

Museum Mysteries

It's Not Just A Game Anymore...

Accession or Deaccession



Colonel Mustard Museum of Arms & Armament

The mission of the Colonel Mustard Museum of Arms & Armament is to collect, preserve, interpret, exhibit, significant historical property related to military history from 1300-1800. The Museum directly supports training, study, research, and education in related subjects.



A Finely Carved Ivory Sword or Dagger Handle South India, Possibly Goa, Late 17th Century

Donated by: Mrs. Petunia Crane

Provenance: She found it in her late grandfather's garage. She thinks he may have brought it back from an expedition in India, but he was also very into garage and estate sales.

Description: The pommel is carved in the form of a stylized lion head, with expressive facial features and an open mouth revealing rows of sharp teeth, with wavy bands of hair running down its back, the hilt carved with flower heads and symmetrical leafy scrolls, includes stand.



Some Things to Consider...

Although the piece may fit into the mission of the museum (the date is uncertain):

- The provenance is unclear
- Ivory brought into the country must have been removed from the wild prior to February 26, 1976 and is either:

Part of a household move or inheritance;

Part of a musical instrument; or

Part of a traveling exhibition.



Yes or No?

Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether the
Object Should be
Accessioned.



Vanessa Scarlet Library and Archives

The mission of the Vanessa Scarlet Library and Archives is to collect, preserve and interpret all moving images, photographs, correspondence and materials related to the acting career of Ms. Vanessa Scarlet and to make accessible the collections for media research, education and entertainment.



A Letter Written by Ms. Vanessa Scarlet to Mrs. Harriet Harrington Sommelberg

Donated by: David Harrington (3rd Husband of Ms. Scarlet)

Provenance: Mr. Harrington had the letter in a satchel in his closet since 1958. The letter was to his sister, and given to him by his sister upon Ms. Scarlet's death.

Description: Mr. Harrington has clear title to the letter. The letter is correspondence regarding Ms. Scarlet's Christmas plans and a ski trip after the holidays. The letter is in extremely poor condition. Much of the letter is taped together. The text is hard to decipher. The donor is also asking the museum to keep the document on restricted access, with only immediate family being able to view it for the next 25 years.



Some Things to Consider...

- The letter does not meet the mission of the museum as it does not have a direct relationship to Ms. Scarlet's career.
- The letter is in very poor condition. Conservation could be expensive and text is illegible.
- The donor has asked for the letter to have restricted access. This makes matters more complicated. The Library and Archives would need to review their policy on accepting restricted gifts.



Yes or No?

Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Object Should
be Accessioned.



Jonathan J. Peacock Museum of Anchor Island History

The mission of the Jonathan Peacock Museum of Anchor Island History is to educate the public about the life of the people of Anchor Island during their golden age (1835-1865), when the mercantile seaport of Anchor Island emerged as shipping and tourism destination.



19th Century Carved Mahogany American Empire Tester Bed

Donated by: Mr. Raffaello Vanchura

Provenance: Mr. Vanchura purchased the bed at an online auction. The bed was sold without documentation.

Description: The very large bed is a good example of 19th century furnishing and is similar to the kind of furniture that may have been in the Anchor Island Tourist Hotel. The former hotel is now the Jonathan Peacock Museum of Anchor Island History. The museum does not have furniture of this kind in its permanent collection. The overflowing collection is currently housed in three former guest suites.



Some Things to Consider...

- The History museum is at storage capacity.
- The bed is a good example of furniture that was in the former hotel.
- The donor is unable to provide provenance for the bed as he purchased it at auction.
- There is no authentication.



Yes or No?

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Discuss Whether
the Object Should
be Accessioned.



Plum County Zoological Park

The mission of the Plum County Zoological Park is to inspire appreciation, respect and a connection with wildlife and nature through education, recreation and conservation.



Baby Pygmy Marmoset

On loan from: Greenelo County Zoo

Description: A specimen on loan to the Plum County Zoological Park produced a pair of offspring which will belong to the lender. Zoo has physical possession of both animals for the next 2 years.



Some Things to Consider...

