

Acceptance of the John Buttrey Manuscript Donation

Date: May 19, 2020

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council approve the donation of a very significant early 19th-century tunebook (the John Buttrey Manuscript) to the City of Toronto. The Buttrey Manuscript will be included in the Historical Collection managed by the Museums and Heritage Services section of the Economic Development and Culture Division and will be displayed, from time to time, at Fort York National Historic Site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, recommends that:

1. City Council approve accepting Sandra Cameron's donation of the Buttrey Manuscript for inclusion in the City of Toronto's Historical Collection.
2. City Council convey its appreciation to Sandra Cameron for her generous gift to the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No additional resources are required to conserve and display the donated artifact. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council has given the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the authority to approve and sign culture matters (including acceptance of donated artworks or artifacts) in which the net value of the contract or object does not exceed

\$100,000.00. As the appraised value of the Buttrey Manuscript exceeds this amount, City Council's approval to accept this gift is required.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.ED3.1>

COMMENTS

The John Buttrey Manuscript is a large and rare compilation of 1,061 military and social tunes, accompanied by ink and watercolour sketches. It reflects the types of music heard in a British garrison in the early 19th century: martial music, dance tunes, jigs, reels, and church parade tunes. The manuscript was probably created between 1801 and 1806 and used by the 34th Regiment of Foot, which John Buttrey joined as a drummer in 1797. Buttrey likely contributed substantially to the tunebook, which remained in his possession after he left military service in 1812. He emigrated from the U.K. to Montreal in 1849, then moved to Toronto and died here in 1854.

Consistent with City practice, an appraisal was conducted by qualified external appraisers after the donation agreement was executed by staff. As the fair market value of the artifact (\$115,000.00) is in excess of the delegated approval and signing authority of the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture, it is recommended that Council approve accepting the Buttrey Manuscript as part of the City's Historical Collection.

Most of the 150,000 artifacts in the Historical Collection managed by Museums and Heritage Services have been acquired as donations. In this instance, it is appropriate that Council recognize the generous gift made by Sandra Cameron, a descendent of John Buttrey and donor of the Buttrey Manuscript.

The importance of the Buttrey Manuscript is underscored by its recent acceptance for conservation treatment - at no cost to the City - by the Canadian Conservation Institute. Once conserved, the tunebook will be displayed from time to time at Fort York National Historic Site. This is fitting, given the extensive research done by Museums and Heritage Services staff on the Buttrey Manuscript and its key role in shaping the military music exhibition there.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Mike Williams
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