

**Appendix 2**  
**Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum Management Committee**  
**October 2024**  
**Disposal Reports**

## **Disposal Report for Various Cased and Uncased Taxidermy Mounts of British Species Currently Held on Loan by Hampshire Cultural Trust**

### **Introduction**

The RCAGM (Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum) is considering the disposal of the above in-line with section 5.4 of its Collection Development Strategy which has identified that some areas of its collection, including natural history, are surplus to requirements and constitute a drain on limited resources.

Section 3.15 of the Collection Development Strategy identifies the natural history material within the RCAGM collections which does not relate to its 'Core Offer'<sup>1</sup> as a disposal priority. Section 5.4 states that all natural history material not acquired by our Founders should be disposed of.

The items under consideration in this report have been on loan to Hampshire Cultural Trust and its predecessor organisations since at least 1977. It is considered sector best practice to review such long-term loans and, where possible and suitable, transfer the material concerned to the ownership of the borrower.

To expedite the situation and to save time this report will deal with this material at a group rather than an individual level as the rationale for disposal is identical and applies universally across the items concerned.

### **Object Description and Provenance**

Please turn to Appendix 1 for details and images of the individual items concerned. All are in good condition and were professionally stuffed and mounted at the time of their creation.

These objects have been on loan to Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) and its predecessor organisations since at least 1977. They have received good care and conservation treatment from HCT down the years. Some are currently held at the HCT headquarters site at Chilcomb, Winchester but most are at the Gosport Museum and Art. It is understood that they have been displayed, researched, and used in a variety of ways by the borrower down the years. The items held at Gosport are currently used in their natural history learning space and form part of their offer to schools and other groups of learners.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix 2 for the full text of the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to match up all the items subject to this report to specific entries in our accession registers. The information in the accession registers is often too vague to make a definitive connection to the objects at hand. As a result, these items are still held on the temporary inventory numbers (:T numbers) assigned to them during the Renaissance in the Regions funded inventory project (2003-2010). However, all have official RCAGM labelling on the reverse or are known by HCT to be from our collections. It is possible that they are from one of the identified donations discussed below.

The provenance of those specimens that have known donors is as follows:

- 337.33.125 & 126 - Part of a group of 63 birds, mostly British, given as a bequest in 1933 by Captain Henry Osmond Andrews R.N. Unfortunately, there is no Object History File on this donation but research has shown that Captain Andrews was a career naval officer who retired to West Southbourne, Bournemouth, following the First World War. There is no information as to the use of this collection.
- 405.35.98.2 - Part of a group of 17 cased taxidermy mounts given by the executors of A.H.B. Hartford of Christchurch. Given in 1935 they were held at the RCAGM until 1951 when records indicate that the entire collection was dispersed to other sites, but it is unclear on what basis as there is no corresponding entry in the Loans Register<sup>2</sup>. Material from this collection was sent to the Red House at Christchurch and by 1977 they were in the hands of HCT's parent body Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service.
- 426.36.26.1, 9 & 13 - Part of a bequest of a Dr Snell of Winton, Bournemouth, given in 1936 consisting of 51 cased taxidermy mounts of birds with five volumes of 'Birds of the British Isles' by G. Stoneham. Records indicate the two of the cases were destroyed following attack by moth in 9.1942. Like the Hartford collection, 48 of the cases Snell bequest were sent to the Red House Museum<sup>3</sup> at Christchurch in 1951. It is members of this subsection of the original bequest that are the subject of this report. By 1977 they were formerly recorded by Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service.

Key to the intellectual value of any taxidermy specimen is the quality of the scientific data associated with it. Knowing with a measure of precision where a specimen comes from and when allows researchers to make use of it be it for visual comparison or DNA sampling. The specimens subject to this report are for the most part without much of this data but it can be presumed, with some exceptions, that the majority are from this geographical region.

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<sup>2</sup> It is possible that some of this collection was returned to the RCAGM at some point and destroyed due to pest infestation some time in the 1990s.

<sup>3</sup> The Red House Museum, Christchurch, is operated by HCT despite being within the BCP conurbation as it remained in the hands of Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service following the change in the Dorset county border in the 1970s.

Another marker of worth in this branch of natural science is the taxidermist who carried out the work in the specimen. Some taxidermists were so skilled that their work is sought after by collectors for its aesthetic value alone. Three of the taxidermists involved in the creation of some of these specimens are named (see Appendix 1).

Christine Taylor, former natural history curator at HCT - now at Portsmouth City Museums, was asked to comment on the taxidermists involved. She stated that all of the three known to have created the specimens subject to this report were well regarded locally but that Edward Hart has a national profile with examples of his work being in the Horniman Museum and Leicester Museum and Art Gallery.

One of the specimens currently on a temporary inventory number, T9.11.2007.36, might have originally come from Hurn Court near Christchurch, the family seat of the Earls of Malmesbury. This is probably as the result of a sale of the house's contents in the 1950s-1960s but there is no corresponding accession register entry.

### **The Case for Retention**

#### **Meeting the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM**

This material does not fit within the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM (see below) as these specimens were not collected by our Founders. While Lady Russell-Cotes had an interest in natural history it was canted towards the exotic species that the Russell-Cotes' encountered on their travels, especially in New Zealand.

#### **Relevance to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy**

This material is completely irrelevant to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy (see below).

#### **Public Benefit**

The retention of this material by the RCAGM would not benefit the public in any way as it is already in the care of HCT and fully accessible by the public or researchers.

#### **Effect of Disposal on Remaining Collections**

The disposal of this material by the RCAGM would have no detrimental effect on the rest of its collections.



### **Implications for Public Collections Holding Similar Material**

No other public collections in the UK would suffer from the RCAGM disposing of this material. HCT would benefit from a transfer of ownership of this collection by having full control over it. Currently the loan status of this material places restrictions on what HCT can do with it.

### **The Costs of Retention (Including Conservation)**

Currently this material does not place any cost only the RCAGM other than the staff time to manage the loan. This collection is insured and cared for at HCT's expense.

This material does not currently place a financial burden on the RCAGM. However, there could, in theory, be a future cost should HCT ever decide to return it. Most problematically storage space would have to be found for it. It would have to be added to the RCAGM's insurance although that cost would be small as the taxidermy specimens such as these are low value items.

### **The Case for Disposal**

#### **Meeting the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM**

This material does not meet the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM. It is not associated in any way with Lady Russell-Cotes who did have an interest in natural science. She formed a collection of taxidermy but that was based on non-UK specimens.

#### **Relevance to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy**

This material is not relevant to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy as it does not meet the 'Core Offer' around which the strategy is based. It is very hard to see any reason why the RCAGM would use this collection in its public programme when we know that Lady Russell-Cotes was primarily interested in non-UK species, especially New Zealand birds.

### **Public Benefit**

The RCAGM is not benefitting the public in any way by retaining this collection. The RCAGM is not a natural history museum, and it is not perceived as such by the visiting public or researchers.

### **Effect of Disposal on Remaining Collections**

The disposal of this collection by the RCAGM would have no detrimental effect on the rest of its collections.

### **Implications for Public Collections Holding Similar Material**

No other museums/collections in the UK would suffer from the RCAGM disposing of this collection. If the collection was transferred to HCT they would benefit from secure ownership over it. If it was offered to the Bournemouth Natural Science Society (BNSS) they would make much better use of it than the RCAGM ever would.

### **The Costs of Disposal**

The cost of disposing of this collection would be minimal and of the usual amount one would expect to see as part of the disposal process. There is no grant aid or funding to be repaid.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The disposal of this type of material is indicated in the RCAGM's Collection Development Strategy under section 5.4. This material lacks relevance to the RCAGM and its current activities which are based around its 'Core Offer'. The RCAGM is interested only in retaining that natural science material which compliments its 'Core Offer' i.e. material which was, or is similar to, that collected by Lady Russell-Cotes.


If HCT were ever to discontinue the loan of this collection and return it to the RCAGM it is hard to see how it would ever be displayed or used as part of its public programme and it would add considerably to existing storage pressures. Such material is much better in the hands of an organisation specifically interested in and dedicated to natural history and able to cope with the required specialist collection care needs.

