



PRISM Grant Fund

Annual Report for 2005/06

Introduction

The PRISM Fund supports the acquisition and conservation of material relating to all fields of the history of science, technology, industry and medicine. It was established in 1973 in response to the growing public concern that technological change was resulting in the loss of all trace of Britain's industrial heritage. Previously the Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund had dealt with this type of material. Since 1973 PRISM has helped over 400 museums and preservation groups in England and Wales acquire or conserve over 2000 objects of industrial or scientific importance.

The Fund aims to support the variety of institutions entrusted with the care of our industrial and scientific heritage, and show the ways in which local and regional collections combine to map the detail of the nation's industrial and scientific past.

The Fund was managed by the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) until 31 March 2003, but since then has been managed solely by MLA. However, MLA continues to take expert advice from the staff of the NMSI as well as other national museums.

There has been no significant change to the scope of the Fund since its inception except for its extension to include conservation projects in the early 1990s. Applications for conservation grants now regularly outnumber those for acquisitions, which is surprising considering the press coverage devoted to the lack of funding for purchases by museums. The variety of applications for conservation grants has meant that the MLA has now produced additional guidance on this subject.

PRISM Fund grants awarded during 2005-2006

The MLA allocates £250,000 each year to the PRISM Fund. The level of funding has remained the same since 1995, prior to which £500,000 was available each year.

There were 36 grants awarded during in 2005-2006 (37 in 2004-2005), worth £272,541 (2004-2005 amount £222,495). **The higher figure for 2005-2006 includes the underspend from the previous year, which was carried forward and allocated during this**

period. In spite of the larger sum available during the year it was necessary to close the Fund to new applications in December because the sum available had been fully allocated. The Fund has no application deadlines and as it is not possible to regulate the flow of submissions these situations will arise from time to time. However, MLA intends to set up procedures to reduce the risk of this situation re-occurring.

Acquisitions represent approximately 39 per cent of the number of awards (59 per cent in 2004-2005), and this accounts for 44.7 per cent of the total spend (53.2 per cent in 2004-2005).

The items for which grants for acquisitions are made continue to be similar to previous years but include some good examples of post-1945 technology such as aircraft and power generating equipment.

Table 1 Summary of PRISM Fund awards and expenditure by category

PRISM Category	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Number	Amount (£)	Number	Amount (£)
Archives	4	61,000	5	47,975
Aviation	5	33,412	3	15,353
Buildings	3	19,711	0	0
Horology	2	12,500	0	0
Industry	6	24,949	8	23,997
Miscellaneous	0	0	3	14,354
Natural History	3	26,167	6	40,994
Photography	0	0	0	0
Rail	0	0	4	10,595
Road transport	4	32,200	4	33,477
Scientific instruments	3	28,250		
Trams	1	20,000	0	0
Water transport	5	14,353	3	28,500
TOTAL	36	272,541	37	222,495

Table 2 Summary of PRISM Fund awards and expenditure by type

PRISM Type	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Number	Amount (£)	Number	Amount (£)
Acquisition	14	121,545	22	118,361
Conservation/Restoration	22	151,000	15	104,134
TOTAL	36	272,541	37	222,495

Full list of PRISM Fund grants awarded during 2005-2006

The information for each award includes the ID reference number, applicant organization, project title and the grant amount. Projects with a GIA reference are those that were administered by the Science Museum.

ID 1127

The Waterways Museum and Adventure Centre
Conservation of a hydraulic capstan
£410

ID 2423

Internal Fire Museum of Power, Cardigan
Transport of 3Mw alternator and switchgear plus fire suppression system for Rolls
Royce Bristol Proteus gas turbine
£1,250



Transferring the alternator at the museum
© Internal Fire Museum of Power
Photographer: Paul Evans

ID 2557
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester
Acquisition of Ront Sant bicycle collection, including an 1868 Boneshaker Ordinary
(Penny Farthing)
£1,327

