

Press release: Exceptionally rare Roman figurine at risk of leaving the UK

Arts Minister John Glen has placed a temporary export bar on an exceptionally rare bronze Roman figurine to provide an opportunity to keep it in the country.

The figure may be wearing a hooded woollen cloak known as the birrus Britannicus, which is specifically noted as being British in the Edict of Diocletian in 301AD.

It is extremely unusual for portable art from this period of Roman rule to depict a distinctively British character. Figures are usually shown wearing hooded garments of a different style common to Gaul and the North-Western provinces.

The level of detail displayed in this figurine and the quality of its execution are particularly fine.

Arts Minister John Glen said:

This exceptionally rare figurine is a fascinating representation of a distinctly British character.

I hope that a buyer comes forward to help keep this unique object in the UK so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy it.

The decision to defer the export licence follows a recommendation by the [Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest \(RCEWA\)](#), administered by The Arts Council.

RCEWA member Leslie Webster said:

This small bronze figurine gives an important new glimpse into the clothing of our Romano-British ancestors.

It has been suggested that he wears the distinctive birrus britannicus, or hooded British woollen cloak, which, with the quiver on his back, identifies the male figure as a hunter, suitably kitted out for cold and rainy weather.

Both the style and the braided decoration of the cloak is unparalleled in art, supporting the thesis that this is a unique depiction of a specifically British garment, recorded in the early

4th century AD as a significant export within the wider Roman Empire.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the figurine's outstanding significance for the study of provincial Roman costume in the province of Britannia.

The decision on the export licence application for the figurine will be deferred until 23 September 2017. This may be extended until 23 November 2017 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £550.

Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the figurine should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.

An image of the figurine can be downloaded via our [flickr site](#).

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For media information contact: Yasmin Kaye Communications Officer Department for Culture Media and Sport Tel: 0207 211 6489 Email: yasmin.kaye@culture.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. Details of the figurine are as follows: A figurine of a man wearing a hooded cloak, made of copper alloy 65 mm high, 48mm wide and 17 mm thick, weight 65.8g. Maker unknown, probably Romano-British. Dated between 43-410 AD. In good but incomplete condition; the lower parts of the legs and arms are missing.
2. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.
3. The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. www.artscouncil.org.uk.

[Press release: **Zambian Chevening**](#)

Scholars donate to charity

The donation to Dorothy's Dream, a community school for underprivileged children in Chainda, Lusaka, is part of the many activities that Chevening Alumni, a body of scholars who were sponsored by the British Government to study in the UK, has planned to support communities and contribute to Zambia's development.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, the Acting High Commissioner Andrew Hamilton said:

"I am delighted to see Zambians who have studied at top UK universities using not only their skills and knowledge acquired to contribute significantly to Zambia's development but also supporting their local communities through volunteerism, a culture that is common both in the UK and Zambia."

"The UK has a global reputation for excellence in the field of education and skills, rooted in our centuries-old yet forward-looking educational system. It's a tradition of learning that we continue to share with the world, including Zambia. It is gratifying to see Zambian future leaders who spent time studying in UK contributing to such a worthwhile cause."

Mr Hamilton said one of the Information Technology (IT) experts from among the Chevening Alumni has volunteered to train pupils and staff at the school so that they are empowered with IT skills that will enable them to use the computers effectively.

1. Chevening Scholarships are the UK government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and partner organisations. The programme makes awards to outstanding scholars with leadership potential from around the world to study Postgraduate courses at universities in the UK.
2. Since 1985, over 150 Zambians have studied in the UK under the Chevening Scheme. In 2017, the UK government will be sending seventeen Zambian scholars under Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK in various fields at universities. Chevening and its predecessor schemes have been operating in Zambia since 1983. Over 150 Zambians have studied in the UK under the Chevening Scheme.
3. The four universities in the world's top six are: Oxford, Cambridge, University College London and Imperial College London. Oxford has educated more world leaders than any other university, and Cambridge graduates have won 65 Nobel Prizes.
4. Chevening Scholarships are aimed at future leaders, influencers and decision-makers. The aim is for them to return to their country of

origin after their studies.

5. Chevening Scholarships are currently offered in approximately 110 countries, in most regions of the world. In the current academic year, there are over 1500 Chevening scholars at universities across the UK. In Zambia, Chevening Scholarships are administered by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) on behalf of the FCO.
6. Application window for Chevening Scholarships for the academic year 2017/18 will open and must be submitted online between 7 August and 15 November 2017 on the [Chevening website](#). Applicants should read the online guidance and be able to demonstrate how they meet the Chevening selection criteria before submitting an application.
7. For further information on Chevening Scholarships please visit our social media platforms. [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and our [website](#).
8. Numbering around 46,000 worldwide, Chevening Alumni are an influential and highly regarded group comprising people that have studied at some of the UK's top universities under the prestigious Chevening scholarship scheme. The Chevening Alumni Zambia chapter is a registered association of former recipients of the Chevening scholarships formed to serve as a platform for networking amongst alumni and to use their professional skills to contribute to the development of Zambia.

