



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, which contains a supplement on EU Funding following this month's call for Culture 2000 applications. It is also available on our website at:

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Spending Review 2004

The Chancellor of the Exchequer will be announcing the outcome of the 2004 Spending Review on 12 July. This will set out the overall budget for DCMS for 2006-8 and confirm the budget for 2005-6. It is unlikely that the announcement will include any breakdown of funding allocations between the DCMS sectors. Detailed funding allocations for individual institutions are not expected to be announced until the autumn. Meanwhile, members of the NMDC Executive Committee have been meeting key figures involved in the decision-making process, including a joint meeting with Tessa Jowell with MLA and the Museum Association.

NMDC Committee News

The NMDC Learning & Access Committee met for the first time under its new chairman, Sandy Nairne. Keith Nichol from DCMS joined the meeting to talk about the DCMS/DfES Museum Education Strategy.

Also last month, the National Museum Managers Consortium also met at the Imperial War Museum. Alan Love, Director of MEW Research gave a presentation on future demographic and social trends that are likely to have an impact on museums and the services they offer. They also exchanged information on methods of corporate future planning and the pricing of temporary exhibitions. The next meeting will be on 28 November.

The PR Group met at Tate Modern and agreed potential areas for future collaboration, including work on media evaluation. The Group will meet again in August.

The Human Resources Forum met at the Museum of Welsh Life in St Fagans on 18 June. The issues discussed included leadership and management development programmes, cultural diversity initiatives and security vetting for child protection.

Provenance Research Updated

Museums and galleries throughout the UK have just published a further update on their research into the provenance of works in their collections covering the period 1933-45. The latest findings were published on the NMDC website on 8 July at:

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html

Works that are listed on the website are not suspicious but their history for the WWII period is unknown and it is hoped that people will come forward with information that can confirm their provenance. Members of the public and potential claimants who have any information about the provenance of the works listed, or any other works in the museums' collections are asked to write to or e-mail the relevant institution with details of their enquiry.

Nine non-national museums are publishing updated lists of works with incomplete provenance, following further research. These include additions to the lists published in 2003. Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums are publishing a report and list of works with incomplete provenance between 1933-45 for the first time.

The research in non-national museums has been supported by a grant from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, which has enabled NMDC to commission Marina Mixon to provide expert advice and assistance in this area.

National museums, galleries and libraries are also continuing their research. In this group, Tate has added to its list works from the Oppé Collection with incomplete provenance between the years 1933-45. The majority of national museum have now completed their main areas of research.

Members News

Demonstrating Value

The British Library hosted a seminar on 21 June to explore the ways in which public and voluntary sector organisations are measuring their value and demonstrating the benefits they deliver. The seminar focussed on analysis of the two main approaches to valuation illustrated by studies commissioned by the British Library and the BBC, and the *Valuing Museums* report commissioned by the National Museum Directors' Conference. The British Library's economic impact study, *Measuring our Value*, used the 'contingent valuation' technique – questioning users and non-users to measure their direct and indirect value and economic impact. James Thickett, Controller – Business Strategy at the BBC spoke about their contingent valuation study, which demonstrated that people place, a rough value on the organisation that is approximately double the amount they currently pay through the licence fee. The study carried out between December 2003 and May 2004 used a mix of methodologies including Ranking Tests and Personal Preference Allocation.

In the afternoon, Tony Travers, Director of the Great London Group at the London School of Economics spoke about the methodology for the research he had carried out for the NMDC, which demonstrated that the national museum sector contributed £2bn to the UK economy in 2003-4. This report can be found at www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/valuing_museums.html

The seminar ended with a thought-provoking presentation by Magnus von Wistinghausen, of AEA Consulting entitled "Thinking beyond Economic Impact" in which he highlighted some limitations of economic impacts studies for both advocacy and policy-making, questioning how well such analysis served the cultural sector and policy makers in deciding how to allocate resources. He argued that economic impact studies shifted the focus to 'externalities', rather than the core functions of museums and that instead the sector should be looking at the cost of delivery and effectiveness of delivery of those core functions.

