

Committee on the Jean F Watson Bequest

10.30am, Friday 23, February 2023

Purchase of a silver teapot by Colin Campbell, Edinburgh 1722

Executive/routine
Wards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the purchase of a silver teapot by Colin Campbell, Edinburgh 1722, with the engraved crest for Cammo House, Edinburgh.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

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Report

Purchase of a silver teapot by Colin Campbell, Edinburgh 1822

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the purchase of a silver teapot by Colin Campbell, Edinburgh 1722, with the engraved crest for Cammo House, Edinburgh.

3. Background

- 3.1 Museum of Edinburgh has a fine collection of silver dating from the 17th to 20th centuries. The majority of the collection was made in Edinburgh and Canongate. The collection is recognised as of National Significance by Museums Galleries Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.
- 3.2 The majority of the pieces in the silver collection are domestic silverware and a high proportion of the collection is on permanent public display within the silver galleries at the Museum of Edinburgh.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The following item of silverware is presented to the committee for their consideration: one silver teapot by Colin Cambell.
- 4.2 Image of silver teapot by Colin Campbell.



- 4.3 The teapot was made by Edinburgh Silversmith Colin Campbell, Edinburgh 1722 and has an engraved crest within a rococo scroll and shell cartouche. The teapot has a tapered straight spout and simple stained wooden C scroll handle. A cast hinge attaches to a slightly domed cover, which is surmounted by a cast fruiting bud finial.
- 4.4 The piece is hallmarked on the base: CC (maker's mark), a three towered castle (Edinburgh town mark), EP (Assay Master mark – Edward Penman), S (date letter 1722).
- 4.5 Its maker, Colin Campbell I, was a notable Edinburgh Goldsmith of the early to mid-18th century. He was apprenticed to Colin McKenzie and later became a freeman of the Incorporation of Edinburgh Goldsmiths opening his own workshop and training apprentices in his trade. He was first mentioned in records of the Edinburgh Incorporation of Goldsmiths in 1712 and last mentioned in 1754.
- 4.6 We have no other pieces by this maker in our collections so the teapot would be a welcome addition to our existing collections.
- 4.7 The armorial on the teapot is that of John Hog of Cammo in Midlothian and Ladykirk in Berwickshire and of Mary Cochrane, the daughter of Alexander Cochrane of Barbachlaw in Linlithgowshire.
- 4.8 The teapot therefore dates from the time of John Hogg's ownership of a Cammo House. It is dated 1722, the year in which the Cammo estate was sold to John Hog by his cousin Sir John Clerk of Penicuik. It was perhaps made to celebrate his new status as a landowner of a country estate in the environs of Edinburgh. In 1724 John Hog commissioned William Adam to remodel Cammo House, but the work was never carried out. Owing to financial difficulties John Hog was forced to sell the Cammo estate to James Watson in 1741.
- 4.9 The teapot has relevance to our existing collections and collecting policy, being by an Edinburgh maker, Edinburgh hallmarked and also has direct relevance to what is now part of the Western environs of the City of Edinburgh.
- 4.10 The teapot will be displayed within our silver galleries at the Museum of Edinburgh.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If the Committee approves the purchase of the teapot, it is intended that an application for grant aid will be submitted to the National Fund for Acquisitions, administered on behalf of the Scottish Government by the National Museums of Scotland and to the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The original asking price was £7,500. The owner is offering a 10% museum discount making the final asking price £6,750.

6.2 Funds for this purchase will come from the Jean F Watson Bequest.

6.3 The cost will be incurred in the 2023/4 financial year.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

7.1 Not applicable

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

8.1 Not applicable

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

9.1 Not applicable

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 <https://www.nms.ac.uk/about-us/our-services/national-fund-for-acquisitions/>

11. Appendices

11.1 None.