

This guide sheet provides information on how to research or find out more information about items you hold.

The National Museum of the Royal Navy is unfortunately unable to value or research items held in your possession for ethical reasons. However, we hope this guide will provide you with some helpful tips on how to undertake your own research and find out more.

Valuation

Valuations of items can be very subjective and are open to market value interpretation. There is also a difference in whether something is valued for sale or insurance purposes. The best way to get a value is to approach a relevant auctioneer and get their expert advice. You can also gain a basic idea of value by finding similar items which have sold in the last few years. Sources to check include reviewing past auction catalogues or sites.

Identifying Weaponry & Munitions

The most important thing to be aware of with any weapon or munition is your safety and the safety of those around you. There are many things you should consider with weaponry and munitions:

- If you find a weapon or munition, even if you do know what it is, please leave it where it is and report it to the Police. This is especially important because it could be live and potentially harmful.
- If you are in the possession of or have found weapons they could be subject to government licensing and restrictions. This is why it is important to contact the Police if you find a weapon or munition because it could be an offence for you to be in possession of it. Please consult the government websites (<https://www.gov.uk/>) for further information regarding licencing and restrictions on weaponry and munitions.
- If you are in any doubt please consult the Police who will be able to assist you, they can be reached in an emergency by calling 999 or non-emergency by calling 101.

Additional Assistance:

One of the key things to look for if you are trying to identify a weapon or munition is to look for markings. Markings can often be painted or engraved on an object and they can explain various features of the object. They can help identify:

- Type
- Date
- Variant
- Nationality
- Proof marks

You can search for markings online through websites and forums.

Taking photographs of what you are trying to identify and using websites such as TinEye (<https://tineye.com/>) or Google image search (www.google.com) can also help to identify a weapon or munition.

Below are some further sources and organisations to help you:

1. *Guns Recognition Guide: Every Firearm in Use Today* (Jane's Recognition Guides) by Ian Hogg, 2000
2. *Modern Small Arms: 300 of the World's Greatest Small Arms* by Chris McNab, 2020
3. N. R. Jenzen-Jones and Matt Schroeder (ed.) *An Introductory Guide to the Identification of Small Arms, Light Weapons, and Associated Ammunition*: <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/resource/introductory-guide-identification-small-arms-light-weapons-and-associated-ammunition>

Researching Your Items: Identifying Weaponry



4. Royal Armouries: <https://royalarmouries.org/>
5. Imperial War Museums: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/>