

SECTION 1

1.1 Description of Object/Objects

Current documentary records (Appendix 1) of pianos and harmonium show we have 12 of these large objects (including Lord Tennyson's piano) within our collection. Of these we have one on permanent display at MLL (1975/20) and two on display at Church Farm (1974/1164 & 1979/365).

At present we have been unable to locate three (1968/133, 1979/1012 & 1981/321) and the proposal is to look at rationalising the remaining items except for Tennyson's piano. None of the remaining items have ever been on display and with the limited display space, are unlikely to do so. They are currently all stored on the mezzanine area in our Butterworths Store where they consume a considerable area of space – approx 16 cubic metres (4 x 2 x 2 metres high).

All the 'remaining' objects, 3 pianos and 2 harmonium, date from late 1800s through to mid 1900s and are in varying condition states photographs of each object are attached for reference.

Piano 1984/527 has donor details (Louth) listed in the accession register but has no transfer of ownership or receipt paperwork in the history files.

Piano 1995/534/1-2 although recorded as two items, it is recorded in the accession register as one item (piano). Moreover, the accession register does not show a donor, simply "MLL" in pencil – this is used to indicate an untraced find and is the term that is recorded on the electronic Modes record.

Harmonium T21 has no entries in either the accession register or the history files and indicates a temporary number allocated to object of unknown origin, which, were found when the initial Butterworth's storage project was conceived in the early 2000's. It does not fit the description of 1974/1164 so could not be mistaken for this object.

Piano T28 and Harmonium T29 are the same as T21, with no documentation and recorded as untraced find on MODES, in both cases they do not fit the descriptions of the items that we cannot locate.

1.2 Reason For Disposal

None of these objects are current used for display and none of them have been used for display in the past. None are in working order and all would take considerable resource to make them workable or displayable. None of the items are deemed to be 'significant'; likewise, due to lack of documentation, there is no way to establish special local provenance other than to say they have at sometime belonged to and used by people living in Lincolnshire. Another reason for disposal is also clearly 'duplication'.

At best, all these objects are going to be used for is set dressing rather than as a display of musical instruments. MLL is not a music museum, and there are no plans for developments in this area.

1.3 Suggested Means of Disposal & Reason

The proposal is that these items be put up through the standard MA disposal route in line with our Collections Development Strategy, i.e.

5.4 The Service will not:

5.4.1 Generally collect replica or duplicate items.

5.4.2 Generally collect material that it cannot care for properly.

5.4.3 Generally collect material that is in poor condition.

5.4.4 Generally collect material in areas in which the Service has no specialist knowledge or experience.

1.4 Impact Statement

Potential Risks:

Due to lack of formal paperwork we cannot say exactly what we are really putting up for rationalisation and thus there is potential for negative publicity in the future, but this is highly unlikely. This can also be mitigated by highlighting that we are keeping those similar objects that we know are significant, Tennyson's Piano, and those already on display.

Potential Benefits:

The potential benefit is the generation of 16 cubic metres of available space to better manage and care for the objects we know are more significant and/or we have more formal responsibility for.

1.5 Other Considerations

At present it is not believe that there are any special considerations that need to be highlighted as the objects are not oversized etc.

1.6 Recommendation

These items were discussed with the other Collections Access Officers at the Collections Care Group meeting in Dec.2011 and it was agreed that these items should be taken forward to disposal panel for consideration on the grounds of: duplication; not fitting with the new, tighter CDS; there being no requirement of them for display purposes and the perceived benefits that their rationalisation will facilitate for other collection items through the freeing up of space.

SECTION 2

(to be completed by Disposal Panel)

2.1 Panel Decision

Fully agree with Disposal Report Section 1 recommendation

Agree with Disposal Report Section 1 recommendation, with additional requirements/
comment (section 2.2)

Disagree with Disposal Report recommendation for reasons given below (section 2.2)

2.2 Additional Comments

- Are there any local makers? If there are, we should retain those pianos/harmoniums that have been produced locally; disposing of all those items that are not local.

Signed: Jonathan Platt (Chair of Disposal Panel) Date: 9th March 2012

Subsequently, the local maker issue was investigated and none of the items put forward for possible disposal were found to relate to any Lincolnshire maker.

Mark McCree, May 2012

SECTION 3

(to be completed by Collections Officer)

3.1 Exec Report No _____

3.2 Exec Decision No _____

3.3 Action / Date Completed _____

Ensure a copy of the Authority deaccession/disposal form is attached to this sheet

3.4 Name, Contact Details & Status of Recipient

Accredited museum, private museum etc.

3.5 New Location and Number of Object

For future access, should enquiries come in.

3.6 Benefits Achieved for the Service/Object:

Short summary tying back to section 1.4