Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded studentship at the University of St Andrews and National Museums Scotland. This studentship is one of 6 awards made annually by the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium (SCHC) under the AHRC’s Collaborative Doctoral Partnership scheme. The project is full-time and funded for three and a half years which includes an integrated placement period of up to 6 months. It begins in October 2018. It will be co-primary supervised by Dr Kate Cowcher (School of Art History, University of St Andrews) and Dr John Giblin (Department of World Cultures, National Museums Scotland), and supported by second supervisors, Dr Karen Brown (University of St Andrews) and Dr Sarah Worden (National Museums Scotland).

Project Summary:

As part of wider British interest in Ethiopia, Scotland has a long history of collecting Ethiopian material culture: from the first British person to visit Ethiopia, the Scottish explorer and collector, James Bruce of Kinnaird (1730-94), to the British military punitive expedition to Magdala (1867-1868), which included the Cameronian Scottish Rifles and resulted in significant looting of objects, many of which returned with Scottish soldiers and officers.

Focusing on National Museums Scotland’s Ethiopian collection, this PhD will investigate British ‘colonial’ collecting in Ethiopia, and Scotland’s prominent role within this wider context. The project aims to use objects to deepen understanding of Britain’s colonial era relationships with an ostensibly non-colonised country, Ethiopia. In so doing, it will help to reveal the entanglement of gifting, collecting and diplomacy in the modern world.

Project Description:

Ethiopia and Scotland, within a wider British context, have an extended, but underexplored, shared history. From the arrival of the first British person in Ethiopia, the Scottish explorer and collector James Bruce of Kinnaird in 1770, to the British military punitive expedition to Magdala (1867-1868), which included the Cameronian Scottish Rifles, to the joint mission to free Ethiopia from Italian occupation during WWII, Britain has had a near-continuous Ethiopian presence. Objects are vital sources for illuminating this relationship. Explorers, missionaries, diplomats, and military expeditions collected Ethiopian objects, while Ethiopian rulers have gifted British royalty Ethiopian royal regalia since the early 19th century. Acquisition and display of these objects could represent domination, facilitate diplomatic relations, or demonstrate cultural knowledge. Political changes, and the
development of anthropology, shaped the context of collecting and display, altering the personnel involved and their motivations.

The NMS collection of 243 Ethiopian objects, including those from the first exploration in 1770 and the punitive expedition to Magdala in 1867-8, afford rich primary sources for analysing shifting patterns of engagement with Ethiopian culture over a period of radical political and administrative change, but the history of their collection has not been studied before. The NMS collection, together with other collections in the UK, represents one of the most significant assemblages of Ethiopian cultural heritage outside of Ethiopia. There is a growing body of colonial collecting histories from east Africa and in Asia. However, British collecting in Ethiopia remains unexplored because Ethiopia wasn’t colonised and thus rarely figures in British imperial histories. This project presents an opportunity to comparatively assess British colonial era collecting in a non-colonial setting.

By focusing first on NMS collections, reviewing other collections in Scotland, and comparing these to selected collections elsewhere in the UK, this project will deploy collections to address the following research questions:

- How did Ethiopia’s different administrative contexts, compared with British colonial east Africa, affect motivations and practices of collecting?
- What was the relationship between acquisition of objects, development of knowledge and governance?
- How can collector- and object-biographies shed new light on this complex period of African history?
- Did collectors collect as individuals, or as members of wider groups that shaped their collecting practices?
- What, if any, differences can be observed between Scottish collecting practices and those elsewhere in the UK?

There is scope for the student to develop distinctive emphases on particularly collections and collectors and additional research questions. The student would select collectors/collections from this range and compare NMS collections with those in other institutions, combining archival work with object and photographic analysis. The successful student could draw on methodologies from history, historical geography, art history and/or anthropology.

The studentship is intended to support the work of National Museums Scotland. In addition, the student will have opportunities to gain relevant experience for a career in the heritage and museum sectors as well as academia.

In addition to training opportunities provided by the University and in-house by National Museums Scotland and with SCHC partners, as part of the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership family, the student will also have access to specific training and development in the Cultural Heritage Sector provided by cultural heritage partners across the UK, including the British Museum among others.

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¹ The SCHC consists of a partnership between Historic Environment Scotland, National Library of Scotland, National Galleries Scotland and National Museums Scotland. The SCHC works in close collaboration with the AHRC-CDP partners. More information can be found online at: http://www.ahrc-cdp.org/
The University of St Andrews

The successful candidate will become part of the School of Art History, University of St Andrews. More information on the School of Art History is available here: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/arthistory/about/people/

University of St Andrews’ School of Art History was rated 4th in the UK to study the history of art in 2017 by the Guardian, and Independent newspapers, and 3rd according to The Complete University Guide (2017). In the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework, the School scored 2nd with 75% of research being judged ‘internationally excellent’ or ‘world leading’. The Complete University Guide (2017) judged the School the top department in history of art for student satisfaction.