Also last month, The Laser Foundation launched a study aimed at defining methodologies that can be used to measure the Impact and Value delivered by the Public Library Sector. The work has been specified after discussions with, and advice from, the Audit Commission, MLA and DCMS, and the Society of Chief Librarians. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP have been commissioned to carry out the study. For further details visit: www.bl.uk/concord/laser-pressrelease3.html

NHM Research Points to Unknown Period of History

Rare fossilised remains of two ancient hippos have been discovered in Norfolk by scientists at the Natural History Museum and Queen Mary, University of London. The newly found fossil bones of hippo, found alongside horse, hyena, fish and a variety of rodent remains, provide a rare glimpse of the life and landscape of East Anglia 500-780,000 years ago. The excavation site provides abundant evidence for environmental change and possibly points towards a unique find of animals existing in a warm period in the UK's geological history that has never previously been recorded.

Initial excavation work was led by Simon Parfitt, palaeontologist at the Natural History Museum and Dr Simon Lewis, senior lecturer in Physical Geography at Queen Mary, University of London and was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Further research and the fossil rescue excavation will be funded by English Nature through DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. The remains uncovered will be held at the Natural History Museum and used in research by the Museum's Palaeontology Department and scientists from around the world.

Capturing the Web

The British Library, The National Archives, the National Library of Wales and the National Library of Scotland have formed a consortium with The Wellcome Trust and the Joint Information Systems Committee of the Higher and Further Education Councils (JISC) to collect and archive approximately 6,000 websites over the next two years. Each member of the UK Web Archive Consortium (UKWAC) will select and 'capture' content relevant to its subject matter or domain. For example, the British Library will archive sites reflecting national cultural and events of historical importance, which could include museum web pages and on-line creative projects. Wellcome will preserve a record of medicine on the web while the National Archives will focus on archiving selected materials from six main clusters of government departments.

Consortium members will work collaboratively to explore to develop compatible selection policies and to investigate the complex technical challenges involved in collecting and archiving web material. For more information visit: www.webarchive.org.uk

Architecture Awards

The Imperial War Museum North, the Kings Library at the British Museum and the Horniman Museums and Gardens are among 63 new buildings across the UK and Europe given RIBA Awards for their high architectural standards and their contribution to the local environment. Others buildings on the list of awards include the Manchester Museum, Compton Verney Mansion and Trafalgar Square and its environs. The 63 winners will for the long-list for the RIBA Stirling Prize, which will be broadcast on Channel 4 on 16 October. For more details visit: www.riba.org

TNA Wins Conservation Award

The National Archives has won the prestigious Pilgrim Trust Digital Preservation Award, which recognises innovation in the preservation of digital material. TNA beat off competition from the National Library of New Zealand and the Universities of Leeds and Michigan.

The £15,000 Pilgrim Trust Award for Conservation was won Hamilton Kerr Institute for a joint project with the parish of St Mary's to conserve the 14th-century altarpiece and reinstallation in St Mary's Church, Thornham Parva, in a specially-designed display case. David Howell of the Historic Royal Palaces won the Anna Plowden Award for furthering conservation research and innovation with his dust slide analysis. The Student Conservator of the Year Award was won by Erica Kotze and Camberwell College of Arts for her work on a Thai concertina-format medical book. The book, folded into 57 pages of hand-made paper, was severely damaged and unusable. It can now be read and put on display. For further details visit:

www.consawards.ukic.org.uk

Online Collections Management Info

David Dawson, Senior ICT Adviser at MLA, would like to find out what collections management information resources are currently available on national museum websites and to hear about any plans there might be to develop such resources. MLA is planning to develop its website so that become a more useful source of information and advice for practitioners working in the museums, libraries and archives sector and David is responsible for the section covering collection management and development (including conservation and collection care). He would like to include links to other websites that contain information that professional or others with an interest in managing collections would find useful. There will be links to sites such as the TNA, mda, UKIC etc but David is interested in identifying sources of relevant material from other organisations. Please send suggestions to david.dawson@mla.gov.uk

