

INHERITANCE! *OBJECTS+KNOWLEDGE+EMOTION=HERITAGE*

“I didn't think of myself as a particularly sexy person, but I was the first person on television not wear a roll-on girdle. Everybody else did.” (*Answers at the end.*)

Who said this? When and of What? If you can remember, or simply want to know, you are part of British Heritage. Which is also the name of a memorabilia company which can no longer house and display the many thousand Items of Significant Interest it has acquired over the years. Since donation to the British Museum is not an option BH offers the Public a marvellous opportunity: Let us enrich your Life by giving* you a priceless item from our stock. This is a unique opportunity to enjoy a slice of our History in your own home.

Some examples from our warehouse:

- B01 A String from Robin Hood's Bow (c. 1300s)** A 5-foot string of woven black hair apparently cut into two parts. Legend has it that Peoples' Bandit Robin Hood was ambushed one night at Maid Marian's secret Trysting Tower by the Sheriff of Nottingham's men. He defended himself valiantly until his bow string broke. Having no spare, Robin begged Marian to cut a single lock from her long tresses to save him. But she refused. Because Robin had '*earlier passed a comment about my appearance that verily ticked me off!*' Defenceless, a weary Robin succumbed to the Sheriff's men's swords. Marian retained the string for a keepsake and stocking support and thus invented the first garter.
- B798 “A Historic Railway Return Ticket from Euston to John O'Groats via HS2”** (Publicity Draft Prop for Grand Opening which was cancelled.)
- B71 2 GALAPAGOS GIANT TORTOISE SHELL ASHTRAYS.** Complete with cigarette butts and ash. Possibly from Beatles' Abbey Road 'Let It Be' sessions.' [*Beatles connection subject to DNA verification in due course.*]
- B36 “GO ALL THE WAY, BRITAIN” MISCELLANY:** This enterprising Californian Documentary Production Company - GOATWAB - somehow received unparalleled access to the inner circles of the British Establishment in the 1930s. A surviving selection of their b&w16 mm stock contains amongst others:
- Priceless Unedited Footage of the 1937 Coronation of George VI.** See the new King jeered by supporters of the abdicated King Edward VIII in Westminster Abbey. Marvel at the shame-free universal Smoking of those Attending. Including the Archbishop of Canterbury and various titled Ladies. See Choristers processing through the aisles with heads bowed under golden ashtrays for the convenience of the seated congregation.
- Sept 1939.** Scenes of a typical post-lunch Cabinet Meeting on the eve of War where politicians rag, spank, and cane each other shrieking, “Never forget you were my fag...”
- B69 A BIC BIRO.** Believed to have written the pilot script and three of the 4,510 episodes of hit 1960's TV Series “Crossroads”. Meet Meg, Jill, David and Benny all over again!
- B007 Letter from Betrice Paston to her sister concerning Chaucer's Aretha of Bathe's Tale. (c.1410)** “I love this woman! She tell it how it be. “S E R T E P C – Find out what it means to me! Socketummy... etc.” I thogte she in grosse error regarding Holy Wrist and how best deal with Men. Now I see that she rite and I rong. I sort guidance from Julian of Norwich. But a Rite Bossy Pants He turn out to be! His Friend Sandy of Southend more on the balls. Enjoi IT while you can, Girl! Socketummy one more time agen, Gervase!” [*FULL DISCLOSURE: Some authorities doubt the authenticity of this item. But it is a wonderful piece whatever.*]
- B854 A BRIDLE FROM A HORSE THAT SURVIVED THE GLORIOUS CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE IN 1854**

Very poor condition but of great sentimental value to horse lovers.

B66 THE PRIDE OF THE COLLECTION: The Holy Land Wonders of Lord Plusriche-Quesage

In 1912 His Lordship sailed to the Holy Land to purchase Biblical Memorabilia to apologise to his very devout new Bride after an 'awkward' Honeymoon. Six months later he returned with a Golden Treasure Chest of Bible Wonders. Comprised of these items:

David's Pebble which slew great Goliath who lay down and dieth

A Lump of Ambergris vomited up by the Whale along with Jonah

A Wooden Nail from the Ark

A White Feather from the Dove that Alighted on the Ark

A Unicorn Horn found on the wreck of the Ark

A Bottle of Water that had been fished – and possibly even Walked Upon – by the Disciples

A Bottle of Wine believed to be left over from the Wedding at Cana

An eyelash of the Queen of Sheba (left eye)

Several splinters from the True Cross in their own Silver Box

Sadly, during his Lordship's absence Lady Plusriche-Quesage had converted to Madame Blavatsky's Theosophy and no longer had any interest in Biblical matters. Or her husband. Mortified, his Lordship joined an expedition to cross the South Pole by bicycle.

On his return he organised his Treasures into a permanent public exhibition. But disaster struck in 1957 when His Lordship heard a visiting Schoolgirl say of the Silver Box, "Surely, they're matches? You can smell the sulphur and even see the brand name under the paint."

"I'll prove you wrong, you Meddling Minx!" screamed the outraged Peer. He ripped open the box, which promptly ignited. The resulting conflagration burnt down Plusriche Towers. Thankfully the rest of the collection was saved for the Nation. And there were no casualties. [However, the Schoolgirl was expelled from her Grammar School for disrespect, blasphemy, and smoking. She worked as a shop assistant for 15 years then took an Open University degree. She is now shortlisted for this Year's Nobel Prize Physics award.]

B1901 Toy Submarine HMS Rabbit: Made of Rubber with Collapsible Conning Tower. (No Date, but probably 1889) – An elongated cigar-shaped object presumably meant as a plaything for the bath. Believed to have been left at Holyrood Palace in a sponge bag by one of Queen Victoria's retinue. Fun for all the Family!

B1770 Swiss Couple Cuckoo Clock by Calamati et Fils of Covent Garden (1790) This unique timepiece may not appeal to everyone. Perhaps the earliest version of the famous Swiss Cuckoo Clock this was Commissioned from the London clockmakers by the Marquis de Sade himself. Sade's own mise en scene shows Husband and Wife appear on the hour, move toward each other in a friendly manner, then produce boxing gloves and start sparring.

A rare opportunity to savour the Firm's skills for yourself.

DID YOU GET THE QUIZ ANSWERS RIGHT?

Mary Holland on her appearance as 'Katie' in OXO cube advertisements starting in 1958.

BH has a comprehensive range of OXO cube wrappers for you to choose from.

(If everyone on 1950s TV *did* wear roll-on girdles it might explain the strained faces and high voices of newsreaders and sports commentators, both male and female.)

* On fixed rental basis. T&Cs apply.
