A tricky situation in the early days of the museum.

Enter two elderly ladies each bearing a large cloth covered parcel.

HB: Good morning, ladies. How can I help you?

Ladies (with a coy smile). It's more like how we can help YOU.

HB: "I see (I didn't)

Ladies: We heard you are collecting historical things for the museum so we thought you would be bound to like these...and with a flourish the pair whipped off the covers to reveal two ancient, faded prints both set in heavy mahogany frames. One picture depicted a fiercely proud stag at bay whilst the second two sullen cows standing in a mountain stream.

Ladies: (in triumph) What do you think of these?

HB: (weakly) I don't know what to say.

Ladies: We KNEW you would like them. We had thought we might sell them but NO we would rather they found a place in the museum.

HB: (taking a firm stand) Well, ladies, lovely as the pictures are and generous as your gift is I'm afraid the museum cannot accept them.

Ladies; (by now bridling) we are GIVING them to you not asking you to BUY them.

HB: Well, ladies, the situation is this. We only accept items which have a relationship to the history of the village and which one would associate with Combe Martin. Do you see what I mean?

Ladies: Well, let me tell you that these pictures have hung on the walls of our grandparent's home for at least the last 100 years and if that doesn't make them historical I don't know what does!

If I had known that this would be your reaction to our generous gift I would never have spent the whole morning cleaning the darned things. Maybe I should have left some dirt on them to make them look more historical...

HB: I am so sorry to disappoint you both. Maybe you could get some interest in them from a Scottish person?

Sadly neither lady paid a visit to the museum to my knowledge and.....chagrin.....OOOPS