

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
held on 20 January 2015

Notes	Actions by
<p>PRESENT: Elisabeth Elias, President, (in the Chair); Laurie Pavelin, Treasurer; Keshav Singhal; Carole-Anne Davies; Christina Macaulay; Glenda Jones; Tony Atkins; Carol Bell; Neil Wicks, Director of Finance & Corporate Resources and Elaine Cabuts, Museum Secretary.</p>	
<p>APOLOGIES: None required.</p>	
<p>1 APPROVAL OF LOAN TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL LOAN FOR A TOURING EXHIBITION</p> <p>1.1 <u>Reported:</u> That Trustees were requested to agree by email to an international loan of an item that was on loan to the Imperial War Museum.</p> <p>1.2 Eight Trustees responded approving the loan. The quorum of the Board is five Members.</p> <p>1.3 <u>Resolved:</u> Accordingly and that the loan be approved, and that an update be provided to Trustees. This is below.</p> <p>Loan of objects to the Imperial War Museum and subsequent international loans of sand shoes to a touring exhibition</p> <p>In early January 2015 the Museum was advised that a pair of military issue wire sand shoes, worn by Captain Archibald H Lee MC of 1/5th Battalion, The Welch Regiment (who later served as Secretary of the National Museum of Wales) had been approved for outward loan as part of major touring exhibition of over 350 items from the Imperial War Museum collections. The items were packed and due to be shipped for exhibition in Australia at the end of the month. Very late in the day a member of staff at the Imperial War Museum contacted AC-NMW to advise that they had uncovered evidence that the shoes were actually lent by the National Museum of Wales in September 1930, authorised by the Council of the National Museum of Wales as 'deposit on loan in the Imperial War Museum for an indefinite period' as part of a larger collection of 'war relics'.</p> <p>A search of our archive loan files located correspondence with the Imperial War Museum between 1991 and 1992 when this loan was formally reviewed. In 1995 all items on loan to the Imperial War Museum were proposed for deaccessioning by the Museum Council. The relevant Council Minute states that at a meeting of Council held 28th July 1995 it was agreed that:</p> <p>'Items from the Department of Archaeology & Numismatics were approved for</p>	

Notes	Actions by
<p>deaccession, subject to items of militaria which were presently on loan to the Imperial War Museum being offered to the three Welch Regiments in Wales’.</p> <p>This resulted in a search being undertaken through the correspondence files and loan files for the following two years and it appears that no action was taken to offer these items on to the other Welch Regimental Museums, and no further correspondence with the Imperial War Museum appears to exist to advise them of the Council’s decision. The loan has also not been maintained or reviewed annually in the usual way. It appears that during 1995 the two members of AC-NMW staff undertaking this review; (the then Keeper of Archaeology and Numismatics and the Documentation Assistant, based in the Museum’s Documentation Unit), both resigned to take up new posts elsewhere.</p> <p>Once this information came to light it became necessary for the Museum to decide whether or not to approve a sub-loan of these shoes to this touring exhibition. It is the Museum’s policy to seek the Board of Trustees’ approval for the loan ahead of making a loan of any item of our collections overseas. However, in this instance as this loan was unknown to us, and in the light of the imminent shipment of the items on loan, the decision of a quorate of Trustees was sought to decide whether or not to approve this loan via email.</p> <p>The Imperial War Museum has been able to demonstrate to us that the items on loan for this exhibition were condition checked, photographed and packed to an appropriate standard. The Department has now drawn up, agreed and signed a formal loan agreement for the items whilst they are on loan to Melbourne Museum in Australia. The Imperial War Museum is also negotiating a tour of this exhibition to further venues in New Zealand, Canada, USA, Belgium or France over the coming three years and permission is now sought for these items to tour to these future venues, conditional upon them demonstrating that they can meet the required standards for security and environmental conditions.</p> <p>In addition, the Department has requested that the Imperial War Museum undertake a full review of all the other items lists as being on loan to them. This review has commenced and it is expected that some items may be returned to us, whilst we will work towards formalising a loan agreement with the Imperial War Museum for any items that they have on display in their galleries.</p> <p>Elizabeth A. Walker, Principal Curator Collections & Access, Department of History & Archaeology</p> <p>Dylan Jones, Senior Curator Modern History Collections, Department of History & Archaeology</p> <p>26th February 2015</p>	