ID 2583
Yorkshire Air Museum
Conservation of Fairey Gannet AEW3 (Airborne Early Warning) Reg. XL502 and a
Gloster Javelin FAW Mk 9 (XH 767)
£4,853

ID 2584
Westonzoyland Engine Trust, Somerset
Conservation of 1938 Marshall portable boiler
£1,521

ID 2589
Crossness Engines Trust
Acquisition of 1913 Hawthorne-Davey triple-expansion steam engine and associated
pumps
£2,115

ID 2591

Castleton Waterwheel Museum
Conservation of a waterwheel
£8,660

ID 2602

Forte Hall Museum (Enfield Museum Service)
Conservation of Edmonton Town Hall clock
£10,000

ID 2627

Pendeen Community Heritage
Conservation of the Locke stamps and waterwheel at Geevor Tin Mine
£10,000

ID 2646

Hampshire County Council Museum and Archive Service
Acquisition of a Wallis & Stevens 'Simplicity' steam roller
£19,225

ID 2647

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service
Acquisition of the Sutherland Papers
£20,000

ID 2658

Whipple Museum of the History of Science, University of Cambridge
Acquisition of a Wheatstone Polar Clock manufactured by Watkins and Hill of Charing
Cross, London c. 1840
£4,750

ID 2659
Isle of Wight Council Museum Service
Conservation of boat race starter's hut from Ryde Pier
£1,050



The starter's hut originally came from the Victorian pier at Ryde on the Isle of Wight. During the Victorian period yacht races were started from the end of the pier. The starter used the small wooden hut as a shelter from bad weather and to rest in during and between races.

© Isle of Wight Council – Island Heritage Service
Photographer: John Fletcher

ID 2662

Solent Sky (R J Mitchell Memorial Museum Ltd), Southampton

Acquisition of a Supermarine Walrus amphibious aircraft designed by R M Mitchell

£20,000

ID 2671

Royal Institute of British Architects

Acquisition of the original design model for Easton Neston, Northamptonshire (1690-1694) by Nicholas Hawksmoor

£18,000

ID 2672

Kempton Great Engines Trust

Conservation of the low pressure cylinder bearing of the number 6 engine at Kempton Park

£13,653

ID 2698

Whipple Museum of the History of Science, University of Cambridge

Acquisition of a mid-19th century Harmann Knapp ophthalmotrope

£3,500

ID 2702

Yorkshire Air Museum

Conservation of outer propeller of a Fairey Gannet AEW3 (Airborne Early Warning)

Reg. XL502 aircraft

£1,081

ID 2705

Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Chichester

Conservation of a c 1900 timber sawmill crane made by John Smith of Keighley

£3,291



Timber sawmill crane

© Weald & Downland Open Air Museum

Photographer: Julian Bell

ID 2715

National Waterways Museum, Gloucester

Conservation of 1918 concrete narrow boat and a 1944 concrete barge

£6,000

ID 2716

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Conservation of the Wollanston Collections of Canary Islands and Madeiran insects and the Donisthorpe Windsor Forest Collection

£13,667

ID 2720

National Tramway Museum, Crich

Conservation of 1902 London United Tramways electric tramcar No. 159

£20,000

ID 2730

Dorman Museum, Middlesbrough

Acquisition of an 1870 Thwaites and Reed turret clock from Grey Towers,
Middlesbrough

£2,500



The turret clock in its original home Grey Towers, Nunthorpe. Middlesbrough
© Photographer / Dorman Museum

ID 2734

SS Great Britain Projects Ltd

Conservation of a Trotman anchor from the SS Great Britain

£3,250

ID 2735

Yorkshire Air Museum

Assembly of two prototype Panavia Tornado jet aircraft (GR1-PO15 and GR4)

£4,100

ID 2737

Brathay Hall Trust, Windermere

Conservation of clinker-built whaler rowing boat (part 1)

£2,593

ID 2941

Staffordshire Arts & Museum Service (Shugborough Hall)

