



# **The Scout Association Heritage Service Collecting Policy**

**March 2017**

## **Collecting Areas:**

The collecting areas of the Service have been defined as;

- The life and works of founder, Robert Baden-Powell
- The story of UK Scouting, from its conception to the present day
- The development of UK Scouting, from its conception to the present day
- The historical landscape of Gilwell Park and the people who have contributed to it

In accordance with the Museums Association's *Guidance on the ethics and practicalities of acquisition (2004)*, an object will only be acquired if the Heritage Service can;

*'provide adequate, continuing long-term care for the item and public access to it, without compromising standards of care and access relating to the existing collections'.*

## **Suitability:**

The following criteria will be used when assessing an item(s) suitability for the Heritage Collection<sup>1</sup>:

### **Provenance**

Ensuring the owner has the right to transfer Title, and that the acquisition is free from restrictions and special conditions. The donor must be prepared to complete the relevant acquisition paperwork (Donation Information and Entry Form<sup>2</sup>) before an item(s) is accepted. Item(s) cannot be accepted without the completion of the paperwork.

### **Relevance, importance and long term cultural value**

The item(s) must be relevant to the purpose of the Heritage Service and the Collecting Policy. All acquisitions will be assessed in their ability for interpretation, learning, inspiration, engagement, discussion, debate and research. The Service will not hesitate to acquire potentially controversial material as the Collection should be truly representative. Such items have the possibility to be used as instruments for discussion and debate, which is in line with the Service's adherence to the MA's Code of Ethic's statement that museums should, 'support freedom of speech and debate'.

### **Use**

The capacity of the item to support interpretation, engagement, learning and research in line with the Service's statement of purpose;

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<sup>1</sup> 'Material' refers to 3D and 2D objects, i.e. trophy or a book.

<sup>2</sup> The Donation Information Form allows us to capture your memories and stories of Scouting, and it is this contextual information that really helps 'history come alive'. The Entry form is our legal paperwork which proves you have willingly donated the items to the Collection and you have transferred ownership from yourself to the Heritage Service

*We have an active and innovative programme of collecting, interpretation and engagement. The Heritage Collection helps create connections between members of The Scout Association, both past and present, and the wider community.*

**Condition**

The item will need to be in a stable condition as the Service has limited resources to commission any significant restoration. If the item is not in a fair state, but its very condition evidences how the item was used or was damaged, then it would be considered for acquisition.

**Representation**

If the item fills a gap in the Collection. Items already represented in the Collection will be considered for acquisition if they are in a better condition, if it is a significant item, or if it's an item often requested for research, loans etc., thereby ensuring one of the items could be preserved rather than damaging it further through frequent use.

## **Collecting Policy:**

### **The life and works of founder, Robert Baden-Powell**

- Material related to the conception and development of Scouting
- Material which is related to the crossover between Lord Baden-Powell's Army career and Scouting

### **The story of UK Scouting, from its conception to the present day**

- Material related to a Scout Group which has had a significant involvement in Scouting activities and/or events, where the people and/or places can be identified
- Non generic material which demonstrates the evolution of Scouting
- Material related to a significant Scout member (where associated memories/stories can be collected). Significant is defined as someone who was influential (i.e. driven innovation/change had an impact on Scouting)
- Material reflecting stories and anecdotal Scouting information
- Products produced by TSA to commemorate anniversaries and events

### **The development of UK Scouting, from its conception to the present day**

Material (published or non-published), must reflect the development of Scouting in the following areas:

- Diversity
- Disability Awareness
- Programming
- Policy, Organisation and Rules
- Community/social Impact
- Strategic Plans
- Introduction of different Sections

The ongoing management of The Association (i.e. Minutes and papers of the Board and other Committees.

### **The historical landscape of Gilwell Park, and the people who have contributed to it**

- Material relating to past or present structures on site
- Material relating to the people who created past or present structures on site
- Material relating to the people who assisted with clearing and working on the site when it was purchased in 1919