Therefore, this report recommends that the portion of this collection held at Gosport is offered as transfer to HCT which has expressed an informal but strong interest in retaining and using it. The specimens held at HCT's Chilcomb store should be offered to the BNSS in the first instance as they have expressed a strong interest having taken all the items in the previous round of natural history disposals.

In the unlikely event that neither the BNSS or HCT want this material then it should be advertised to the wider museum community via the Museums Association's website and the Museums Journal as per sector best practice and the RCAGM's own procedures. This will allow any museum or public collection to express an interest.



Duncan Walker MA, AMA




Curator, RCAGM






## Appendices



### Appendix 1 - Listing of Taxidermy Held on Loan by Hampshire Cultural Trust Subject to this Report



Accession No. (or equivalent)	Description	Provenance	Image
:337.33.125	A cased taxidermied Gannet ( <i>Morus bassanus</i> ) found at Southsea, Portsmouth, 1921.	Bequest of late Captain H.O. Andrews R.N., 1933.	 A taxidermied Gannet (Morus bassanus) is displayed in a glass case. The bird is white with a long, straight black beak and a black cap. It is standing on a small patch of green grass and a few rocks. The background of the case is a painted backdrop of a blue sky and a green field.
:337.33.126	A cased taxidermy mount of a Pintail Duck ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ).	Bequest of late Captain H.O. Andrews R.N., 1933.	 A taxidermied Pintail Duck (Anas acuta) is displayed in a glass case. The duck is white with a long, straight black beak and a black cap. It is standing on a small patch of green grass and a few rocks. The background of the case is a painted backdrop of a blue sky and a green field.

:405.35.98.2	A taxidermied dark phase Brent Goose ( <i>Branta bernicla</i> ) mounted, facing right, in a display case. Case decorated with rushes ( <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> ), sedges ( <i>Carex riparia</i> ), two grass species, a colonial coelenterate and shells. The bird mounted on a simulated rock, the background uniform blue.	Gift of the executors of A.H.B. Hartford, 1935.	
:426.36.26.1	A taxidermy mount of a Hen Harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ) mounted in a display case which was shot near Ringwood, Hampshire in the autumn of 1924 and prepared by Arthur Ponchaud, High Street, Ringwood, Hampshire in 1925.	Bequest of Dr S.H. Snell, 1936.	
:426.36.26.9	A cased taxidermy mount of a Hooded Crow ( <i>Corvus corone cornix</i> ) prepared by J. King and Son, Warminster, 1850-1900. Bird mounted facing left on a simulated rock decorated with moss and two specimens of grass ( <i>Agrostis tenuis</i> and a <i>Fetuca</i> sp). Case glazed on three sides. Background plain white.	Bequest of Dr S.H. Snell, 1936.	



:426.36.26.13	A cased taxidermy mount of a group Black Headed Gulls ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) consisting of a male, a female and three young.	Bequest of Dr S.H. Snell, 1936.	
:T9.11.2007.11	A cased taxidermy mount of birds with a nest consisting of two adult Pectoral Sandpipers ( <i>Calidris melanotos</i> ), with a juvenile (possibly summer plumage Dunlin?) thought to have been prepared by Edward Hart of Christchurch.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	
:T9.11.2007.13	A cased taxidermy mount of a pair of Dippers ( <i>Cinclus cinclus</i> ) with a nest. One Dipper is facing right on low rock ledge, on right on rock ledge looking into the nest with wings outstretched. Nest in the middle of the rock with one simulated, hatching egg. Rock decorated with <i>Juncu squanosus</i> , <i>Melica uniflora</i> , a fern, mosses and a lichen ( <i>Stereocaulon</i> sp). Background a cloudy sky with green riverbank below. Case glazed on three sides.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	

:T9.11.2007.15	A cased taxidermy mount of a Slavonian Grebe ( <i>Podiceps auritus</i> ). It is in winter plumage mounted facing left, Base of case decorated with bryozoa, the rest covered with a fine sand. The background is a clourwash, pale sky blue above, pale pink below.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	
:T9.11.2007.26	A cased taxidermy mount of two Little Auks ( <i>Alle alle</i> ) found at Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 1901.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	

:T9.11.2007.36	A cased taxidermy mount of a pair of Goldeneyes ( <i>Bucephala clangula</i> ), male and female. Possibly part of the Malmesbury Collection.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	
:T9.11.2007.40	A cased taxidermy mount of a pair of Pintails ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ). Male and female specimens.	Recorded as found in store, 2007.	



