Recreation and Leisure Services Department

TOWNELEY HALL ART GALLERY AND MUSEUMS
Proposed Statement or Policy

Under section 206 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the provision of Art Gallery and Museum Services becomes a concurrent function between the new County Council and the New District Councils, from April 1st, 1974.

It is the decision of this Authority to exercise its powers under the said act in respect of Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museums, to provide and develop the Museums Service for the New District 12, and to co-operate with the County Council in order to develop a fully comprehensive service for the New County of Lancashire.

Towneley Hall is an historic residence dating from the 14th century and a Scheduled A listed building by the Ministry for the Environment and as such is of National importance.

Towneley Hall is the only historic house within the New County of Lancashire in the ownership of a Local Authority, which in addition to its historic associations been developed and staffed to provide a Museum and Art Gallery Service, and therefore has a very special role to fulfil. Because of this, it is felt worthy of special consideration by the County for assistance towards the maintenance of the fabric of the building in particular.

Collections
The main groups of collections are:-
1. Early English Oak Furniture and Reredos
2. William and Mary furniture
3. Arms and Armour
4. Horology
5. Towneley Family Material
6. Local History Material
7. General Scarlett and Balaclava Materiel
8. East Lancashire Regimental Material
9. Local Crafts and Industries
10. Horse Drawn Vehicles
11. Oriental and Continental Ivories
12. Oriental and English Ceramics
13. 18th and 19th century Glass
14. Costume and Uniforms
15. Natural History
16. Archaeology (local)
17. Geology
18. Egyptology
19. Fine Art, 17th - 20th century oils
20. Early English Watercolours
21. Collections of Book Illustrations including 'Villa Madama'
22. Sculpture
23. Victoriana
**Future Developments and Collecting Policy**

*a.* It is the aim of this Authority to develop Towneley Hall and its attractions as a Country House by preserving the building in its original state wherever possible, and by furnishing the room, in period. In order to achieve this, it is our policy to acquire in particular, early English oak furniture, Regency furniture and relevant decorative art objects, also any items directly connected with the Towneley Family.

*b.* Watercolours

The collection or early English Watercolours is particularly fine, however, there are a few notable gaps which it in our intention to fill when circumstance, permit.

c. Oil Paintings

17th - 19th century, the most notable being the Zoffany. Main collection mid, to late 19th century. To be added to as circumstances permit, particularly works relevant to Towneley Hall or Family.

*d.* Oil Paintings etc. 20th century

A start has been made on a collection of contemporary works. It is our intention to develop this section in order to build a collection representative of current art trends.

e. East Lancashire Regiment

Part of the East Lancashire Regimental collection i. housed at Towneley, and it is our aim to add to this items of special significance wherever possible, either by gift, loan or purchase.

f. Ceramics

Mainly 19th century British. Good examples of Royal Lancastrian pottery to be added to when suitable items become available. To be developed through to include Contemporary Studio Pottery.

g. Natural History

[Very mixed collections including large collection of African Game heads. To be developed only in connection with the local environment, birds and small mammals, for display and school loans and in connection with Towneley Park Nature Trail. - amended to]

Mixed collections, to be developed in connection with the local environment, birds and small mammals, etc., for display and school loans.

To support the continued development of this aspect of the service through the new Natural History Centre, Animal House and Nature Trails.

h. Archaeology

Large collections of local material, flints etc. to be added to as finds occur.

*i.* Museum of Local Crafts and Industries

To improve display and add to this items of local significance, such as the tools and products of local crafts and industries.

*j.* Horse Drawn Vehicles

To collect horse drawn vehicles and relevant material of the types used in this area. The eventual aim being to house the collection in the old stable block.

*k.* Industrial Archaeology

[To collect and conserve material relevant to the industrial history of Burnley and district. The eventual aim being to establish an Industrial Museum in Burnley or alternatively, should the County establish such a museum in North East Lancashire, to hand over the collection for inclusion in this. - amended to]

To collect and conserve material relevant to the industrial history of Burnley and district. The eventual aim being to establish an Industrial Museum in Burnley, or alternatively, to include industrial displays in such projected schemes as the Mechanics’ Institute, Queen Street Mill, Caledonia Mill, etc.

To support, in principle, the conservation and development of the Weave's Triangle, canal towpaths and other suitable industrial features of Burnley.
Area of Collecting

This authority reserve the right to any museum material collected within District 12, and only will material be allocated to the County museum or a National Institution if it is felt that this could serve a better purpose, or if the material is considered unsuitable to be added to the Towneley Hall Collections.

This Authority wishes to make it quite clear that any material which may be collected or acquired by the County from within District 12 or from elsewhere if relevant, to be offered in the first instance to Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museums.

Area Councils

To support the North Western museums and Art Gallery Service through the Area Council, as the main source of direct Government aid to museums.

Services which we would urge the North Western Area Service to provide are:-
1. Restoration and conservation of works of art and all museum specimens and objects
2. Taxidermy
3. Storage facilities for museum material not required for immediate display
4. Blanket advertising for all Art Galleries and Museums in the area.
5. Direct Grant aid for improving museum standards throughout the New County of Lancashire.

County Museums Service

It is requested that the County museum will provide the following services:-
1. County wide comprehensive Schools museum Service, with Officers based at District museums where required.
2. Transport facilities for the movement of material between the Museums, and for the moving of special items such as Industrial Machinery.
3. Direct purchase grants for special items including equipment not falling within the scope of other bodies, i.e. the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Arts Council The Gulbenkian Foundation etc.
* 4. To establish an industrial Archaeology museum in North East Lancashire, preferably Burnley District 12.
5. Assistance towards the maintenance of the Fabric of Towneley Hall.

* Minuted Policy

This proposed policy was presented to the Art Gallery and museums Sub—Committee on 3rd December, 1973, minute 22 and was received without amendment.

[HRR/EB
25.10.1974]