Current Issues

Culture at the Heart of Regeneration

Tessa Jowell has launched a consultation paper on cultural regeneration. *Culture at the Heart of Regeneration* includes many examples of regeneration led by museum projects including the National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Tate Modern, Tate St Ives, and Youth TV at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television. Tessa Jowell has also set out a six-point plan for building successful and sustainable communities through culture - The 'CHAMPS' formula - suggests that cultural regeneration works best when there is:

- Cultural activity bringing a sense of belonging through participation,
- Heritage that can be developed to make a place where people want to live,
- Appearance, because good design and planning lead to greater public usage,
- Mixed-use developments for a vibrant community with the widest appeal,
- Participation and consultation with the community at all stages,
- Singularity - every place is unique, so success must grow from within.

Three priority areas for future action have been identified: building partnerships; supporting delivery and strengthening evidence.

The consultation document includes 16 questions including asking what can be done to strengthen partnerships, and asking for evidence based examples of the role culture has to play in strengthening communities and bringing different social groups together. The closing date for responses is 15 October 2004. For more details visit: www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2004+current+consultations/cons_culture_heart_regeneration.htm

Lottery 10th Birthday Celebrations

Hundreds of Lottery funded projects will open their doors for free for a day as part of plans to celebrate the National Lottery's 10th Birthday. The events will start over the summer and continue up to the 10th Birthday weekend on 6th November. Some of the events planned include a tea dance at the Opera House; English Heritage opening the doors of all Lottery funded projects for free, 25 National Trust properties opening specially for the birthday weekend and the opportunity for people to try new sports for free down their local Lottery funded sports centre. For further details contact the National Lottery Promotions Unit on 020 7211 3894

Collections for the Future

This year the Museums Association is undertaking a major inquiry into the future of the UK's museum and gallery collections. The inquiry set out to ensure that more people have more opportunities to engage with museum collections, and that those collections are as rich, diverse and inspiring as they can possibly be. It started from the belief that collections have not been at the top of museums' agenda in recent years and that it was time for museums to channel more thought and energy into collections and collecting.

The MA has just launched a consultation paper and hopes that as many individuals and groups as possible will take the opportunity to contribute their views. The consultation paper has suggestions for significant changes to museum practice, including that museums should find ways to collaborate more closely and that there should be more coherent national frameworks for collecting and collections. As well as the MA's proposed solutions, the consultation paper contains a series of questions for debate. The consultation process runs until 1st October 2004 and the paper is available to download on the Museums Association web site: www.museumsassociation.org

CABE Conflict of Interest Audit

An independent report into issues relating to conflict of interest and compliance with the Nolan Principles by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) has been published. The publication of the report, conducted by the auditors AHL, follows the announcement on 15 June of Sir Stuart Lipton's intention to step down as Chairman of CABE.

The report notes that CABE has taken reasonable steps to ensure it complies with Nolan principles. But it does point to areas where procedures could be strengthened to protect public perception of CABE's impartiality, and recommends that, in the future, the position of Chair of CABE should not be held by a property developer with significant commercial interests. DCMS and CABE have welcomed and accepted all the recommendations. These include that induction and training processes for Commissioners should be strengthened to ensure the Nolan principles are clearly communicated and understood by all Commissioners. The report can be found at www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2004/cabe_audit_june2004.htm

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat can be found on our website: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Review of Heritage Protection

Heritage Minister, Andrew McIntosh has set out his plans for the future of heritage protection, following last year's consultation. The proposals include new rights for owners of period properties with statutory consultation on listing decisions and a new right of appeal, and a 'super register of all protected buildings, monuments, parks, gardens and battlefields. Responsibility for the making listing designation decisions at a national level will be transferred to English Heritage. Listed building consent will be unified with scheduled monument consent to create a simplified, integrated heritage consent, administered by local authorities. For more details visit:

www.culture.gov.uk/historic_environment/default.htm

Culture Commission Appointments

Scottish Culture Minister, Frank McAveety, has appointed eight new members to the Culture Commission chaired by James Boyle which started work on 1 June. They are: composer Craig Armstrong; George Black, chief executive of Glasgow City Council; Gordon Jeyes, director of children's services, Stirling Council; Brian Lang, principal, University of St Andrew's; Shonaig Macpherson, senior partner McGrigors; Colin Marr, Eden Court Theatre; Lucy Mason, chief executive of Dance Base; and businessman Ian Ritchie. In addition to the Commission members, a range of other people from various sections of the cultural community will be brought together in small working groups to consider specific issues. The Executive has allocated a budget of £478,000 to support the Commission for up to 12 months.

