

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

LOANS POLICY

Introduction

This policy covers the loan of all objects for exhibitions both outgoing from and incoming to the Chester Beatty Library, for any duration. It covers the entire range of loans from single objects to travelling exhibitions of multiple objects. It does not apply to movements of objects outside the Library for conservation or study purposes.

The Library will only lend to organisations and venues which are open to the general public and can fulfil the terms of the Library's Loan Agreement.

The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library make loans in order to support the Library's Mission Statement:

To maintain and preserve the collections of the Library and to make them available in the most appropriate ways for the use and enjoyment of the public and for scholarly study and research, in order to promote a wider appreciation and understanding of the international cultural heritage embodied in the collections and to foster relations between Ireland and the peoples whose cultures are represented in the collections.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the Library's *Loan Agreement, Conditions of Loan and Documentation Policy*.

Principles

The Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library make loans for the following reasons:

- to further knowledge, understanding and scholarship relating to the works in its care
- to make the collections more widely accessible within Ireland and throughout the world
- to increase national and international co-operation by the exchange of material and exhibitions
- to enhance the reputation of the Library and its good standing nationally and internationally
- to support the strategic objectives of the Library

Decisions to lend are taken by the Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, acting on the recommendation of the Director, Curators and Head of Conservation.

The Library will only lend in circumstances when the perceived risk to the well-being of an object is considered reasonable and when the borrower provides assurance that the object will be returned to the Library at the end of the loan period. The Trustees will expect the borrower to provide assurance of immunity from judicial seizure or comparable assurance from a government body or representative of appropriate authority.

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In order to secure a loan from the Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library, borrowers will have to demonstrate that the works they have requested form an essential part of their display, and that the exhibition itself is coherently thought through and intellectually valid.

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The Library's visiting public expects some key objects to be on display and it may be presumed that such objects will not normally be lent, including those of greatest historical significance.

An object which has been lent to another institution within the past three years will only be lent again within this period in exceptional circumstances.

Loans will not be made in circumstances that would be damaging to the Library's standing and reputation.

The Library will not lend to any exhibition which includes objects that are known to have been stolen, illegally exported or illegally excavated.

In requesting loans the Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library will observe the same principles as they apply to outgoing loans and acquisitions. In particular the Trustees will not accept the loan for display or exhibition of any object where they have good cause to believe that:

- the current holder is not legitimately entitled to retain the object
- the current holder cannot loan the object to the Library free from encumbrances
- the object was stolen, illegally exported or illegally imported

Approval/Revision History

This Loans Policy is version 1, issued in August 2013 and formally approved by the Trustees on 16 October 2013. This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the Collections Management Team, a full revision will take place every five years.