

A POLICY FOR THE McCORD MUSEUM

Certain important considerations must be taken into account in outlining a policy for the Executive Committee of the McCord Museum.

1: The financial resources of the Museum are very strictly limited. Acquisitions made by the Museum therefor, should be very carefully selected and every effort should be made to see that the price paid by the Museum should be as low as possible. Before making a purchase, as a rule, the Committee should have good knowledge of the average price ruling for the object concerned.

2: The space available in the Museum is already very confined. Generally speaking, acquisitions should be made with this in mind.

3: The Museum already has certain well-defined groups of possessions, such as the Indian, the Wolfe, and other exhibits, and the Committee should constantly have in mind the extension or completion of these collections.

The positive principles according to which the Committee should function may be summarized as follows;

The Museum is a National Museum. Additions to its possessions should therefore represent some aspect of the life of the nation and country. In the same way, donations or offers of sale which have no particular Canadian bearing should be rejected.

The Museum should be predominantly historical. History is to be found in innumerable kinds of records, the chief categories of which, for Museum purposes, are:

Books and MSS: Pictures: Craft work of all kinds, Indian and European etc:
Domestic and Personal articles: Naval and Military gear; Economic equipment.

In the acquisition of articles of this kind, it must be clear that