Public Catalogue Foundation

The Public Catalogue Foundation has published the first, of what it hopes will be an 80-volume series, catalogue of paintings in publicly owned collections. The Public Catalogue Foundation, a registered charity, has been set up specifically to record the nation's complete collection of oil paintings in public ownership and make this access able to the public. The first publication draws together approximately 2000 paintings from publicly owned collections in Leeds. The series will include a colour photograph and brief description of each painting and eventually will be available online. The project team are confident that there will be surprises down the line, and that the catalogues will lead to reattributions and reassessing of artists. The books are available from museums and mail order. The Foundation's Chairman, Fred Hohler, estimates that if 700 copies of each volume are sold, they will raise £2.5-£3m which will be used to fund conservation work and the exhibition of works that have rarely been on display. For details visit: www.thepcf.org.uk

Opening Doors: Learning in the Historic Built Environment

The Attingham Trust Report has published a report on education in historic buildings and sites.

Opening Doors: Learning in the Built Environment is the result of three years' research and consultation led by Giles Waterfield. It contains detailed case studies of some of the most interesting current work and makes a series of recommendations. It calls on the Government to invest a similar level of resources in the 'site-based heritage learning sector' as it already gives to museums and galleries and argues for the creation of a 'single advocate and co-ordinator for heritage learning' analogous to the Group for Education in Museums (GEM), with the role of helping the sector develop effective heritage education programmes, train staff, realise the potential of information technology, and share resources and knowledge. The report was launched by Heritage Minister Andrew McIntosh at the Wallace Collection on 28 June. It can be found at: www.attinghamtrust.org

Opening the Doors

The Museums Association organised a seminar on 14 June in partnership with the Opening the Doors project. The seminar, *Museums and Young People: A Vision for the 21st Century*, was opened by Estelle Morris who spoke about the unique opportunity museums can provide to young people who may be alienated from formal learning institutions. Opening the Doors was a three-year programme of work that involved six museums around the country and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its main aim was to find ways of encouraging young people to visit museums and galleries outside of formal education and to use the resources they offer. The Opening The Doors website has been created to serve as a one stop shop for museum workers interested in working with young people outside of formal education and also provides information about the work of the project. For more information visit: www.openingthedoors.org

Glasgow Returns Maori Remains

Glasgow City Councillors have agreed to repatriate three Maori heads and a leg bone to New Zealand. The tattooed, persevered Maori heads – *toi moko* – and the leg bone are currently kept at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and have never been on display. The return of the remains was requested from the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. The request was made in March this year, and their return has been approved by the Council's newly established Repatriation of Artefacts Working Group.

Opening Doors to Learning

Following the University Museums Group's launch of their advocacy document for university museums, University Museums in Scotland (UMiS) has created its own complementary document, which was launched at a special event at the Hunterian Museum on Friday 18 June.

Opening Doors to Learning: University Museums for 21st Century Scotland, produced with support from the Scottish Museums Council, is geared to contribute to the Cultural Policy Review being undertaken by the Scottish Executive this autumn.

The document celebrates the work that has been achieved by university museums throughout Scotland, highlighting the diverse ways in which these museums contribute to Scotland's higher education and public agendas, and calls for additional funding for university museums to enable them to care for collections and improve access to the collections. *Opening Doors to Learning* can be found at: www.dundee.ac.uk/umis

Museum Copyright Group

The Museum Copyright Group has launched a new email discussion list for members to raise queries regarding copyright. Some of the topics that have been covered on the list in the last month such as: copyright for mass produced textiles, copyright and the Freedom of Information Act; copyright of pre-1957 non-fiction films; photography acquisitions and fair dealing for news reporting.