For more information contact:

Tresford Mumba on +260 211 423200 /0977 861491

Press release: Intimidation of Parliamentary candidates: CSPL publishes terms of reference and calls for evidence

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life has today published the terms of reference for its review on the intimidation of parliamentary candidates, MPs and other public office holders, and invited anyone with an interest to submit evidence.

The Committee was asked to look at this issue by the [Prime Minister](#) and has today opened the call for evidence for the review. The review will:

- Examine the nature of the problem and consider whether measures already in place to address such behaviour are satisfactory to protect the integrity of public service; and whether such measures are (a) effective, especially given the rise of social media, and (b) enforceable;
- Produce a report for the Prime Minister, including recommendations for action focused on what could be done in the short- and long-term and identifying examples of good practice.

The Committee will also consider the broader implications for other candidates for public office and other public office holders. The review will recognise the important role of legitimate scrutiny of those standing for public office by the public and the press.

The Committee has published its [call for evidence](#), and invites submissions from anyone with an interest in these issues. The Committee will also be contacting campaigning organisations, political parties and social media companies to ask for their views on how best to address these issues.

Lord Bew, Chair of the Committee said:

The intimidation of candidates, MPs and other public office holders matters to everyone, not just those who have been subject to it. Public life and parliamentary democracy needs people from a diverse range of backgrounds to be willing to step forward. Abuse and intimidation cannot be acceptable within our political culture; we want to hear views on how to address this without stifling the robust debate or differences of opinion that are fundamental to our democracy.

The Committee will be considering all evidence we receive and intend to produce a report with recommendations before Christmas.

Notes to Editors

1. Interview requests and media enquiries should go to Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.
 2. The Committee on Standards in Public Life advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the UK. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders.
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News story: Prime Minister Reappoints National Heritage Memorial Fund/Heritage Lottery Fund (NHMF/HLF) Trustee

Perdita Hunt OBE, DL has been reappointed by the Prime Minister as a Trustee of NHMF/HLF for a term of three years, ending on 21 July 2020

Perdita was, until recently, Director of the Watts Gallery Trust where she spearheaded the restoration of Watts Gallery and the Watts Studios and created an Artists' Village in the Surrey Hills. She is currently undertaking a number of projects in the arts and heritage sector. Perdita is a Tutor on The Recess College – a leadership programme for senior executives, Consultant for Leadership Insight, a Deputy Lieutenant for Surrey, member of Arts Council England's South East Committee, Chairman of Surrey Hills Arts Advisory Committee and Trustee of the Baynards Zambia Trust. Perdita is also a member of the National Trust Advisory Committee on Acquisitions and Collections. Perdita is a trained arts administrator. She has worked in senior positions at the Arts Council, HLF and WWF-UK. Prior to this she worked as Theatre Projects Co-ordinator at Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff, Marketing and Development Director at the Aldeburgh Foundation in Suffolk and Press Advisor to Suffolk Crafts Society.

The role is remunerated at £6,560 per annum. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. It is a requirement of the Code that political activity by those appointed is declared. Perdita Hunt has declared no such political activity.

News story: Explosion inside an equipment case, Guildford

At around 14:37 hrs on Friday 7 July, an explosion took place inside an under-floor equipment case on the 14:37 hrs Guildford to London Waterloo service, as the driver applied power to depart from Guildford station.

There were no reported injuries. However, debris, some quite sizable, was deposited on public platforms and the car park.

The train comprised two four-car class 455 units coupled together and the

explosion took place under the third carriage of the leading unit.

Class 455 trains are undergoing a programme of retrofitting new traction equipment, which started in May 2016. The traction equipment involved was of the new design and the mechanism which caused the explosion was believed to be understood by the industry parties involved. Similar, smaller explosions, have occurred on at least two previous occasions where debris scatter was much more confined. The previous occurrences had been attributed to a manufacturing defect, leading to a build-up of explosive gas within the traction equipment. Industry parties were in the process of devising possible solutions to the problem at the time of the 7 July accident and are continuing to do so.

Since the immediate cause of this accident is already understood, our investigation will focus on:

- the change management processes that were applied to the retrofitting programme
- the response to the previous similar incidents
- the adequacy of any risk control measures that had been implemented
- any other relevant underlying management factors

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry or by the industry's safety regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

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