



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

COLLECTIONS and DIGITISATION DEPARTMENT

CONDITION REPORT: RIJKS MUSEUM LOAN REQUEST for the "SLAVERY" EXHIBITION

Date: Monday 17th August 2020





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CONDITION REPORT LISTING

EXTERNAL LOAN: Rijks Museum Loan Request

EXHIBITION: "Slavery"

DATE: Monday 17th August 2020

EXAMINOR(S): **Bradley Mottie** (Conservator), **Janene van Wyk** (Assistant Conservator)

ACCESSION NUMBER:	SACHM 1309	Condition Report 1	Safe to exhibit/handle
OBJECT NAME:	SLAVE BELL		Yes, handle with care

TOTAL NO. ARTEFACTS = 1

EXHIBITION:	Rijks Museum Loan Request
DATE:	Monday 17 th August 2020
LOAN PERIOD (DURATION):	22 January 2021 to 20 June 2021, Philips Exhibition Wing
EXAMINOR(S):	Bradley Mottie (Conservator) and Janene Van Wyk (Assistant Conservator)
OBJECTIVE:	Exhibition Purposes, “Slavery Exhibition” The bell will be part of the opening of the exhibition, which is formed by a row of 5 similar bells coming from Cape Town, Jakarta, Curacao, Surinam and Demerara. These bells sounded the beginning and ending of each working day of the enslaved people. They will hopefully draw the audience in and give them an idea of the geographical approach of this exhibition.

CONSERVATION’S REQUEST: A **Facilities Report** is required for record and documentation purposes. Further a specialist service provider will be required for the removal and reinstallation of the large glass enclosure that houses the object, currently on exhibition at the Iziko Slave Lodge Museum. The composition of the metal to be employed in the hanging system is critical given the weight and the possibility of galvanic corrosion because the bell has acquired a relatively attractive and stable protective patina. We therefore recommend that Rijksmuseum, please take cognisance of the metal/metal alloy to be employed for the hanging system. This may require a coating to create a galvanic barrier to inhibit any possibility of corrosion.

Given the robust nature of the artefact and taking cognisance of Iziko Museums of South Africa’s recommendations above, the indicated relative humidity winter months levels of around 30% and summer months around 55% coupled with regulated temperature of 20-22 degree Celsius, would be a relatively safe zone for this exhibition however we recommend a monitoring device is installed in the exhibition gallery for environmental monitoring purposes and that Iziko Museums of South Africa is finished with this data on a monthly basis for record purposes.

ACCESSION NUMBER:	SACHM 1309	
OBJECT NAME:	BELL	
TITLE	SLAVE BELL	
MATERIAL:	METAL, BRASS	
STATUS OF OWNERSHIP:	Iziko Museums of South Africa, Collection and Digitization Department	
DESCRIPTION:	Large flared shape brass metal bell with the inscription: "Michiel van Breda, 12 th Sept., 1775, Oranjezicht".	
ARTIST/MAKER:		
BACKGROUND:	This bell was formerly on the estate of the Van Breda Family, Oranjezicht, on the slopes of Table Mountain. It was placed in the front of the old slave quarters of the estate and was always rung, at regular hours for commencing and leaving off work on the estate. It was acquired in 1903.	
PLACE OF ORIGIN:		
DATE OF ORIGIN:	18th Century, 12 September 1775	
ESTIMATED VALUE:		
CURRENT LOCATION:	Iziko Museums of South Africa, Iziko Slave Lodge, Under Cover of Darkness Exhibition	
PREVIOUS LOCATION	Castle of Good Hope, Granary	
CONDITION and DAMAGE ANALYSIS	<p>The bell is flared shaped with the surface area of the artefact providing evidence of a passive corrosion product. This stable corrosion product is light green in colour and is visible on the entire waist area of the bell. No apparent damage is visible of the shoulder of the bell. The yolk of the bell is missing and has been replaced by a metal bar to suspend the bell for exhibition purposes. The crown, the head, the sound ring and the bead line are in a good condition. The bottom edge of the lip and mouth has numerous areas showing losses of material. The entire surface area is covered with a whitish residue.</p> <p>The surface area that was previously not exposed to environmental conditions whilst on exhibition at the Castle, Grain Cellar, has a well-developed patina visible.</p> <p>The artefact is missing the strike/clapper, and has minor metal corrosion (rust) visible in the area where the strike would have been attached. There is no visible damage on the bead line and no visible cracks of the artefact. The object is deemed to be in a relatively stable and in fair condition, classified as safe for exhibition.</p>	
MEASUREMENTS	WEIGHT(Kg)	
	LENGTH(mm)	550
	LARGEST CIRCUMFERENCE, DIAMETER(mm)	550

	SMALLEST CIRCUMFERENCE, DIAMETER(mm)	270
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSERVATOR:	The object is in a relatively stable condition; however caution and extreme care should be exercised when handling for purpose of installation. The composition of the metal to be employed in the hanging system is critical given the weight and the possibility of galvanic corrosion because the bell has acquired a relatively attractive and stable protective patina. We therefore recommend that Rijksmuseum, please take cognisance of the metal/metal alloy to be employed for the hanging system. This may require a coating to create a galvanic barrier to inhibit any possibility of corrosion.	
HANDLING/ EXHIBITION MOUNTS:	Relatively heavy, handle with care.	
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:	19-22 degrees C, RH not exceeding 55%.	
LIGHTING:	Light levels not to exceed 300 LUX	
INSTALLATION/REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS	To be de-installed and re-installed by an appointed Service Provider approved by the Iziko Museums of South Africa given its weight and large glass enclosure.	

PHOTOGRAPH/DRAWING:



