specimens, fine 19th century wax models and specimens made using recent techniques such as corrosion and plastination.

Some of the most striking specimens in the Anatomy collection are those associated with Hunter's research leading to his most significant contributions to the advancement of medicine. Outstanding examples include the series of life size plaster casts of dissections showing the pregnant uterus, as illustrated in Hunter's great work, 'The Anatomy of the Gravid Uterus Exhibited in Figures' (1774). Hunter contributed a great deal to the understanding of the lymphatic system and his mercury-injected preparations of lymphatic tissue are both beautiful and illuminating.

### **Mineralogy and Petrology**

(162,500 specimens)

The Hunterian Museum holds over 120,000 rock and mineral specimens, with around 40,000 rock thin sections, as well as around 1500 cut gemstones, and 70 meteorites. The mineral collections include several very important older collections including those of William Hunter (one of the few surviving 18th century mineral collections anywhere), Thomas Brown of

Lanfine (Scottish and world minerals), Frederick Eck (South American, and world minerals), James "Paraffin" Young (world-wide), Frank Rutley (world-wide; the author of 'Rutley's Elements of Mineralogy'), and Alexander Thoms (mostly Scottish), plus many more. Particular areas of strength include Leadhills-Wanlockhead minerals, Scottish Carboniferous zeolites, greenockite, old East European mining localities, old South American mining districts, Australian gold deposits, and gemstones.

The rock collections include much material resulting from the research activities of Glasgow University geologists over the past two centuries. Particular strengths include Antarctic and sub-Antarctic islands; Iceland, Jan Mayen and Spitzbergen; Bernard Leake's extensive Connemara rock collections, the geology of Mull, JW Gregory collections including Yunnan, Burma, Peru, and Australia, meteorites (including the High Possil meteorite which fell in Glasgow in 1804); GW Tyrrell's collections from the USSR, Iceland, and Scotland; building stones, Alex Herriot's collection of magnificent thin-sections and rocks, and a huge range of other research, teaching and display rocks from around the world.

## **Palaeontology**

(152,000 specimens)

The catalogued palaeontological collections at the Hunterian include over 10,000 fossil plants, 10,000 vertebrates, 50,000 corals, 5,000 graptolites, 10,000 trilobites, 6,000 other arthropods, 40,000 molluscs, 10,000 microfossils, 5,000 brachiopods, 9,000 echinoderms, 10,000 thin sections of plants and other fossils, and several thousand Type and figured fossils.

Important acquisitions include the first discovered Scottish dinosaurs from the 1980s and dinosaur material collected by the famous Georgian general practitioner, Gideon Mantell. Other key collectors from whom material had been acquired include Alfred Leeds (Jurassic of Peterborough), the Reverend David Ure (earliest figured fossils from Scotland (1793)). The trilobite collection is one of the most important in the World, with research collections built up over the last 200 years from collectors and researchers in Scotland including Mrs Gray, Dr Keith Ingham, and George Rae. The George Rae bequest includes over 6,000 specimens of ammonites, fish, plants, but mostly trilobites.

## **Zoology**

(Entomology – 518,000 specimens; Zoology – 73,200 specimens)

The Zoology collections represent most of the major groups of animals but with particular strength in the insects. The historical core of the collection is Hunter's natural history material of which shells, insects and corals survive today some specimens from which are associated with major 18<sup>th</sup> century figures such as Captain Cook, Joseph Banks, Johann Christian Fabricius and Daniel Solander. Reflecting its growth as a University teaching and reference collection, there is broad coverage of the animal kingdom with good mammalian osteology and a spirit collection of several thousand specimens representing mainly invertebrates and the lower vertebrates. The entomology collections were enhanced in the mid-20th century by two major donations, of foreign Coleoptera from T.G.Bishop and the British insects of JJFX King. University staff added significant material in the areas of economic, medical and regional (Scottish) entomology. Other notable study collections include John Graham Kerr's South American lungfish, world Mollusca, Himalayan bird skins and the Hansell collection of animal artefacts (the National Bird Nest Reference Collection, insect nests and other constructions).