## **Appendix 2 - The RCAGM Statement of Purposes - Our Core Offer**

Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding celebration of late-Victorian art collectors; their passions and achievements; how they lived and encountered the world; and how they presented their collections to enrich the lives of others.

We are entrusted to present the Russell-Cotes' personal vision and legacy in the most authentic way possible, and to enable learning, enjoyment and access to the house and collections for residents and visitors to Bournemouth.

The 'core offer' is focused on the historic building, East Cliff Hall, its stunning seafront setting, and its internationally-known collections, which attract and astound visitors. However, this is only part of the offer. In addition to the original house, we also have four art galleries added in the early 1900s. We will use this offer to:

1. Explain the story of the Russell-Cotes, the Victorian/Edwardian house and world cultures/art collections, putting it into local, national and international context
2. Encourage use of the galleries, collections, and unique energy and atmosphere of the house to inspire great art, and to stimulate creativity and curiosity
3. Explore aspects of the human condition, which were recognised by the Victorian innovators, philanthropists and social reformers, and which matter to communities today.

Finally, the spaces available at Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum are not the exclusive domain of the Victorians. We are developing a vibrant cultural programme which, while rooted in the era of our founders, will be a stage for wider participation and engagement. We will continue in the spirit of two of Bournemouth's most forward-thinking citizens by striving to make a significant contribution to the development of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum as a cultural flagship for Bournemouth. (MBTS, 2012)

We want our art gallery and museum to do what the very best galleries and museums do: to be spaces where the past, present and future come together in an irresistible mix of life, culture and heritage - a place where everyone can feel at home with a world of art.

## Disposal Report for – BORGM:1972.13 Washing Machine



### Introduction

The RCAGM (Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum) is considering the disposal of the above in-line with sections 5.3 and 5.4 of its Collection Development Policy which has identified that some areas of its collection, including local and social history, as surplus to requirements and constitute a drain on limited resources.

Section 3.9 of the Collection Development Strategy identifies much of the non-fine art material or memorabilia within the RCAGM's Local/Social History Collections as incompatible with the 'Core Offer<sup>1</sup>' of the RCAGM. Section 3.9.2 states the insignificance and irrelevance of parts of the Local/Social History collection, and Section 5.4 suggests the disposal of any material which does not directly relate to the Russell-Cotes family and their activities and/or the 'Core Offer<sup>2</sup>'.

### Object Description and Provenance

The specific details of the item under consideration in this report are as follows<sup>3</sup>:

BORGM:1972.13 – A hand operated washing machine made by Fletcher, Russell and Co. Ltd of Warrington, dated to 1900-1925. The machine consists of a cast iron frame on which a copper tub sits. The tub, which has a removable lid, contains a pierced steel rotating drum that has a hatch in the top for the clothes to go inside. The outside of the tub has a tump to empty dirty water out and the connection for securing the handle (formerly recorded under T7.5.2008.14) that powers the drum. A pair of wooden tongs for removing clothing and the handle are stored inside the tub.

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix for the full text of the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix for the full text of the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM

<sup>3</sup> See Appendix for images of the item

The washing machine was a bequest from Mr Nash, received by the RCAGM via Mrs Trebble of 12 Acland Road, Bournemouth, in April 1972. It has '£10' written next to the donor information. Unfortunately, there are no other details.

According to our records, it has not been shown in any displays or exhibitions, which supports the bid for its disposal.

Dimensions: 1120 mm x 530 mm x 420 mm

## **The Case for Retention**

### **Meeting the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM**

This washing machine does not fit within the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM (see below).

### **Relevance to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy**

This washing machine is completely irrelevant to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy (see below).

### **Public Benefit**

The retention of this washing machine by the RCAGM would not benefit the public in any way.

### **Effect of Disposal on Remaining Collections**

The disposal of this washing machine by the RCAGM would have no detrimental effect on the rest of its collections.