Conservation of two late 19th C horse-drawn carriages, a Brougham and a Hansom
Cab, formerly owned by the Earl of Shrewsbury

£9,148

ID 2959

Royal Institution of Great Britain, London

Conservation and care of the collection of historic scientific apparatus

£20,000

ID 3033

Kempton Great Engines Trust

Conservation of the 2nd barring engine used to help start the number 6 engine at
Kempton Park Pumping Station

£3,118

ID 3037

Leeds Heritage Services

Preparation of 53 cockatoo, macaw, parrot and other specimens of South American and African birds

£5,000



A mount and study skin of Blue headed parrot *Pionus menstruus*, one of the specimens transferred to Leeds Museum, following seizure by HM Customs

© Photographer: James Dickinson

ID 3039
Newark Air Museum
Acquisition of Scottish Aviation 'Bulldog' trainer aircraft
£3,378

ID 3113
Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
Acquisition of Pappus of Alexandria *Collectionis mathematicae libri III-VIII* (Manuscript in Greek, dated Oxford June 1710
£20,000

ID 3114
The Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society
Acquisition of Bristol K5G bus converted to a tow truck (FHN 923 ex United Automobile Services)
£2,500

ID 3119
Scarborough Museums and Gallery Service
Conservation of Type and Figured specimens of the geology (palaeontology) collection
£7,500



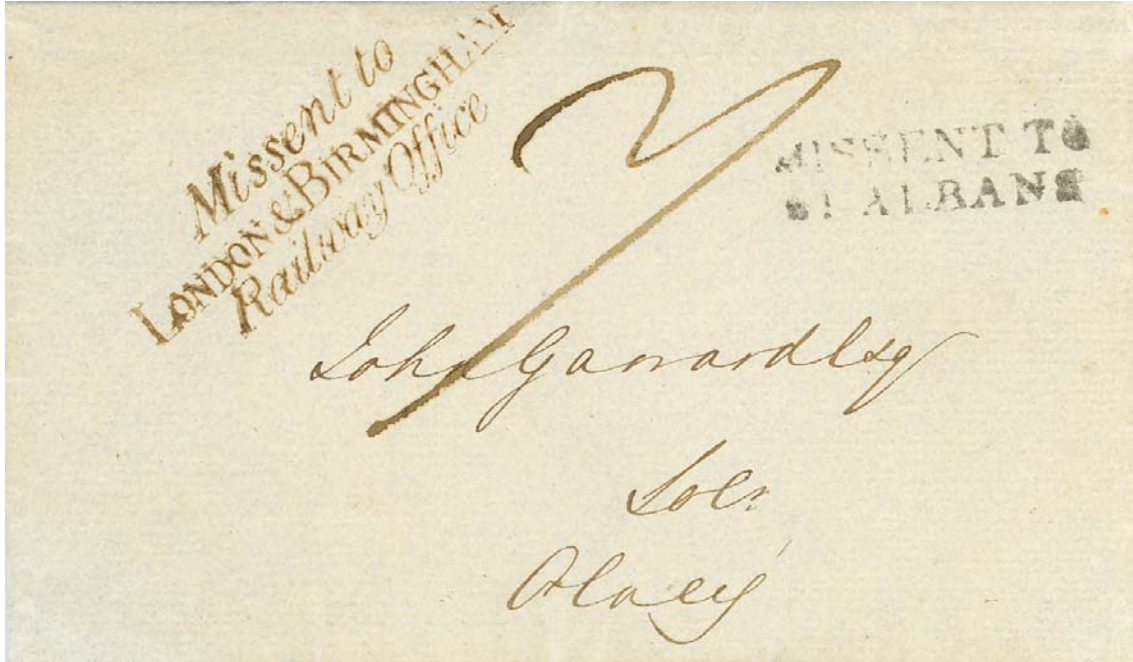
Fossil *Chlamys blyensis* from the Upper Jurassic Corallian group of North Yorkshire
© Photographer / Scarborough Museum and Gallery Service

ID 3136

Postal Heritage Trust

Acquisition of a Victorian sub-post office wall-box and an early Travelling Post Office letter cover

£3,000



Letter bearing earliest known postmark connected with the first Travelling Post Office on the London & Birmingham Railway: 3 June 1838.

