

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 June 2017

Report Title: Transfer of material to Battle Museum

Report By: Cathy Walling
Museum Curator

Purpose of Report

To inform members of a request from Battle Museum to convert loans into donations

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the Committee recommends the transfer of the items to Battle Museum**

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. The Curator has received a request from Battle Museum of Local History that Hastings Museum consider converting some long-term loans to Battle Museum to donations. Almost all the items in question have been on permanent exhibition in Battle Museum, some for over 50 years, and form an integral part of their displays.

2. Battle & District Historical Society Museum Trust was established in 1967 although the Historical Society had run a museum in Battle since 1951, set up with the help of J Manwaring Baines, Curator of Hastings Museum. In 1968 Hastings Museum converted some loan objects to gifts, but excluded four items: Stothard's Bayeux Tapestry prints, mezzotint of Isaac Ingall, Isaac Ingall's walking stick and the Allwork collection of Battle prints.

3. In 2003 the Curator of Hastings Museum, Victoria Williams, loaned to Battle four items associated with the gunpowder industry and previously used at Battle Powder Mill.

4. Battle Museum have expressed their gratitude to Hastings Museum for the loans and gifts over the years which are all on permanent display in their galleries. They would now like the four items excluded from the 1968 gift and the four items loaned in 2003 to become a donation.

5. The complete list of items is:
Stothard's Bayeux tapestry prints
Allworks albums of prints of Battle
Isaac Ingall's walking stick
Mezzotint of Isaac Ingall
Eprouvette with V-shaped spring
Eprouvette with flint lock mechanism
2 powder scoops made of copper

6. In May 2005 the Museum Committee agreed the transferral of two gunpowder mortars, previously displayed outside Hastings Museum, to Battle. These have finally been removed, in May 2017. One will be placed in the Almonry gardens and the other near Battle cricket ground.

7. Hastings Museum's Collections Policy was approved in 2015. Point 5.2 states: 'Responsible, curatorially-motivated disposal will take place during the life of this Collections Development Policy, in order to increase public benefit derived from the collections (see 5.1) and to rationalise the Museum's limited storage.' This transfer will fulfil both these criteria.

Wards Affected

None

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Officer to Contact

Cathy Walling
cwalling@hastings.gov.uk
01424 451151