As well as the e-Group, the Museum Copyright Group holds two meetings a year for all members to discuss latest copyright developments often including a question and answer session with legal experts, and provides members with regular updates on current issues. Members will also receive a 10% discount on both the Museums Associations new Copyright Law Seminars and *Plan It, Copy Right: The benefits of developing strategies for rights clearances and copyright risk assessments*, the mda's copyright workshop their September conference. More information about the Museum Copyright Group and details of how to join are available on the group's website, which is hosted by mda at:

www.mda.org.uk/mcopyg/index.htm

Think Smart, Think Voluntary Sector

The Home Office and the Office of Government Commerce have jointly published guidance - *Think Smart, Think Voluntary Sector* - encouraging government departments, agencies and public bodies to procure services from the voluntary sector. The guidance can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs3/thinksmart_040608.pdf

Charity Bill Update

The Charity Finance Directors Group has submitted evidence to the joint parliamentary committee on the draft charities bill. It calls for the legislation to include proposals originally made by the prime minister's strategy unit that would allow charities to trade without setting up a separate trading company. The submission can be found at:

www.cfdg.org.uk/cfdg/includes/downloadfiles/Policy_CFDG_Response_Draft_Charities_Bill.doc

Also, the Charity Commission has produced report on transparency and accountability, looking at the annual reports and accounts of 200 top charities.

The report can be found at:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/publications/rs8.asp

Support for Voluntary and Community Sector

The Home Office has announced £72 million from the Capacity Building and Infrastructure Fund to increase the capacity of voluntary and community organisations working in key areas. The *ChangeUp* investment programme will focus on organisations providing older people's services, correctional services, ethnic minority employment, homeless hostel provision and parenting support services. It is aimed at ensuring that these organisations have the skills, knowledge, structures and resources to realise their full potential. For more information visit:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/developing/index.html

The Home Office has also published Frequently Asked Questions about Futurebuilders.

Futurebuilders is a £125 million government investment fund, which provides a mix of grants, loans and capacity building i.e. support, training and advice to the voluntary and community sector in England. They want to help about 250 voluntary and community organisations to demonstrate that they can deliver better public services to those who need them. The first funding 'window' is open between the 5 July and 31 October 2004. For details visit:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/active/item.asp?ID=53

Finally, a service to get news from voluntary and community groups directly to the regional press has been launched by the Home Secretary. The *Community Newswire* service will send out up to 20 stories a day from organisations that currently have little or no contact with the media to journalists working on regional papers and in the broadcast media. The service has been set up by news agency the Press Association and the Media Trust charity with a £500,000 grant from the Home Office's active communities directorate. For details see: www.communitynewswire.org

Kelvingrove's £5m Father's Day Gift

Multi-millionaire Scottish businessman Tom Hunter has announced a personal gift of £5m to Kelvingrove Art gallery in Museum. The donation from The Hunter Foundation (THF), announced on Father's Day (17 June), is in honour of Tom Hunter's 76-year-old father and will enable the gallery to build a Campbell Hunter Education Wing as part of its £28m redevelopment. It will feature an education suite and a world-class Inspiration Gallery that will initially have the theme of *Inspirational Scots – You Can Do It!* Up to £1.6million will be initially committed to the project by THF, with a further £3.1 million potentially available for a further 30 years of content development for the Inspiration Gallery. The new facility is expected to open in 2007.

Not for the Likes of You

The final report from the *Not for the Likes of You* initiative has been published. The report focuses on how cultural organisations can become accessible to a broad general audience by changing their overall positioning and message, seeking the context of a broader, more holistic approach rather than simply by implementing targeted audience development schemes or projects. It examines the need for a willingness to embrace change to achieve these aims. The report was commissioned in by Arts Council England, MLA, the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage and produced by Morton Smyth Ltd. For details visit: www.newaudiences.org.uk/feature.php?news_20040614_4

Restoration II

The second series of *Restoration* starts on 13 July, with eight programmes broadcast over four weeks. As in the first series, each programme will feature three endangered properties in one area and give viewers the chance to vote for the building they would most like to see restored. The live final will be on Sunday 8 August.