### **Implications for Public Collections Holding Similar Material**

No other public collections in the UK would suffer from the RCAGM disposing of this washing machine.

### **The Costs of Retention (Including Conservation)**

The washing machine is in good condition. Currently this washing machine does not place an excessive cost the RCAGM other than storage and insurance (although that cost is small as it is a low value item).

## **The Case for Disposal**

### **Meeting the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM**

This washing machine does not meet the 'Core Offer' of the RCAGM. It is not connected to our Founders in anyway.

### **Relevance to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy**

This washing machine is not relevant to the RCAGM Interpretation Strategy as it does not meet the 'Core Offer' around which the strategy is based. It is very hard to see any reason why the RCAGM would use this washing machine in its public

programme as there is no dedicated local/social history display space in the RCAGM. The provenance of this washing machine is Warrington and due to it being a bequest the exact provenance of it is unknown, although it is possible that it was used in Bournemouth. As far the RCAGM can determine the Russell-Cotes' made use of the laundry facilities provided by their hotel (the adjacent Royal Bath Hotel) like they did for servant staff and formal dining.

### **Public Benefit**

The RCAGM is not benefitting the public in any way by retaining this washing machine. The RCAGM is not a social history museum (despite have some such material in its collections) and it is not perceived as such by the visiting public or researchers.

### **Effect of Disposal on Remaining Collections**

The disposal of this washing machine by the RCAGM would have no detrimental effect on the rest of its collections. The disposal of this item will not adversely impact the integrity of other collection items.

### **Implications for Public Collections Holding Similar Material**

No other museums/collections in the UK would suffer from the RCAGM disposing of this washing machine.

### **The Costs of Disposal**

The cost of disposing of this washing machine would be minimal. There is no grant aid or funding to be repaid.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The disposal of this type of material is indicated in the Collection Development Strategy under section 3.9.2. This object lacks relevance to the RCAGM and its current activities which are based around its 'Core Offer'. While the RCAGM holds social history related material, it is primarily art or souvenir related or embedded within and integral to wider collections of ethnographic artefacts. This washing machine stands alone and does not relate to the 'Core Offer'.

It hard to see how this washing machine would be displayed in the RCAGM or form part of its public programme going forward. Future exhibitions held by the RCAGM would be focused on art rather than objects such as this. Such an item is much better in the hands of an organisation specifically interested in and dedicated to social history. The disposal of this item would also free up much needed storage space.

Therefore, this report recommends that this washing machine is disposed of, ideally to another UK public collection – ideally Warrington Museum and Art Gallery would have first refusal. Should they not be interested sector best practice and the RCAGM's own procedures mandate that all disposals should be advertised to the



wider museum community via the Museums Association's website or the Museums Journal. This will allow any museum or public collection to express an interest.

Transfer to another collection holding institution would mean that the item remains in the public domain. However, should no such institution be interested then sale via a suitable auctioneer remains the option of last resort. In accordance with sector best practice and ethical guidance the funds raised by such a sale would be ring-fenced and placed back into the budget relating to collection care and development.

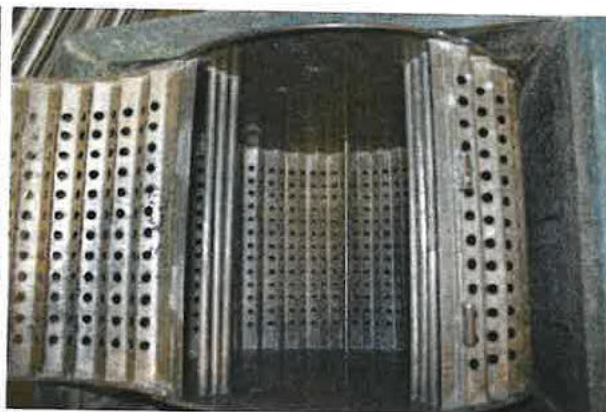
Lily Tutty – Apprentice Curator, RCAGM



## Appendices



### Appendix 1 – Images





## **Appendix 2 – The RCAGM Statement of Purposes – Our Core Offer**

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