



Tiree's Historical Centre
Scarinish
Isle of Tiree
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www.aniodhlann.org.uk

Acquisitions Policy

What do we collect? Anything and everything to do with the island, its people and their culture: books, CDs, DVDs, documents, compositions, leaflets, plans, maps, family trees, photographs, audio recordings, artwork, artefacts, natural objects, etc.

What is our period of interest? Pre-history to 25 years ago (one generation). We also collect 'future history', i.e. items that are likely to be of future historical significance. Future history items are kept separately from accessioned items and evaluated after 20 years.

How are donated items cared for? An Iodhlann's Archivist has had specialist training in the care and storage of photographs, paper items and artefacts, and on how to manage a collection and its environment. All donated items are given a 'health check', and treated where necessary, before being stored in specialist preservation materials in a controlled environment appropriate to its material composition.

How are they displayed? The item may be included in one of our periodic themed exhibitions, in which case it will be displayed in an environment appropriate to its material composition. In addition, many archive items are permanently available to view via our online catalogue www.aniodhlann.org.uk. Requests to view particular items in person can be arranged with the Archivist.

What do we do with potentially sensitive material? We always honour the donor's instructions regarding access. Potentially sensitive items are not available to the public, nor are they visible via the online catalogue, and are kept separately from the other archive items.

How do we transfer ownership of an item to An Iodhlann? All donors are requested to complete an Entry Form, on which they can indicate whether they'd like to transfer ownership to An Iodhlann, whether they'd like us to make a copy then return the original, or whether they'd like to make it a 'permanent loan', should they or their family wish to reclaim it one day.

What will happen to items that An Iodhlann can no longer keep? When items are donated to An Iodhlann, there is space on the Entry Form that allows the donor to indicate how they would prefer us to dispose of their item. Options are: offer it back to me or my family; offer it to another museum/heritage centre; sell it to raise funds for An Iodhlann; donate it to a charity shop; destroy it; allow An Iodhlann's Management Committee to decide on my behalf. The need to dispose of items is rare, but reasons might include limited storage space, duplication, change in collection policy, fire and flood damage, closure. In the unlikely event of An Iodhlann having to close, the building and contents will be passed into the care of the Tiree Community Development Trust www.tireetrust.org.uk.