

**12 DEACCESSION OF ALEXANDER LAMB WHALING DIARIES FROM McMANUS GALLERIES TO MR J DEMPSTER (AN488-2004)**

The "Alexander Lamb Whaling Diaries" are two diaries written by Alexander Lamb between 1903-1906, during his time on board a whaling ship travelling to the Davis Straits.

In 1969 the Diaries were brought to Broughty Castle by Mr J Dempster's maternal grandmother, Mrs Lamb, to contribute to a new display at Broughty Castle. The diaries were formally accessioned and given accession numbers of 1969-117-2 and 1969-117-3. This action suggested that the diaries had been donated to Broughty Castle.

However, Mr J Dempster has now requested that the two diaries be returned to him on the basis that they were not donated but only given on loan. Despite an exhaustive search, Leisure and Arts staff can find no written evidence to the contrary which would prove that the diaries were donated rather than given on loan. The Legal Department of Dundee City Council have indicated that in this instance the presumption is against donation and therefore legally the diaries must be returned to Mr J Dempster.

It is therefore recommended that the Alexander Lamb Whaling Diaries be deaccessioned from the collection of Dundee City Council and returned to Mr J Dempster.