- Zoos always accession births and even pre-birth events including eggs (that have developed to 50%) regardless of animal ownership.
- All stipulations regarding ownership should be spelled out in the loan agreement.
- Ownership of animals on loan typically remains with the holder until the animal has reached 31 days of age (viable).
- The loaning zoo is notified of a birth, but maybe not until the offspring has reached viable age.
- Depending on the species, the loan agreement will specify whether the 1st, or 2nd offspring belongs to the holder or owner of the parents.
- Ownership is often determined based on the sex of the animal. For example the loaning institution gets the 1st female not necessarily the first offspring.
- If the lending institution wants you to send it somewhere else, then it will be deaccessioned once that transaction takes place and it is typically deaccessioned as a loan transfer.



Yes or No?

Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Animal Should
Be Accessioned.



Jonathan J. Peacock Museum of Anchor Island History

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Late 19th Century Grandfather Clock

Donated by: Cleopatra Green

Provenance: Museum has had clear and legal title for 75 years.

Description: The object matches the historic furnishing plan for the museum, as it is a period piece. However, it has not been on display in 15 years due to extreme condition issues, including major termite damage and water damage to the face of the clock.



Some Things to Consider...

- The clock matches the collecting plan for furniture.
- The piece has not been on display for 15 years.
- The clock repair could be costly, and may change value of the work.



Yes or No?

Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Object Should
be Deaccessioned.



Parker Township Historic Society

The mission of the Parker Township Historic Society is to cultivate interest among individuals and the community-at-large in the rich history of Parker Township; to showcase its cultural and artistic diversity; to interpret its natural, civil, military, and ecclesiastical history; to collect related manuscripts, books, photographs, paintings and antiquities; and to disseminate knowledge of historic and genealogical interest through periodical publications.



A Carton of Duplicate Parker History Magazines

Provenanace: Produced by the Parker Township Historic Society.

Description: A carton of 50 duplicate Parker History Magazines illustrating a very important moment in Parker History. All 50 have been accessioned into the permanent collection. One complete issue has been digitized and is available to the public online. The magazines are in fair condition, but are printed on a material that has been known to degrade with frequent usage.



Some Things to Consider...

- The History Society has many copies.
- The copies are in fair condition, but paper will degrade.
- The magazine has been digitized for accessibility.



Yes or No?
Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Objects Should
be Deaccessioned.



Plum County Zoological Park

The mission of the Plum County Zoological Park is to inspire appreciation, respect and a connection with wildlife and nature through education, recreation and conservation.



Twenty Five Very Cute Rabbits

On loan from: Fairfield Zoo

Description: The Zoo had a pair of rabbits on loan that produced like...rabbits. The Zoo found themselves with an extreme amount of the same species of rabbit.



Some Things to Consider...

- Can they adequately care for the rabbits they have produced?
- How many do they want and how many do they want to deaccession?
- Is it legal to deaccession them and what methods are legal, i.e. Sale, trade, donation, loan (varies by state)
- If animal is in a breeding program for sustainability, guidelines must be followed
- Is there an outlet that is not another zoo where animals may be deaccessioned (that fits with the mission and best practices)
- Is there a like institution in need of this species?
- Did they contact the owner to discussion disposition plans?



Yes or No?
Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Animal(s)
Should Be
Deaccessioned.



Vanessa Scarlet Library and Archives

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Late 19th Glass Lantern Slides from the Film “Come Josephine in my Flying Machine”

Donated by: Buster White

Provenance: Museum has had clear and legal title for 40 years.

Description: A set of 80 glass lantern slides in the museum’s collection for 40 years. They were accessioned into the collection when the museum was collecting all objects from film during the era in which Ms. Scarlet was acting. The museum changed the mission in 1990 to ONLY collect items specific to the career of Ms. Vanessa Scarlet. She was not in the film nor did she have any relationship to the actors or the production.



Some Things to Consider...

- The Museum's Mission has changed to ONLY objects related directly to Ms. Scarlet's film career.
- The glass slides have been in the collection for a long time, possibly not displayed since 1990s.



Yes or No?

Take a Moment to
Discuss Whether
the Object Should
be Deaccessioned.



The End

