

Clive of India's Durbar set at risk of export

- The set, used in formal court assemblies, is extremely rare and is of fundamental importance to the study of Indian silver
- An incredibly rare darbār or Durbar set owned by Clive of India is at risk of being lost abroad unless a UK buyer can be found.

Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage has placed a temporary export bar on the Durbar set, which includes rose water sprinklers and stands, and is valued at £730,000. It is hoped that this will offer a UK gallery or institution an opportunity to acquire the set for public display.

Although a controversial figure, Major-General Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive, known as 'Clive of India' was the first British Governor of the Bengal Presidency and is credited – along with Warren Hastings – with laying the foundations of the British Empire in India.

The items at risk of export offer a rare glimpse into the manners and customs of courtly life in 18th century India. The pieces in this set were listed in an inventory of Clive's possessions made in 1766.

It is likely that the set would have been used at court. Contemporary paintings depict regional rulers reclining on a bolster surrounded by members of their court with an array of rosewater sprinklers, caskets and perfume containers, all of which are represented in this set.

Each piece has surface decoration of tear-drop motifs carefully accentuated by mercury gilding. They all had a function in the elaborate rituals of a formal darbār, or court assembly. Those attending the darbār would be sprinkled with rose water from one of the slender-necked vessels, or given an attar of roses from one of the perfume holders. The two lidded boxes, or pāndāns, each of different form, contained pān. This refers to small pouches made of edible leaves wrapped round aromatic spices and chopped betel nuts. Pān was chewed as a mild stimulant, but in a darbār would be offered on salvers to indicate that the audience had come to an end.

The set adds another dimension to our understanding of Clive of India's career which has been seen almost exclusively from a Western perspective as it demonstrates that he adopted formal Indian customs.

Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage said:

These beautiful items showcase the luxury of the Indian court and offer us a glimpse into the inner workings of how the British interacted with traditional Indian ceremonies.

I hope that an institution is able to save this collection for the public to help us better understand our nation's long friendship with India.

The Minister's decision follows the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA). The committee noted that the set was a striking assemblage of objects, with an extraordinary range of component parts.

Committee Member Peter Barber said:

A variety of silver vessels, used in formal receptions or Durbars, provided the essential aesthetic and courtly backdrop for doing business in Moghul India. This is the most complete and splendid known set. Assembled by Robert Clive while he was working for the East India Company, it demonstrates how the British adopted Indian customs in pursuit of their commercial and political goals. It also enables people today to evaluate accusations of greed thrown at Clive by his British contemporaries.

More research needs to be done on how and from where Clive assembled the set, which is very important also because, uniquely, it has an unbroken provenance going back to the later eighteenth century.

Every effort should be made to retain this Durbar set in the United Kingdom so that it can be viewed, researched, and its ambiguous meanings drawn out by future generations.

The committee felt that the set was of significance to the study of the history of the British in India through its association with the undeniably controversial figure of Robert Clive, whose collection of Indian art is remarkably well documented.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the Durbar set's outstanding significance for the study of silver and the culture of court etiquette, and diplomatic gift-giving between Britain and India within the broader Mughal context.

The decision on the export licence application for the Durbar set will be deferred until 14 April 2020. This may be extended until 14 September 2020 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £730,000.

Notes to editors

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

Details of the set are as follows:

- ‘Durbar’ set comprising 19 pieces, including rosewater sprinklers with stands, caskets for pan, and components of huqqa bases
- Silver, cast, chased and partly gilt
- Mughal empire, mid-18th century
- The condition is excellent.

Provenance: Acquired in India by Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive (1725-1774); some items listed in his inventory of 1766; the set listed in his 1775 inventory. Inherited by his son, Edward Clive, 2nd Baron Clive of Plassey and 1st Earl of Powis (1754-1839); Edward James Herbert, 3rd Earl of Powis (1818-91); George Charles Herbert, 4th Earl of Powis (1862-1952); Mervyn Horatio Herbert, Viscount Clive, 17th Lord Darcy de Knayth (1904-1943); Styche Estate and Trust.

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 Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.

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.

[Civil news: update on transfer of court assessed claims to LAA](#)

News story

Law firms and other providers of legal aid will now have a choice of whether eligible claims are handled by the Legal Aid Agency’s civil finance team or the courts.



There will now be a choice for law firms and providers of legal aid on where civil claims are assessed.

Legal aid practitioners can choose to have civil claims assessed at court or assessed by the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) from 15 January 2021.

If the route of assessment by the LAA is chosen then the civil finance team would assess the claim bill.

By choosing to continue to send this work to the LAA it will remove the need for claims to go before the courts.

This will mean faster payments in both the long and short-term for work.

This change is to allow for a full consultation on the proposal for a permanent transfer of assessment rights from the courts to LAA. The consultation will open shortly and details will be published on GOV.UK.

What does this apply to?

Any new civil or family claim that would previously been subject to detailed assessment at court, often referred to as 'taxed bills'.

Any claim assessed by the LAA (after 17 August 2020) where the firm isn't satisfied with the assessment.

Any civil or family claim that this does not apply to will continue to be assessed by LAA.

Further information

[Guidance on how to submit your claim](#)

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Bristol rapist jailed for longer

Press release

Andy Anokye has had his jail sentence increased following an intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.



