

**TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF MODEL SHIP, MV HESPERSUS, FROM
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL TO OBAN WAR & PEACE MUSEUM**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the case for transferring ownership of the model ship, MV Hesperus, from Argyll and Bute Council to Oban War & Peace Museum and highlights the connection to Oban and its maritime history of the MV Hesperus.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Committee note the contents of this report and approve the transfer of ownership of the model ship, MV Hesperus, from Argyll and Bute Council to Oban War & Peace Museum.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The model of the MV Hesperus, built in 1896, was presented to the Northern Lighthouse Board by the shipbuilders, Gourlay Brothers & Co., Dundee, on completion of the ship for the Board.
- 3.2 The model ship was donated by the Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouse Board to Argyll and Bute Council and was originally stored in the Corran Halls, Oban, before moving to storage in Campbeltown Museum. A record for the object was created on 14th March 1995 by the then Museums Development Officer.
- 3.3 Argyll and Bute Council, through Campbeltown Museum, loaned the model to Easdale Island Folk Museum on 30th May 1998 and subsequent loan renewals were made thereafter.
- 3.4 On 4th October 2011 the model was moved from Easdale and officially loaned through Campbeltown Museum to Oban War & Peace Museum. Through subsequent loan renewals the model is still on display in Oban War & Peace Museum.
- 3.5 The MV Hesperus has a strong connection to Oban and the surrounding area and is vitally important to the town's maritime history. The ship was often seen in Oban and many of the crew were from the Oban area.

- 3.6 Oban War & Peace Museum has a comprehensive photographic and paper based archive of material relating to the MV Hesperus. Letters on file (the earliest dated 25th November 2009) document repeated requests by the museum to acquire ownership of the model from Argyll and Bute Council.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Given the strong link to the Oban area of the MV Hesperus and the fact that it has no connection whatsoever to Campbeltown and the Kintyre area, the model of the MV Hesperus would be best displayed permanently in Oban War & Peace Museum.
- 4.2 The Chief Executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board wrote to Campbeltown Museum on 28th November 2013 to confirm that the Board Commissioners were content to agree to the transfer of ownership from Argyll and Bute Council to Oban War & Peace Museum.
- 4.3 Oban War & Peace Museum is an accredited museum therefore the transfer of ownership of the MV Hesperus model would not breach Campbeltown Museum's accreditation status as granted by Museums Galleries Scotland.
- 4.4 That the Oban, Lorn & the Isles Area Committee, after considering the contents of this report, grant permission to Campbeltown Museum, on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council, to transfer ownership of the model MV Hesperus to Oban War & Peace Museum.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: SPECTRUM: The UK Museum Documentation Standard.
Campbeltown Museum Acquisition & Disposal Policy.
- 5.2 Financial: Transfer of a Council asset valued at £1,000 in 1995.
- 5.3 Legal: None.
- 5.4 Personnel: None.
- 5.5 Equal Opportunities: None.

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