

Fife Cultural Trust has responsibility for the stewardship and development of Museum collections in the ownership of Fife Council.

The collections comprise over 115,000 artefacts, objects, photographs, documents, specimens and works of art.

These form a major part of the social and cultural heritage of Fife and include material that is important locally, nationally and internationally.

Priorities for future collecting (2019-2023)

ARCHIVES

We will only collect selected archive material when it has strong links to items already held in the Museum collection. The majority of possible new acquisitions will be directed to the Archives collection.

We will not collect national newspapers and magazines or O.S. maps.

COSTUME

We will not seek to collect female costume from 1800-1930 except where it is extremely well provenanced and fills an identified gap in the collection. Costume collecting will concentrate on working clothes and male costume.

ETHNOGRAPHY

We will not collect any further ethnographical material for the permanent collections.

FINE ART

We will concentrate on collecting works with a connection to Fife or the existing collection and on contemporary preeminent Scottish work, particularly focusing on work which connects to the existing collections.

Developing the art collections to retain their contemporary relevance is a priority area.

NATURAL HISTORY

We will not collect any further botanical, geological or zoological material for the permanent collections.

NUMISMATICS

We will not collect currency except where it can be demonstrated that it fills an identified gap in the existing collection, or where it is included in archaeological material claimed as Treasure Trove which is being bid for.

We will continue to collect trade tokens, communion tokens and commemorative medals with local associations.

We will not collect military medals unless they are of exceptional local significance or connected to local militia.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We will only collect photographic still images where there are strong links to existing items in the Museum collection. In general, local photographic still images will be redirected to Local Studies.

Born digital images will not be acquired for the Museum collection and will be directed to Local Studies. Digital images will only be collected as material supplementary to the collection.

We will not collect moving images. Any film stock offered will be redirected to the National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive.

SOCIAL & INDUSTRIAL HISTORY

We will continue to collect material made, used or associated with Fife with a view to building on current strengths in the collection or filling identified gaps, e.g.

furniture made by McIntosh of Kirkcaldy and fireclay products made in Townhill, Dunfermline.

We will not acquire weapons unless of great local significance. Firearms and ammunition covered by current firearms legislation must be added to the Museum Firearms Licence before formal acquisition.

We will no longer collect the following specific items for the permanent collection:

- Radios and television sets
- Photographic equipment
- Domestic appliances for cleaning, food storage and food preparation e.g. mangles, washing machines, washboards, vacuum cleaners, fridges, mincers
- Grooming accessories e.g. razors, hairdryers
- WWII gas masks, National Registration cards, WWII and post WWII ration coupon books
- Books - unless of particular local significance or connected to objects in the collection
- Knitting and sewing patterns
- Motorised vehicles
- Bicycles, prams
- Typewriters
- Sewing machines