**INTRODUCTION TO THE SHEFTON COLLECTION**

This curriculum is built around the Shefton Collection of Greek and Etruscan archaeology, now housed in the Great North Museum: Hancock. It was established by Professor Brian B. Shefton (1919-2012) a leading Classical archaeologist. The Collection was previously exhibited within Newcastle University and was moved to the Great North Museum during its redevelopment (2006-2009). In August 2009 the Gallery was renamed after Shefton in celebration of his 90th birthday.

**Brian B. Shefton (1919 – 2012)**

Shefton was born Bruno Benjamin Scheftelowitz in Germany in 1919. In 1933 his family fled to England to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews. Bruno thrived in England and went on to study Classics at Oxford. His studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War. In 1940 he was briefly interned, alongside many other refugees from Europe, on the Isle of Man.

Following his release, he enlisted in the British Army and changed his name to Brian Shefton. After the war he completed his degree. He then spent several years in Greece, carrying out archaeological research, before returning to England to begin an academic career.

In 1955 Shefton moved to Newcastle following his appointment as a lecturer in Greek Archaeology and Ancient History. Shefton became Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology in 1979 and stayed at Newcastle University until he retired in 1984. He remained actively involved with the Collection until weeks before his death in 2012 at the age of 92.

Shefton believed that his greatest academic achievement was the creation of the Greek archaeology collection in Newcastle. With a modest initial grant, from the University, Shefton purchased the first objects in the 1950s. From these small beginnings he built up the Collection and on his retirement it had grown to almost 1000 objects. Shefton’s depth of knowledge allowed him to spot unique objects at auction that others missed.

The Shefton Collection is one of the most important British collections of Greek archaeology. Shefton’s wide-ranging enthusiasms are reflected in the range of artefacts in the Collection. Particular strengths of the Collection are its pieces of painted pottery and bronze armour.