

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF, COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILS OF BRIDGEND, CAERPHILLY, MERTHYR TYDFIL, RHONDDA CYNON TAF AND THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

COMMITTEE

THE GLAMORGAN ARCHIVES JOINT COMMITTEE

REPORT OF:

THE GLAMORGAN ARCHIVIST

PART 1	AGENDA ITEM NO
Transfer of non-archive holdings	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report seeks members' approval to present an album of water colours by Thomas Hornor to an appropriate institution, preferably the National Museum Cardiff.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to authorise the Glamorgan Archivist to arrange the presentation of this item to the National Museum Cardiff.

3. BACKGROUND

"A Tour Through the Vales of Glamorganshire" by Thomas Hornor, 1819, is an album with text and forty-one watercolours in blue and sepia, of scenes in the Vale of Neath, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend. One of ten versions of this album it is the only one in public ownership with all forty-one watercolours. It was presented to Glamorgan County Council by a descendant of Hornor in 1957.

The album was one of the disputed items during the negotiations for a final settlement with West Glamorgan County Council after its withdrawal from the Joint Archive Committee in 1992. In 1994 a meeting between both parties in the dispute was held to discuss all the items, ownership of which was in dispute. Representatives of the Glamorgan Archives Joint Committee suggested that it was not appropriate for the album to be held in a record office which had neither the facilities nor the expertise for the conservation, storage and exhibition of watercolours. Instead, the album should be offered to the National Museum, to be kept in Cardiff with its art collections, access to fine-art conservation and opportunities for suitable public access.

No agreement was reached at that time; however, the issue of the final settlement was revived in meetings between the Glamorgan Archivist and the recently appointed County Archivist of West Glamorgan

Archives Service in 2005. The proposed solution would be acceptable to the Archive Service and to its Joint Committee.

A high quality digital copy is available for public access at Glamorgan Archives. The album has also been accessible digitally for over 10 years via the Gathering the Jewels website.

Should the Museum be willing to accept the item, a condition of presentation would be that the items should not be sold.

**Susan Edwards
Glamorgan Archivist
1 September 2015**