

## Appendix 3

### Description, provenance and proposed transfer:

Object description:	Accession number:	Proposed transfer to:
Horse trave (i.e. large wooden frame for shoeing carthorses), England 19thC	R5742/103	The Sussex Archaeological Society: Sussex Past (Lewes and various properties)
Two metal cartwheel rim formers, England 19thC	HATMP004419	Ditto
Mummy, Ancient Egypt	R3909	The British Museum, London

#### *Horse trave and rim formers*

The horse trave, and probably the two rim formers, appear to be objects that originate from the old Dawkins blacksmith forge in Brighton. They were acquired by Royal Pavilion & Museums in 1967. Loaned for many years to Stanmer Rural Museum, they were returned to RPM in 2014 since that Museum could no longer display collections on its Stanmer site.

#### *Ancient Egyptian Mummy (also named the ‘Richmond Mummy’ or ‘Goodwood Mummy’)*

The Mummy and display case were donated to RPM by the 8th Duke of Richmond in 1935. The Mummy had previously been on display at Goodwood House since the early 1800’s. Its provenance is not entirely clear. Initially it was thought to have been one of the first Mummies to be exported out of Egypt in the mid-18thC – collected by Richard Pococke and sent to the 2nd Duke of Richmond around 1743. However, it is documented that Pococke measured all the bones for the latter Mummy and, since RPM’s Mummy is still largely wrapped, it is unlikely to be the same one (as confirmed by Dr Rachel Finnegan of the Waterford Institute of Technology). It therefore seems that the Mummy is probably a later acquisition by the 3rd Duke, sometime in the early 1800’s. In Goodwood’s records it seems that the Mummy may have been transported in a stone sarcophagus which has since been lost (prior to its acquisition by the Museum). The mummy itself appears to contain the body of a young woman (possibly a priestess) and is covered with pieces of highly-decorated cartonnage, some of which do not relate to the original mummy.

## **Transfer Checklist:**

*This records the process of assessment concerning the proposed transfer of material from the Royal Pavilion & Museums collections, following best-practice and protocols in the museums sector.*

### Ensure a Collections Development Policy is in place, outlining scope and ability to transfer

A Collections Development Policy is in place and has been approved by the Committee (2013). Any transfer follows the policies and procedures laid out in sections 4 and 13 of this document.

### Clarify the desired outcome of the transfer process and draw up an assessment framework

The transfer will:

- a) Ensure that the items will remain actively used (including research, interpretation and access).
- b) All four items are demanding in terms of collections care, especially due to their size and conservation requirements. The horse trave and rim formers are very large and heavy and can only be moved by a lorry with a crane. Transfer means that valuable space and staff resource can be directed towards other collections RPM can more actively use.
- c) Michelham Priory (one of the properties managed by Sussex Archaeological Society) has a working forge and blacksmith and offers the ideal place for the horse trave and rim formers to be displayed. The mummy is a particularly complex object with the cartonnage composed of elements put together from several other mummies, possibly for trade. RPM lacks specialist Egyptologists on the curatorial team. At the British Museum the piece will be actively researched by experienced specialists using the latest technologies, and with a collection to reference it against. Given the condition of the mummy's human remains (the bandages are partially unwrapped) it is a piece that can only be displayed with great sensitivity and in a context where its curious composition and condition can be properly interpreted and explained. It also requires the specialist conservation and storage which the British Museum can offer.
- d) RPM currently has no scope to display the four items and does not foresee this changing.
- e) For all the pieces, the proposed transfers ensure they will remain and be used in the public domain.

These outcomes will be assessed following the transfer process.

A Collections Impact Assessment has been prepared for the horse trave and rim formers and has informed the proposal for transfer and the above outcomes. A

Collections Review of RPM's Ancient Egyptian collections in 2013 (using the assessment framework set out in, *What's in Store: Collections Reviews in the North West*, (Renaissance North West, 2008)) identified the need to address the long-term future of the Mummy.

Is the museum legally able to transfer the items?

Yes. To our best knowledge and documentary research this is the case.

Have ethical considerations been met?

- a) The transfer is not primarily financially motivated.
- b) The transfer is not being made on an ad hoc basis.
- c) Expert advice on the mummy has been sought from Dr Margaret Serpico (independent Egyptologist and expert contributor to the Collections Review), and Dr John Taylor from the Department of Ancient Egypt & Sudan, British Museum, and in-house curatorial and conservation specialists. The proposals have also been discussed and agreed at RPM's internal Collections Development Panel.
- d) We foresee no adverse impact on museums, on the contrary the transfers represent a positive story of responsible collections management and use for the benefit of society.
- e) In this respect it is in the long term public interest.
- f) The transfer methods proposed ensure that the items will remain in the public domain.

Select method of transfer most likely to achieve desired outcome and secure formal approval from governing body

Based on existing partnerships relating to research and collections linked to this material, RPM has discussed the transfer of the horse trave and rim formers with Sussex Archaeological Society, and the mummy with the British Museum. RPM is extremely fortunate to have host organisations keen to accept this material and they have agreed to this pending the Committee's approval. The horse trave and mummy in particular are significant items and these accredited organisations have the expert care and research resources needed to make best use of these pieces for the benefit of the public now and in the future.

Formulate a communications strategy

A strategy has been formulated on the basis that the report to Committee will be in the public domain. It emphasises the benefits of the transfers to the wider museum community and the public, as outlined in the above sections. It also makes clear that the transfers have been made according to best practise in the sector and adhering to the Museum Association's Code of Ethics.

The transfer process will be documented and archived on RPM's Mimsy collections management system and in the Object History Files relating to these items, in accordance with SPECTRUM 5.0 which is the UK standard for collections management.

