

I. Collections Level Description

Department: Royal Norfolk Regiment Collection, Norwich Castle

Collection Type: Tibetan Collection

Reference: NWHRM.COLLECTION

No. of items: 21

Notes

Date of research visit: 14th May 2014 Contact: Kate Thaxton, Curator



'Serving the Empire: The regiment around the world'
Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum
Collection display in Norwich Castle



'Treasure, Trade and the Exotic'
display in Norwich Castle



Musket
 [NWHRM.1270]
 © Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich



Sword
 [NWHRM.3067]
 © Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich



Flint and tinder pouch
 [NWHRM.3068]
 © Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich



Hand held prayer wheel
 [NWHRM.3069]
 © Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich



Ceremonial axe
 [NWHRM.3071]
 © Royal Norfolk Regiment, Norwich

Category

Religion and ritual
 Weapons
 Loot
 Archival
 Photographs

Description

INTRODUCTION: The Royal Norfolk Regiment no longer have their own museum, instead objects from their collection are now (since Oct 2013) displayed in Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. The regimental collection office is situated in the Norwich Castle

Study Centre.

The collection of material that they have which relates to the Younghusband Mission to Tibet is incredibly coherent as the objects, photographs and archival material all came related to one person - Lt. Col. Arthur Lovell Hadow (1877-1968) who served in Machine Gun Section of the 1st Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. As a result this collection provides a very comprehensive insight into military collecting practices in Tibet during this campaign.

OBJECTS:

There are 16 objects in total which were brought back by soldier's serving in Tibet during the Younghusband Mission. The collection is comprised of a mixture of religious objects and weapons. Most of them are on display in two areas:

1. '*Serving the Empire: The regiment around the world*' [Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum Collection].

Objects in this section are:

- 1 prayer wheel [NWHRM.3069]
- 1 tinder and flint purse [NWHRM.3068]
- 2 clay figures representing a Buddhist teacher [NWHRM.3072.1-.2]
- 1 ceremonial axe [NWHRM.3071]
- 1 bone trumpet [NWHRM.3077]
- 1 sword [NWHRM.3067]
- 1 bone finger protector [NWHRM.3061]
- 1 wooden printing block [NWHRM.3066]
- 1 brass figure of Buddha [NWHRM.3064]
- 1 'chorten' [NWHRM.3063]
- 1 Bhutanese dagger (a diplomatic gift to Hadow from Tongsa Penlop, ruler of Bhutan, who accompanied the Younghusband Mission) [NWHRM.3058]

There is also a desk top display case which includes 1 [of 2] thunderbolts or dorje's alongside various medals. There is also has an interactive touch screen linked to the section above which provides more details and images of the objects.

2. '*Treasure, Trade and the Exotic*', which includes:

1 ceremonial bone apron [NWHRM.3055] and 1 shoulder piece from a ceremonial bone apron [NWHRM.3065], these objects are displayed alongside Tibetan objects from Norwich Museum Services Collections.

There is also 1 Tibetan prayer horn (chaum) [NWHRM.1255] on display above the reception desk in the Study Centre which is recorded as 'probably brought by the MG Detachment of the 1st Bn from Tibet in 1903', and a muzzle loading musket [NWHRM.1270] 'captured in Tibet by the MG detachment of 1st Bn Weight 54 ½ lbs' is in storage. These objects probably just came into the collection through the regimental mess.

PHOTOGRAPHS: NWHRM 5069.1 Album of 'photographs collected by Hadow, A. L. (Lt Col) between 1898 - 1905'. 'THIBET 1903 [in pencil] -1904' 5069.1/72-140. This album has already been digitised.

CORRESPONDENCE: NWHRM 5069.10 '1903 to end of 1904 Tibet'. Letters from Hadow to his mother and father, and Uncle George, but mostly his mother. All of these letters

have been transcribed.

OTHER ARCHIVAL MATERIAL:

NWHRM 5069.16 Handwritten list of 'Trophies' acquired by Hadow during his service in India, Tibet and the Sudan 1901 - 1915.

NWHRM 5069.12 is a copy 'A. L. H.'s Trophies from Tibet, Sudan, etc. 1901 - 1915'

This includes 2 objects from 'India'; 4 from 'Waziristan - Taken during Mahsud Expedition 1901-1902'; 61 objects from 'Tibet - Obtained during the Tibet expedition 1903-1904'; 16 objects from 'Sudan 1906-1915'; 1 'German' bayonet. Then there is a list of animals from each place, including name of animal, year, place, 'mask or skull' and then measurements [?] in the margin. These are clearly hunting trophies, see correspondence for more detail about his hunting activities.

The objects from Tibet include:

Carved book covers; bells; Tibetan weapons; daggers taken from large idols at Gyantse; painted scrolls [thangka?]; butter lamps; prayer beads 'picked up near the breach after the assault of Gyantse Jong'; brass model of chorten; tea pots; shoulder piece from bone apron; 'head of image, broken off as image was too large to carry away.'; conch shell; 'heads on a string taken off an idol'

Objects now in the museum include:

- '1. "Bone Apron", looted after the capture of Gyantse Jong. Religious vestment used by the Lamas. Made of human bones.'
- '7. Tibetan trumpet made out of human bone. Used by Tibetan Lamas.'
- '9. Tibetan Sword and sheath taken at the battle of Tuna.'
- '19. Gilt statue of Buddha'
- '20. "Golden chorten", a model of a religious monument. Looted at Gyantse'
- '23. Image of a Lama'
- '32. 2 thunder bolts'
- '34. Flint and steel'
- '46 thumb guard used in archery'
- '48. Prayer wheel.'
- '53. Wooden printing block'
- '55. Shoulder piece of bone apron'

Other objects are still in the family. His granddaughter, Celia Hadow, transported a looted statue of the Buddha back to Tibet to return to the 14th Dalai Lama and BBC Radio 4 made a programme about it called 'The Return of the Buddha' (3rd November 2004).

Production information:

Place: Tibet, Asia
Date: Mid-19th to mid-20th Century

Name Associations	Type	Note
Royal Norfolk Regiment Hadow, Arthur Lovell, Lt. Col. (1877-1968)	regiment/service personal name	Lt. Col. Arthur Lovell Hadow served in M.G. Section of the 1st Bn. Norfolk Regiment and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Associations	Type	Note
Younghusband Mission to Tibet (1903-1904)	event	

Exhibitions

Name of exhibition: *Royal Norfolk Regimental Collection*

Exhibition area: Serving the Empire: The Regiment Around the World

Notes:

'The Royal Norfolk Regiment served around the world. Through most of its history, travel was slow and difficult and years could be spent stationed abroad. Britannia - the Regiment's badge, the Colours, Mess silver and even the 39 foot long regimental table, travelled around the world with the regiment. Regimental symbols and traditions engendered a sense of belonging and regimental pride. The climate and living conditions abroad exacted a heavy toll. Many more lives were lost through adverse conditions and disease than through fighting.'

Name of exhibition: *Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery*

Exhibition area: Treasure, Trade and the Exotic

Notes:

'This gallery looks beyond the British Isles. It displays artefacts, many once belonging to Norfolk collectors, which have been brought here from abroad or are influenced by British trade and activity beyond Europe. ...'

Bibliographic references

Harris, Clare E. (2012) *The Museum on the Roof of the World: Art, Politics, and the Representation of Tibet*. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago and London.

References to Hadow can be found on pages 58, 60-63, 66, 71, 104-105, 111, 276n35, 282n82

Myatt, T. (2011) 'Trinkets, Temples, and Treasures: Tibetan Material Culture and the 1904 British Mission to Tibet' in *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines*, No. 21