

EXHIBITIONS BY PLOWDEN & SMITH

Our ability to interpret ambitious design ideas into cost-effective and innovative display solutions can be found in museums and heritage sites around the world.

We work with museum curators, exhibition designers, and leading showcase manufacturers on projects that range in size from the ten new galleries at the National Museum of Scotland (Museum + Heritage Best Permanent Exhibition 2017), to mounting a single piece for an iconic luxury brand like Berry Bros. & Rudd.

Every one of our mounts is custom made for the object using the finest

conservation-grade materials. We work with steel and stainless steel, brass, acrylic, resin, wood, glass and Corian to create mounts that display the object to best effect. Finishing, including powder-coating, patinating, brushing, polishing or spray-painting the surface, completes the look.

Pre and post-exhibition, we can provide detailed CONDITION REPORTS and advise on COLLECTION CARE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING. Should any object be damaged in transit, our experts are on hand to carry out high-quality restoration treatment.

Our experience displaying objects that range from tiny Roman coins to racing cars ensures that everything we mount is safe, secure and shown to best advantage.

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE & THE JACOBITES

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

PLOWDEN & SMITH LTD





AN EXHIBITION SUCCEEDS, THOUGH,

NOT WITH REVISIONIST THEORIES

BUT THE IMPACT OF ITS EXHIBITS —

AND THESE CERTAINLY DON'T DISAPPOINT

Alistair Smart, Daily Mail (15 July 2017)

Having mounted and redisplayed the Museum +
Heritage award winning permanent galleries at the
National Museum of Scotland (NMS), Plowden &
Smith was delighted to successfully tender for the
mounting and installation of the 2017 exhibition
Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites.

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites explores the turbulent history of Charles Edward Stuart through an eye-caching display of 350 artefacts, including weapons, books, jewellery, glassware, costumes and paintings, as well as items on rare loan from the Vatican.

The project began with a visit to discuss design ideas with the project co-ordinators, and to examine and take measurements of the pieces going on display. This is a useful stage in the design process: seeing a physical object as opposed to its image









really allows us to mount each piece to best effect, whether that be for maximum impact or to show off a section of intricate detailing. It also gives us a more accurate sense of how much space each mounted exhibit will take up in a display case (something that is often underestimated).

The majority of the display mounts, incluing acrylic book mounts and discreet, strong brass armatures, were made and finished to the designer's specification at our London workshop.

Two exhibits - a William III badge and a medallion - were being displayed above an angled mirror to allow visitors to see the intricate detailing to the reverse. The positioning of these mounts required additional thought to reduce the visibility of the mount in the in the mirror. Our solution allowed clear reflections of their entire reverse sides and obscured no important detail.

A third of the items in the exhibition were on loan from private collections and did not arrive in time for us to measure them before making their display mounts. This inevitably resulted in numerous





The challenges of James VIII & III











adjustments being needed during the installation and in several instances, we had to devise alternative layouts for entire display cases.

This requires skill and judgement to balance the needs of the visitor with the vision of the designer.

A lthough these changes had to be made at short notice, our extensive experience designing well thought out displays, along with our in-depth understanding of accessible object placement, meant that the alternative layouts were visually striking and easy for visitors of all ages and heights



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EXHIBITIONS

OBJECT DISPLAY MOUNTING

CONDITION REPORTING

MAJOR AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