English Heritage has worked with the BBC and Restoration production teams to advise and inform the series and the English Heritage *Register of Buildings at Risk* has again acted as the source for selecting and researching the buildings that feature in England. The *Buildings at Risk Register 2004* was launched on 30th June. For further details: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/bar>

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Emily Adams - eadams@iwm.org.uk

Compton Verney Acquires Reynolds

A rare portrait by 18th century British artist Joshua Reynolds has sold for £3.37m at Sotheby's auction house. The portrait of a merchant's wife called Mrs Baldwin was sold to the Compton Verney gallery in Warwickshire. Compton Verney is a new art gallery founded by British philanthropist Sir Peter Moores through the Peter Moores Foundation, which aims to offer visitors informal and enjoyable ways of experiencing art. It has 8000 works of art in its permanent collection and also runs a programme of temporary exhibitions and specially commissioned contemporary art. For more information visit:

www.comptonverney.co.uk

Momart Fire Arrest

BBC News reports that police investigating the fire that destroyed the Momart warehouse in East London on 24 May have arrested a man. A 23-year-old man is reported to have been arrested on suspicion of burglary and released on bail.

New CEO for Historic Scotland

John Graham has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Historic Scotland. Mr Graham, was previously Secretary and Head of Scottish Executive's Environment and Rural Affairs Department, and replaces Graeme Munro who is due to retire in August 2004. Historic Scotland is the executive agency responsible for safeguarding the protection and presentation of the nation's built heritage.

DCMS Changes

Vanessa Brand has been appointed Head of Libraries and Communities Division at DCMS. Vanessa, who was previously Head of Analytical Services Division, replaces Mark Ferrero, who has taken up post as Head of Creative Industries Division.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

International Issues

Spoliation Law Suits

The Observer has reported that Sotheby's is facing a \$1.8bn lawsuit from Holocaust survivors who claim it recklessly trafficked in works of art stolen from Jews during WWII. The claim, which Sotheby's are contesting, alleges that Sotheby's helped buy and sell looted masterpieces by Rembrandt, Titian, Van Gogh and others since the 1970s. The claimants are being represented by Edward Fagan, the New York lawyer who helped extract \$1.25bn 'Nazi Gold' compensations from Swiss banks in 1998.

Mr Fagan is also leading at £10bn lawsuit filed against Germany by the Association of Holocaust Victim for Restitution of Artworks and Masterpieces (AHVRAM). *BBC News* reports that the civil action alleges that consecutive German governments from WW2 to the present day have profited from artworks taken from Holocaust victims, failed to take reasonable steps to find the true owners and did not give artworks to Holocaust survivor groups. A spokesperson for the German finance ministry said: "the German Government has already returned a million artworks and has only kept those whose owners are not known."

Jeu de Paume Reopens

The Jeu de Paume in the Tuileries Gardens, Paris has reopened in its new role as the main exhibition space for France's national museum of photography. It merges three institutions: the Centre national de la photographie (Cnap), the Patrimoine photographique and the Galerie nationale de Jeu de paume.

Museum Declares itself a Native Hawaiian Organisation

The Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii, has set out its intention to resist restitution claims by asserting that it qualifies as a "Native Hawaiian organisation" under federal law. This would give the museum the same rights as groups that are seeking custody of cultural items in the museum's collection. Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, a "Native Hawaiian organization" is defined as "any organization which serves and represents the interests of Native Hawaiians, has as primary and stated purpose the provision of services to Native Hawaiians and has expertise in Hawaiian affairs." The Director argues that as one of the primary purposes of the Bishop Museum is to serve the interest of Native Hawaiians, the museum should qualify under the Act.

