

THE BEATLES *NOT* FOR SALE

The Beatles NOT For Sale is a series looking at Beatles items in museums and private collections. We are encouraging our members to search out Beatles goodies in their local museums and contribute that information to this series.

In this issue we are looking at some unique items currently on display at the Magical Beatles Museum on Mathew Street, Liverpool.

The museum contains items from the archive of former Beatles drummer Pete Best and his stepbrother Roag. The museum contains many items from Neil Aspinall's archive, who was one of The Beatles trusted friends, and ran Apple Corps. Neil passed away in 2008. He was Roag's father following his relationship with Mona Best The Beatles bought many items back for Roag after their tours and visits overseas, many of which are now on display in the museum.

One of the most interesting pieces is the cello which featured in the 'Blue Jay Way' segment of the film *Magical Mystery Tour*. The segment featuring the cello was filmed in the garden of Ringo's home *Sunny Heights*.

The cello from 'Blue Jay Way' on display.



Another interesting piece is a table bought in India by George and given to Neil on their return in 1968. This is just one of many items on display that were bought by The Beatles for Neil, Mona and Roag.

The table bought by George in India 1968.

Another interesting piece is an Egg Chair owned by Neil and given to him by John Lennon. The Egg Chair was designed in 1958 by Arne Jacobsen originally for the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Copenhagen.

The popularity of the chair grew, and one appeared in the 1965 Beatles film *Help!* The chair was in Ringo's part of the shared house. Each of The Beatles had their own coloured zone in the house. John had a brown zone, George a green zone and Ringo a blue zone—look again at the movie if you don't believe me.

The chair remains popular and was revamped for the Austin Powers series of films in the late 1990s.

During *Magical Mystery Tour* John had penned 'I Am the Walrus' (featuring the Egg Men). As a result, he commissioned a special version of the Egg Chair, and gave one to Neil which is now on display at the museum. Note the shape and design compared to the egg heads in the 'I Am the Walrus' video.

The Egg Chair

Andrew Edwards created a bronze sculpture of one of the famous photographs taken by Tom Murray during the famous 'Mad Day Out' in 1968, Titled 'Coming Apart' the 18-inch high bronze machette has been on display at the museum. Edwards created the statues of The Beatles that now stand at the Pier Head in Liverpool.



The Beatles Coming Apart machette.

The items featured here are a very small part of this wonderful museum. On three floors the museum explores the Beatles history from those early days at the Casbah, through Hamburg up to the break-up in 1970. If you haven't visited, we would recommend you do next time you visit Liverpool.

Thank you to the Magical Beatles Museum for their help with this article. The photographs have been provided by them and cannot be reproduced without permission.

Museum archives hold invaluable background information on the objects in their collections. For advice on how to research museum collections, please email treasurer@britishbeatlesfanclub.co.uk

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