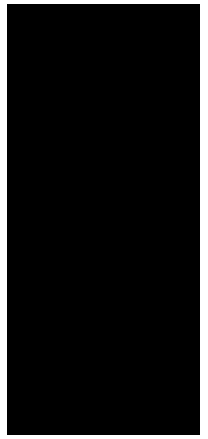


COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Approved by Collection Committee on 30 April 2019
Due for revision in May 2024



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Document history and review Collection Development Policy

Name of museum: Royal College of Music Museum

Name of governing body: The Council of the Royal College of Music, delegated to the Collections Committee

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: 20 April 2019

Policy review procedure: The collections development policy will be published and reviewed at least once every five years. It will be published on the Museum website.

1. Relationship to other relevant policies/plans of the organisation

1.1.

the disposal will be undertaken as a last resort after other sources of funding have been thoroughly explored
extensive prior consultation with sector bodies has been undertaken
the item under consideration lies outside the museum's established core collection

2. History of the Collections

The main constituent collections have been built from gifts since the foundation of the College under the direction of Sir George Grove in 183 and all are of international importance. The major collection of performance ephemera and that of prints, engravings and photographs were substantially created from 1970 onwards. The RCM Museum also includes a few important acquisitions that have been purchased with the aid of grants and donations.

The collection of instruments includes collections from the College's founder, The Prince of Wales, later to

- 3.2. Original works of art, prints, photographs, and other objects that directly form the study of the science and art of music and that provide insights into the practice of music.

In the immediate future, the RCM Museum will continue to collect with the utmost care in view of its very restricted display and storage capacity. Thus, the acceptance of keyboard or other large instruments, large art works or extensive archives will be carefully considered, and objects will only be accepted if they substantially enhance the research or educational value of the collection and additional space can be found.

4. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

- 4.1 The museum recognises that the principles on which priorities count

7. Archival Holdings

- 7.1. As the RCM Museum 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 (3rd ed., 2002).

8. Acquisition

- 8.1. The policy for agreeing acquisitions is:

- 8.1.1. The RCM 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 RCM Museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.

- 8.2. In particular, the RCM 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).

- 8.3. 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 RCM 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 DCMS in 2005.

- 8.4. Due to the nature of the RCM Museum's activities, it may occasionally acquire certain items which are not intended to be retained for the permanent collections. These items may be used for educational purposes.

- 8.4.1. In the case of such material, documentation will clearly show the intended use of the object and donors will be made aware of this possibility at the time of entry and informed as soon as a decision had been made regarding the material. These objects will be recorded separately outside the main accession record and shall not be treated as part of the permanent collection since their intended use

9. Human remains

9.1. The museum does not hold or intend to acquire any human remains.

10. Biological and geological material

10.1. The museum will not acquire any biological or geological material.

11. Archaeological material

11.1. The museum will not acquire archaeological material (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the governing body or responsible officer has any ~~scisp~~ suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures.

11.2. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the procedures include reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper ~~autho~~ authority in the case of possible treasure (i.e. the Coroner for Treasure) as setal (7(s)-14.6 (et13.1 (t)6.9 ()-13.9 (r)(s)-2.5 (m.2 (s)5 (c

legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance. This will mean that the procedures described in 16.1 will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.

15. Disposal procedures

15.1.

of the material normally through a notice on the MA's Find an Object web listing service, an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal or in other specialist publications and websites (if appropriate).

- 15.9. 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.
- 15.10. Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied solely and directly 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 d

- 17.3. Loans to external exhibitions will normally be made solely under the provisions of the Museumloan guidelines.