The Honolulu Advertiser reports that reaction from the Hawaiian community has been mixed. Edward Halealoha Ayau, an attorney and a member of an organisation that oversees the perpetual care of Native Hawaiian human remains, has issued a written statement saying: "If allowed to stand, this would give Bishop Museum the ability to block any and all repatriations from Bishop Museum simply by disagreeing with other claimants because NAGPRA requires that if there are competing claims for cultural items, a museum may hold on to the items in dispute until there is resolution." The Museum's new policy does not apply to restitution of Human Remains, which the museum is working to return to descendants. The Museum's policy can be found at: www.bishopmuseum.org/NAGPRAGuidelines.html

'Stolen' Art Seized

The Associated Press reports that two paintings that were allegedly stolen from an Italian castle have been seized in New York after federal authorities learned that Christie's was to auction the works. The works *Venus and Adonis* and *Hercules and Omphales*, by 18th-century artist Andrea Appiani were reported stolen by the museum at Brancaccio Castle in San Gregoria da Sassola in 1999. *AP* reports that the paintings were spotted in the Christie's catalogue for an auction of Old Masters on 17 June and that prosecutors asked the auction house to withdraw them from the sale so they could seek forfeiture of the paintings and return them to the Italian museum. The action is being contested by the unidentified Los Angeles collector who claims the paintings have been in their family since the 1950s.

Concert Damaged Hermitage Art

The Director of the Hermitage Museum has claimed that Sir Paul McCartney's concert outside the museum last month was "damaging" to its valuable artworks. *BBC News* reports that Mikhail Piotrovski said it was "totally unacceptable" to hold a concert so close because noise vibrations had damaged paintings. The open-air concert was held in a city square close to the Hermitage's Winter Palace. "We prepared for this concert like we would for a flood, all the museum's departments were put on alert," Mr Piotrovski said. The sound levels during the McCartney concert were "incomparably more powerful than that of an airplane," Mr Piotrovski said.

The Hermitage has also announced plans to open its first national outpost in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan on the Volga river. *The Art Newspaper* report that the new branch, housed in Kazan's medieval fortress, will open next year to coincide with the city's 1000th anniversary.

Visible Conservation Centre

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery have announced plans to create a conservation facility that allows the public permanent behind-the-scenes access to the preservation work of museums. The *Visible Conservation Center* will be located on two levels on the third floor of their shared building when it reopens in July 2006 following an extensive renovation. Floor-to-ceiling glass walls will allow visitors to see first-hand all the collections care and modern conservation techniques that conservators use. Funds for the centre, estimated to cost \$10 million, are being raised from private contributors. The renovation of the building is a federal project costing \$166 million. The cost of the entire project is expected to be \$216 million.

Parliamentary Report

Re-Structuring Heritage Sector

There have been press reports of DCMS's intention to restructure the heritage sector and reduce the number of different heritage agencies. Speaking in an adjournment debate on future of the royal hall in Harrogate on 9 June, Estelle Morris, said: "The Department has already looked at the structure of the Sports Council and of the Arts Council, introducing many significant savings, which have been ploughed back into those activities. The Secretary of State has said that, in the same way, we hope in the coming months to look at the bodies that represent our heritage, to see whether savings can be made that can be ploughed back into the sector. I say that to give an inkling that it is perhaps time that the Government looked at the many non-departmental public bodies, the funding streams and the structures that govern the nation's and the community's decisions about spending and about English Heritage." Heritage bodies currently sponsored by DCMS include English Heritage, The Royal Parks Agency, The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, the Churches Conservation Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Also in Westminster last month...

