

Members Interest
N/A

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Joint Archive Committee 17 November 2016

Minton Archive Project

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report is noted for information.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities (Staffordshire County Council) and Chief Operating Officer – Resources Directorate (Stoke on Trent City Council)

Reasons for Recommendations

2. The Minton Archive continues to attract national and international attention to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service and carrying through the commitment made to the Art Fund and National Heritage Memorial Fund to make the whole of the archive accessible will remain a priority for the Service over the next few years.

Background

3. The Minton Archive, comprising the records of Minton and Royal Doulton plc was given by the Art Fund to the City in March 2015.
4. An accessibility project funded by Art Fund between March and November 2015 created a website to display and publicise the collection and created a basic box-listing of the uncatalogued parts of it.

Activity since February 2016

Conservation

5. The Archive Service made a successful bid to the National Manuscript Conservation Trust for funding for a conservator to undertake a programme of work on some of the most significant items in the Minton Archive. The conservator, Jessica Hyslop, commenced work in August of this year and has publicised the work she is doing through the Minton Archive website and the Archive Service's social media accounts.

Website

6. The Minton website www.themintonarchive.org.uk has been the focus of our continuing work on the collection. When it first went live in November 2015 the site contained around 80 images. It now contains over 1000 high quality scans and videos. The Digital Development Officer curates the site as

part of his normal duties and has established a regular pattern of updates which we know has encouraged repeat visits to the site and which drives engagement from the audience.

7. The website has a global reach, reflecting the high prestige and international reputation of the Minton company and its productions. Total page views from October 2015 – October 2016 are 52,392 with almost 4,500 unique users

Visitors have come from 90 countries and all continents except Antarctica.

8. Creating the site's underlying structure and functionality has provided the Service with a model that at least one other major depositor is actively exploring with us.

Cataloguing

9. There are over 500 boxes of uncatalogued volumes, papers and promotional material relating to the Doulton company and its subsidiaries such as Booths of Tunstall, Ridgways of Hanley, Royal Albert, Paragon, Shelley and many others.

10. A Stage 1 application to the National Cataloguing Grant Programme was made in June 2016 for £37,000 in order to fund an archivist post for a year. This would allow the Service to second the Stoke Archivist, who has experience of pottery archives and extensive project working, to undertake the cataloguing work. At Stage 1 there were 58 applicants and the Archive Service bid was one of fourteen successful applications asked to progress to Stage 2.

11. We are delighted to inform the Joint Archive Committee that our application has been successful and we have been awarded the full amount of the grant. Work will start on cataloguing the Doulton Archive as soon as the necessary approvals have been received from the National Cataloguing Grant Programme.

Appendix 1

Equalities implications:

The Minton Archive will be available at Stoke on Trent City Archives free of charge. Access will be provided in a number of ways to ensure different audiences are aware of it.

Legal implications:

The agreement with WWRD for future display and exhibition of the collection is to be concluded within a year of the Deed of Gift

Resource and Value for money implications:

The initial phase of work was funded by the Art Fund utilising City Archives. A second funding bid will enable further work to be completed without impacting on the core funding of the City Archives.

Risk implications:

None

Climate Change implications:

No significant implications.

Health Impact Assessment screening:

No significant implications.

Report author:

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List of Background Papers

Papers

Contact/Directorate/ext number