### **3. Themes and priorities for future collecting**

As a university museum the previous development of The Hunterian's collections have been driven by the teaching and research activities of the University of Glasgow. The Hunterian has a responsibility to maintain and further develop this relationship between academic activity and the collections and this will be the central priority for future collections development. Consequently there will be wide engagement with academic and strategic stakeholders in future collecting programmes and reference will be made to The Hunterian's Academic Strategy.

#### **3.1 General themes and priorities**

As a major encyclopaedic collection with an active collecting programme, the collections are international in scope, and acquisitions are wide-ranging and not limited to particular time periods, localities or even material types. However, some geographic and temporal criteria may apply within specific collection areas.

The Hunterian will develop individual collecting programmes for curatorial areas covering small scale and low value items, e.g. the National Nest Collection. These programmes will be focussed on specific areas of the collections and connect to known research, teaching and/or exhibition activity. Consequently these programmes will normally be time-limited and subject to quarterly reporting and annual review. For all areas of the collection, the existence of good quality associated data will be an important criterion when considering the acquisition of pre-existing collections, including University-developed PhD collections.

The founding collections of Dr William Hunter are a unique example of an encyclopaedic Enlightenment collection. Consequently The Hunterian will acquire items relating its founder and his founding collections. Likewise, The Hunterian has a responsibility to maintain the University's cultural and scientific history and consequently will acquire items relating to significant staff and alumni of the University and their work.

#### **3.2 Collection-specific themes and priorities**

While the following are the main spheres of current collecting interest, the development of the collections are not limited to these and The Hunterian does not discount other areas of acquisition falling within the existing collection areas and curatorial skills and resources.

##### **3.2.1 Art Collections**

The principal focus of collecting is Western European art, especially prints and drawings. Within that, the main areas of collecting activity include: works of art produced by Mackintosh, or in the circle of or under the influence of Mackintosh, and relevant works by his contemporaries; works of art by Whistler, in particular prints not currently represented in the collection and Whistleriana e.g. portraits of Whistler and works produced by his followers or under his influence; prints and drawings from the 15th century onwards, with a particular focus on British, especially Scottish prints from the 18th and 19th centuries; works of art by 20th-century and contemporary British, especially Scottish, artists.

##### **3.2.2 Archaeology and World Cultures**

The principle areas of collecting activity include material from prehistoric, Roman, and early medieval sites in west Scotland; Roman material from along the Antonine Wall; ethnographic

material relating to existing areas of the collection, in particular 18<sup>th</sup> Century exploration and 19<sup>th</sup> Century missionary activity.

### **3.3.3.a University History**

The principle areas of collecting activity include documentary objects relating to the history, buildings, staff and alumni of the University.

### **3.3.3.b General History**

The principle areas of collecting activity include documentary objects relating to Scottish history. Significant developments have included Scottish industrial pottery, Burnsiana.

### **3.3.4 Numismatics**

The principle areas of collecting activity include European coins, especially from ones the 17<sup>th</sup> Century which circulated in Scotland; Greek and Roman coins complementing the existing collection; Scottish banknotes; Scottish trade and communion tokens; Scottish paranumismatica; Historic, prize and war medals, with a particular emphasis on Glasgow University prize medals.

### **3.3.5 Scientific Instruments**

Collecting is limited to items with a significant association with the history of research or teaching at the University.

### **3.3.6 Anatomy and Medical**

Collecting is limited to material related to eminent medical figures associated with the University and with Glasgow.

### **3.3.7 Mineralogy and Petrology**

The principle areas of collecting activity include Scottish rocks and minerals, especially those representing the geology of the west of Scotland; non-Scottish material which particularly complements the existing collections.

### **3.3.8 Palaeontology**

The principle areas of collecting activity include fossils of Scottish origin, especially those from the west of Scotland; non-Scottish material which particularly complements the existing collections.

### **3.3.9 Zoology (including entomology)**

The principle areas of collecting activity include British bird nests augmenting the National Nest Reference Collection; vertebrate material particularly mammalian and avian osteology; terrestrial and aquatic non-insect invertebrates that complement the existing collections, including corals, arachnida, mollusca, brachiopoda; Scottish insects with a particular focus on island faunas; wood-eating (saproxylic) insects; world coleoptera and diptera.

#### **4. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal**

Responsible, curatorially-motivated disposal can take place as part of a museum's long-term collections policy, in order to increase public benefit and understanding derived from museum collections<sup>2</sup>.