There were questions in the House of Commons about antiquities in Iraq and in the Lords, Lord Redesdale asked the Government about the future of the Illicit Trade Advisory Panel and was told that an announcement would be made before the Recess (22 July). The Human Tissue Bill has passed through the committee stage in the House of Commons and had its first reading in the House of Lords on 29 June. No date has been set yet for the Second Reading. The latest version of the Bill can be found at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200304/ldbills/094/2004094.pdf

Forthcoming Meetings

Joint Advocacy Group

3.00pm, Tue 24 Aug, Imperial War Museum

PR Group

11.00am, Wed 25 Aug, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Executive Committee

11.00am, Fri 10 Sep, Imperial War Museum

Human Resources Forum

1.00pm, Friday 17 Sept, British Library

Learning & Access Committee

11.00am, Fri 29 Oct, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Executive Committee

11.00am, Fri 5 Nov, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Managers Consortium

11am, Fri 28 Nov, Science Museum

EU Funding - Culture 2000 Call

The next call for Culture 2000 programme was announced on 6 July. Culture 2000 is the only funding programme from the European Union that is specifically focused on cultural institutions. It supports cooperation between creative artists, cultural operators, both private and public, the activities of the cultural networks, and other partners as well as the cultural institutions of the Member States and of the other participant States. There are two remaining rounds of Culture 2000 funding: the one announced this week for projects beginning in 2005 and one more for 2006. The deadline this round is **15th October 2004** for 1-year projects and **29th October 2004** for 2-3 year project. The total budget for this round is approximately €28 million (€14.5m for 1 year projects, €13.5m for 2-3 year projects).

All future projects approved under the "Culture 2000" programme must seek to address at least one of the following three themes:

- Addressing the Citizen
- New technology/media addressing creativity (the applied and creative use of new technology)
- Tradition and innovation; linking the past and the future.

In this round, particular attention will be given to projects bringing together cultural operators from the EU/EEA the 10 new Member States and candidate countries. Priority will also be given to quality projects, which involve the largest and most widespread number of cultural operators from the different participating countries, which promote the greatest mobility of artists and/or professionals in the field and which ensure the widest dissemination of their activities to the general public using the most appropriate means of communication. The organisation of congresses, conferences or seminars and the production of CD-ROMs are not considered priority actions. Full details of the Call can be found at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/index_en.html

In summary, Culture 2000 projects:

- Can be focused on either: performing arts, visual arts, cultural heritage or books/reading (mainly translation)
- Must have something uniquely European about them (i.e. not just a tour of a UK performance or exhibition)
- Must be developed and implemented by at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different European countries
- Must last either for 1 year or, in exceptional cases, for 2-3 years
- Will have a total budget of between € 100-300,000 (1 year projects) or € 500,000 per year (2-3 year projects)
- Can receive, from Culture 2000, a maximum of 50% (1 year projects) or 60% (2-3 year projects) of the budget
- Will not include expenditure on buildings or buying new equipment - Culture 2000 can only fund projects

Help for UK Applicants

EUCLID are the official UK contact point for Culture 2000 and are there to help stimulate the greatest number of successful UK applications. They can provide advice and support to anyone in the UK considering or preparing a Culture 2000 application and will do all they can to help, including reviewing your whole application or budget proposals and helping to find potential partners. In the run up to the application deadline, EUCLID will be running a combination of workshops and surgery sessions to provide further assistance with the application process. Their website www.euclid.info/uk/Culture2000/Culture2000.asp provides a lots of additional information.

EUCLID is also developing an on-line database of cultural projects that have received funding from EU Funding Programmes. This will enable potential applicants to find details of similar institutions who already have experience of going through the process and will give examples of the types of projects that have been successful in the past. The first phase launched on 1 July includes all Culture 2000 projects with UK partners, running from 2000-2003.

Other EU Funding Opportunities

Although Culture 2000 is the only EU fund directly focussed on the cultural sector, there are many other EU funding programmes that museums might be able to tap into. These include the Structural Funds, which have a specific geographical focus, can provide individual institutions with large grants for capital works or people based activities. These funding decisions are made at a local level, rather than in Brussels, with the Government Office in each region acting as the main contact point. Up until to 2006, many UK cultural institutions are still eligible to apply for funding from the Structural Funds, which are primarily intended to improve the economic performance of certain regions and the people who live there. Structural Funds include the Community Initiatives and Innovative Actions funds, as well as the Objective 1, 2 and 3 funding streams. EUCLID arranges regular seminars to give an introduction to all the EU funding opportunities that might apply to cultural institutions. For more information contact Euclid at www.euclid.info