The School consists of 27 staff (23 academics and 4 support) and welcomes over 500 students each year. The Museums, Galleries and Collections Institute is located within the School, ensuring that research, education and training in cultural heritage is a major strength of the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The School has a substantial number of postgraduates (60-70) taking taught modules in Art History, History of Photography or Museum and Gallery Studies, or working on research projects for higher degrees (MPhil & PhD). Our fortnightly research seminars provide an opportunity for students and staff to discuss and interact with scholars from other universities and galleries. PhD students are encouraged to take part in the monthly PhD Forum for informal discussion around a student’s research topic.

University of St. Andrews also provides a comprehensive programme of research training for postgraduate students via the GRADskills Programme in the Centre for Academic, Professional and Organisational Development (CAPOD). In consultation with their supervisor, students select workshops offered by CAPOD in a range of areas, from conducting archival research to writing and publishing. The workshops are organised in ‘thematic bundles’ that correspond with stage of the student’s doctoral career (first year, midway, final year).

National Museums Scotland

Originating with the collections of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in 1851 and in many incarnations since, today National Museums Scotland is one of the UK’s leading museums services and has one of the largest multidisciplinary collections in the UK. The group consists of four Museums on four sites: National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Rural Life, National War Museum, and National Museum of Flight. We also have a state of the art National Museums Collections Centre, which is home to our skilled artefact conservators, photographers and scientist. In 2017, NMS welcomed over 2.1 million visitors to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

We are responsible for the procurement, preservation and promotion of a substantial part of Scotland’s cultural, historic, and national heritage. National Museums Scotland has in its care over twelve million objects and our collection has been built up over more than two centuries. They encompass a broad range of subject areas such as archaeology, world
cultures, natural sciences, science and technology, decorative art and design, and Scottish history and culture.

A comprehensive and detailed history of National Museums Scotland can be found online at https://www.nms.ac.uk/about-us/history-of-national-museums-scotland/.

The successful candidate will be one of 7 on-going AHRC CDP funded students at the National Museums Scotland.

Prior qualifications

Applicants should have a very good undergraduate qualification and a relevant Masters degree in history, art-history, archaeology, anthropology, museum/heritage studies or a related field. They will have some experience of relevant research methods (but note that research training is a key part of the studentship). Applicants without a Masters qualification should include with their application a 1-page statement outlining the specifically relevant skills, experience and knowledge they have gained beyond undergraduate degree level, that could be considered equivalent to Masters study.

Funding details:

This award is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium. Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the studentship will cover Home/EU tuition fees. For those settled in the UK, it also covers a stipend towards living expenses. The value for the stipend in 2018/19 is £15,009 plus a £550 additional stipend payment. The successful applicant will also be entitled to up to £1000 directly paid from the Museum.

Eligibility:

The studentship can be studied full-time or part-time.

Applicants must be a resident of the UK or the European Economic Area (EEA).

There are residence requirements for research council funding for postgraduate research. These are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments. Normally to be eligible for a full award a student must have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship (with some further constraint regarding residence for education).

To be eligible for a fees-only award:

The award is subject to the Research Councils UK eligibility requirements, listed under Terms and Conditions of Research Council Training Grants at www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/grantstcs/ (UK and EU student residency requirements are detailed on p. 11). Applications cannot be accepted from students liable to pay fees at the Overseas rate.

Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a fees-only award. To be eligible for a fees-only award, a student must be ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU; in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.
The UK Government confirmed on 21 April 2017 that Research Council studentships (including AHRC studentships awarded through the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities) remain open to EU students starting courses in academic year 2018 to 2019, and that the funding support will cover the duration of their course, even if the UK leaves the EU.

**The application**

Applicants should submit:

- a summary curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
- an example of recent academic writing (e.g., Masters chapter or undergraduate dissertation where the applicant does not have a MA qualification)
- a short statement (1 page) outlining your qualification for the studentship, and initial thoughts on how you would approach the project
- the names and contact details of two academic referees

Please submit your application via email to kc90@st-andrews.ac.uk and j.giblin@nms.ac.uk. Applications will close on the 13th May 2019 at 5pm. Please ensure your referees can provide (on request, via email) an academic reference by 20th of May 2019, 5pm.

**Interviews will be held during the week commencing 20th of May at National Museums Scotland.**