The Hunterian is developing plans to relocate all collection stores to a new study centre in the Kelvin Hall. This presents an opportunity to review the existing collections and to develop appropriate rationalisation programmes.

Programmes already identified include:

- former University entomology teaching collections which are incompatible with current teaching methodologies
- scientific instruments and equipment acquired in bulk from 1970-2010

#### **5. Limitations on collecting**

The Hunterian 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.

The Hunterian will consider the long-term costs of caring for the collections. A conservation and collections care assessment will be made before all acquisitions are approved and the storage and immediate conservation requirements of the collection will be taken into consideration.

The Hunterian will not acquire:

- Modern normal anatomy human tissue specimens. These are dealt with by the licensed anatomists and facilities of the Laboratory of Human Anatomy, under the terms of the Anatomy Act. The Hunterian has no input into this and does not receive material from these processes.
- Modern pathological tissue specimens
- Archive materials (including photographs) other than those relating directly to existing collections. These will be preferentially offered to the University Archive Services or Special Collections where appropriate

#### **6. Collecting policies of other museums**

The Hunterian 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 museums and other key collecting relationships:

Scotland:

Glasgow Museums

---

<sup>2</sup> See Museums Association 'Disposals Toolkit' pg 5.

The National Galleries of Scotland  
The National Museums of Scotland  
The National Trust for Scotland

Other UK:

British Geological Survey  
The British Museum  
The Natural History Museum  
The Victoria & Albert Museum

## **7. Policy review procedure**

This Collections Development 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.

Museums Galleries Scotland will be notified of any changes to this 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 exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by The Hunterian Strategic Development Board, having regard to the interests of other museums and collecting institutions, as listed in 6 above.

## **9. Acquisition procedures**

- a. All proposed acquisitions and acquisition programmes will be submitted to The Hunterian Management Group, or other appointed Hunterian forum, for approval and sign-off by the Director prior to reporting to The Hunterian Strategic Development Board.
- b. The Hunterian 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 Hunterian can acquire a valid title to the item in question.
- c. In particular, The Hunterian 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).
- d. 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 The Hunterian 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.

- e. So far as biological and geological material is concerned, The Hunterian 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. Fossil collecting will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Scottish Fossil Code as endorsed by the Scottish Executive and published on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007.
- f. The Hunterian 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.
- g. In Scotland, under the laws of *bona vacantia* including Treasure Trove, the Crown has title to all ownerless objects including antiquities. Scottish archaeological material cannot therefore be legally acquired by means other than by allocation to The Hunterian by the Crown. Where the Crown chooses to forego its title to a portable antiquity, a Curator or other responsible person acting on behalf of the University of Glasgow, can establish that valid title to the item in question has been acquired by ensuring that a certificate of 'No Claim' has been issued on behalf of the Crown.
- h. Any exceptions to the above clauses 9b, 9c, 9d, 9f, or 9g will only be because The Hunterian 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 Hunterian will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

- i. As The Hunterian holds or intends to acquire human remains from any period (subject to the terms of 5 Limitations on Collections above), it will follow the guidelines in the 'Guidance for the Care of Human Remains in Scottish Museums' issued by Museums Galleries Scotland in 2008.

## **10. Spoliation**

The Hunterian 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 Hunterian’s governing body, acting on the advice of The Hunterian’s professional staff 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 Hunterian 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 below will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.

## **12. Management of archives**

As The Hunterian holds 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). Where necessary The Hunterian will seek advice from the University Archive Services.

## **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 Hunterian 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 Hunterian’s collection.
- c. The Hunterian 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 Hunterian 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. The Hunterian will not undertake disposal motivated principally by financial reasons

### **The disposal decision-making process**

- g. 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 Hunterian'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 Hunterian 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 University Court following recommendations by The Hunterian Strategic Development Board, itself acting on the advice of the professional curatorial staff and not of the curator of the collection acting alone. All proposals will, in the first instance, require the support of The Hunterian Management Group, or other appointed Hunterian forum.

### **Use of proceeds of sale**

- i. Any monies received by The Hunterian 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 Museums Galleries Scotland.
- 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 Hunterian 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 Hunterian will not dispose of items by exchange.

### **Documenting disposal**

o. 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.