A Bristol grime artist has had his jail sentence increased following an intervention by the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP.

Andy Anokye, 33, repeatedly raped four women over the course of 2 years, subjecting each to prolonged imprisonment, interrogation, torture and humiliation. He also made recordings of his offences. Prior to this case the offender had 8 previous convictions, a majority of which involved violence.

On 30 July 2020, Anokye was sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment with a licence extension of 5 years by Bristol Crown Court.

Following the Court's decision, the Solicitor General referred Anokye's sentence to the Court of Appeal under the Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) scheme.

On 15 January 2021, the Court confirmed Anokye as a Dangerous Offender and ruled that the sentence was unduly lenient. The Court increased the original sentence to 30 years' imprisonment followed by 5 years on licence.

After the hearing at the Court of Appeal the Solicitor General, Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP, said:

Anokye's crimes were truly shocking. The Court of Appeal's decision to increase his sentence recognises the severity of the abuse he inflicted upon his victims and the danger he poses to the public.

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New curriculum and campus to improve Civil Service skills and expertise

- Move will help embed Civil Service training across government, with a renewed emphasis on technical and analytical skills
- More rigorous and specialist training will ultimately mean less reliance on expensive external consultants
- Training will also be offered to Ministers

An overhaul of Civil Service training is being launched today that will equip civil servants with the skills and knowledge to deliver the best possible public services, become less reliant on expensive external consultants, and build back stronger, fairer, safer and greener.

The plans are part of the government's transformation programme.

The new Curriculum and Campus for Government Skills will transform training and development for civil servants from the core knowledge needed at the beginning of their career through to specialist training in areas such as economics, data usage, the physical sciences, and constitutional issues.

The new training offer will also develop in-house Civil Service expertise, ultimately allowing government to rely less on expensive consultants saving taxpayers money.

As well as the thousands of civil servants across the UK, the curriculum will also offer induction training for new ministers.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove said:

We must make the most of the amazing talent that we have in such abundance in the Civil Service and that means ensuring civil servants across the UK are equipped with the right skills and can develop deep knowledge of the areas they work in.

For too long training has been focussed on the latest management jargon and ignored specialist knowledge.

The New Curriculum and Campus for Government Skills will transform our approach to training and deliver better public services for families across the UK.

Chief Operating Officer for the Civil Service Alex Chisholm said:

This new curriculum and learning campus will better target training

in key areas, as well as focus on building up technical and vocational skills.

It will help us to maximise the outstanding talent in the Civil Service, providing more opportunities for civil servants at every level to develop and progress their careers.

The new curriculum is divided into five complementary strands, providing training in a range of areas including:

1. Foundations of public administration, such as analysing evidence, training in how to write effective submissions and policy documents, and in data handling
2. Working in government, providing information on devolution & intergovernmental working, parliament and legislation and the machinery of government
3. Leading and managing, offering advice and training for current and future leaders
4. Specialist skills, developing deep expertise in areas such as analysis, digital and procurement
5. Domain knowledge, focusing on building and assessing knowledge in specific policy areas, such as health, education or transport

By the end of the year, it is expected that thousands of civil servants will have taken part in the training, with courses ranging from initial induction to working in Government up to line management training and specialist courses.

The new curriculum will also better induct staff who are new to the civil service. A pass/fail assessment pilot will be established, with the aim of giving managers the assurance about a new start's capabilities, providing a 'license to practice'.

The campus will initially be based online. As part of the programme we are looking at potentially partnering with existing public sector centres of excellence, like the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Other initiatives include the potential for a College for National Security and a Service Delivery Academy. The College of National Security will improve skills and access to expertise for individuals working in defence, security and foreign policy and strategy areas. The College will also work with universities and other sectors so that civil servants can better utilise wider expertise in this area.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic training sessions will be held virtually to begin with, but in-person sessions will be developed for use in the future.

The new curriculum will replace the current training system across government, which features a mix of centralised core skills and individually commissioned training programmes held in every department.

The new system will lead to the development of more rigorous standards for

training across the whole of Government, reduce the risk of duplication in training and learning, and offer better value for money.

[The Secretary of State has reappointed Sir Nicholas Serota as Chair of Arts Council England.](#)

News story

Sir Nicholas Serota has been reappointed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as Chair of Arts Council England for four years from 01 February 2021 to 31 January 2025.



Sir Nicholas Serota has been Chair of Arts Council England since 2017. During this period he has led the Durham Commission on Creativity and Education and has been closely involved with the Cultural Cities Enquiry as well as the development of the Arts Council England Strategy for 2020-30, 'Let's Create'.

He was Director of Tate from 1988 to 2017. During this period Tate opened Tate St Ives (1993) and Tate Modern (2000 and extension 2016), redefining the Millbank building as Tate Britain (2000). Tate also broadened its field of interest to include twentieth-century photography, film and performance, as well as collecting art from Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The national role of the Gallery also became more significant with the creation of the Plus Tate network of 35 institutions across the UK and Northern Ireland.

Sir Nicholas was a member of the Olympic Delivery Authority which was responsible for building the Olympic Park in East London for 2012. He has been a member of the Board of the BBC since 2016.

This role is remunerated at £40,000 per annum. This reappointment has been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public](#)

[Appointments](#), the process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Sir Nicholas has not declared any activity.

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