© Photographer / The British Postal Museum & Archive, 2006

ID 3251

Brathay Hall Trust

Conservation of a clinker-built whaler rowing boat (part 2)

£2,015

Losses and transfers of ownership of PRISM Fund grant-aided objects during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006

This is the second time we have reported losses or the transfer of ownership of objects grant-aided by the PRISM Fund and there is some increase in activity. The Museums Association's report *Collections for the Future* has increased awareness of the need for organisations to have realistic collecting policies that match the resources available and the activities.

Losses

GIA/97/12

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society reported that the late 19C fixtures and fittings from the Upper Tachbrook Street pharmacy, which were stored by Momart at its warehouse in Leyton, were destroyed by fire on 24th May 2004. This included shelving, drug runs, counter etc. However, the majority of objects from the shop were housed in the Society's on-site store and are safe,

Transfers of ownership

One of the conditions of a Prism Fund grant is that the administrators of the Fund must be notified of any intention to transfer ownership of a grant-aided object and must approve the transfer or the grant must be re-paid. Permission to transfer ownership will normally be approved if the proposed owner can demonstrate that it is an appropriate and viable custodian for the object. It must be able to properly care for the object and be able to ensure the object will remain accessible to the public. A written assurance that it accepts in full the conditions attached to the original PRISM grant award is always required by the MLA.

GIA/278/1

Sentinel-Cammell Steam Railcar No. 5208

Ownership of Sentinel-Cammell Steam Railcar No. 5208 was transferred from the trustees of the Sentinel Trust to the Quanton Railway Society Ltd. Aylesbury.

GIA/97/01

Ruston-Proctor portable steam engine c. 1890

The ownership of this Ruston-Proctor engine was transferred from Derbyshire County Council (Elvaston Castle Countryside Museum collection) to Claymills Pumping Engine Trust Ltd of Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire.

GIA/97/09

Ferguson T20 tractor and accessories

Ownership of a Ferguson T20 tractor and accessories was transferred from Derbyshire County Council (Elvaston Castle Countryside Museum collection) to Coventry Transport Museum.

GIA/97/11

Jones Baler

Ownership of a Jones baler was transferred from Derbyshire County Council (Elvaston Castle Countryside Museum collection) to the Vale of Belvoir Machinery Group.

Disposals

All of the items approved for disposal were advertised prior to the decision to approve disposal in accordance with the procedures set out in the MLA's Museum Accreditation Scheme (previously Museum Registration Scheme).

GIA/214/05

Replica Dee Salmon Boat

The ownership of a replica Dee salmon boat built with grant-aid from the PRISM Fund was transferred from the Grosvenor Museum, Chester to a private owner (the family of a former Dee salmon fisherman). The Grosvenor Museum retains as a permanent record original constructional drawings, photographs and documents relating to the boat and its history.

Elvaston Castle Countryside Museum Collection

The MLA has agreed that Derbyshire County Council may offer the items listed below for public auction. The conditions of the original grant offer will apply and the original grant amount must be re-paid or, if a significant profit is made, at a similar proportion to the original grant.

GIA/97/03 Gypsy caravan by Watson of Belper c 1900
GIA/97/04 Showman's caravan by Spooner of Burton on Trent
GIA/97/05 Yorkshire bow-topped caravan from Ripley, 1913
GIA/97/06 Two-horse estate omnibus by Holmes c 1865
GIA/97/07* Lincolnshire farm wagon
GIA/97/07* Bentside Ralli horse drawn cart by McMullen and Sons c 1914
GIA/97/08 1946 Field Marshall tractor

* Both items were purchased under this single application reference number.

Peter Winsor
May 2006

Note that the Frances Wilson is now the PRISM Fund Manager, email:
prism@mla.gov.uk.