



newsletter

Issue Thirty

January 2004

Happy New Year from the National Museum Directors' Conference! We have busy few months ahead of us with the publication of our three major reports and preparations for the Spend Round 2004. This month's edition of our newsletter includes some of the highlights of events and exhibitions coming up at the national museums in 2004.

NMDC News

New Director of Natural History Museum

The Prime Minister has approved the appointment of Dr Michael Dixon as the new Director of The Natural History Museum, to succeed Sir Neil Chalmers. Dr Dixon is currently Director General of The Zoological Society of London, with responsibility for London Zoo and Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, alongside the organisation's worldwide conservation activities and its scientific research. At ZSL he has spearheaded a £60 million project to develop a major conservation aquarium in the London Docklands area, and has unified the scientific and visitor-facing activities of the organisation. Before taking up his position at ZSL, Dr Dixon worked for twenty years in the scientific, technical and medical publishing industry with Pitman, John Wiley & Sons and most recently the Thomson Corporation. These positions followed a BSc in Zoology from Imperial College and a DPhil from the University of York. He will join The Natural History Museum later this year.

Sir Neil Chalmers, who has been Director of the Natural History Museum since 1988, announced his resignation in May 2003. He has been elected as Warden of Wadham College, Oxford University a post he will take up later this year.

NMDC Publications

Directors have approved NMDC's three major research reports, examining the national role of national museums, the economic and social contribution of national museums and their creative engagement with communities. The reports will be published at the beginning of March. More information can be found on our website at www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Museums United for SR2004

The leading museum organisations met at the Imperial War Museum on 8 January to agree a coordinated approach to the forthcoming Government spending round (SR2004). The Chair and Chief Executives of AIM, GLLAM, Resource and Museums Association as well as the NMDC Executive Committee attended the meeting. It was agreed that it was important for the museums sector to demonstrate it is united in its aims for SR2004 and to coordinate launch events. A working group will work together to coordinate key events and agree headline targets. NMDC's forthcoming report *Valuing Museums* is one of a number of pieces of work illustrating just what an impact the cultural sector has and this positive message will be emphasised throughout the campaign.

DCMS Research Seminar

DCMS hosted a seminar for NDPBs on 8 December to consider methodologies for economic and social impact studies, which was well attended by representatives from the national museums. Tony Travers of the London School of Economics gave a presentation on the work he has undertaken for NMDC. Sean Perkins from the UK Film Council spoke about their recent work on the impact of local cinemas. Fred Coalter from Stirling University gave a presentation on the social impact of sports undertaken on behalf of Sport England.

National Museum representatives also participated in a focus group with BMRB, who have been commissioned by DCMS to undertake a scoping study of a cultural participation survey. BMRB are due to report back to DCMS next month.

For more information about NMDC activities visit:
www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Members News

Special Grant for British Museum

The British Museum has been awarded a special grant of £500,000 from DCMS to fund projects celebrating the link between the UK and Africa. This will be matched by £500,000 from the British Council. The special grant, which was announced by the Prime Minister at the Museum on 15 December, will fund a portfolio of events that will take place around Africa 2005, in collaboration with African institutions. Africa 2005 will be celebrated through exhibitions focussing on African art, a major conference, to be held at the British Museum, and involve international exchanges, with African scholars coming to London to work on the collections and take part in the public programme of events, through lectures and workshops. The DCMS special grant is for three years (£50,000 in 2003/4, £75,000 in 2004/5 and £375 in 2005/6).

Milestones of Flight

The Royal Air Force museum's dramatic new permanent exhibition hall Milestones of Flight was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 17 December. The exhibition hall celebrates 100 years of aviation and was opened exactly 100 years to the day from the first historic flight by the Wright brothers in 1903. The brand new building silver barrel-vaulted building was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Ministry of Defence and cost £7.4m. The new site holds one of the largest pieces of permanent street sculpture in London today: 'Sky Dance', designed by Japanese artist Kisa Kawakami. The fully refurbished historic Grahame-White Factory – the first ever purpose built aircraft factory in the UK, dating from 1917 – was also opened to the public. The opening celebrations included an exclusive flypast by the Red Arrows and a full guard of honour by the Queen's Colour Squadron. For more information visit www.rafmuseum.com

Lottery Funding for National Gallery

The National Gallery has been awarded £938,000 from the London Committee of the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its East Wing building project. The grant will enable the Gallery to go ahead with phase 2A of the project, the restoration of the Central Hall to its original use as a major picture gallery. The East Wing Project will further enhance access to the National Gallery by creating a street-level entrance from Trafalgar Square and improved reception, information services and public facilities.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NHM Treasurehouse & Powerhouse

The Natural History Museum has published new research by Tony Travers of the London School of Economics, which demonstrates that for every £1 the Natural History Museum obtains from the Government, they generate up to £4 for the nation's economy. The report shows that the quality of the Museum's scientific research is equal to that produced in 5 and 5* rated earth and life science departments in leading UK universities. As well as examining the Museum's economic impact and research role, the report looks at comparable international institutions and includes a qualitative analysis of the way NHM is seen by leading experts, journalists, museum officials and other commentators concerned with natural history scholarship and its dissemination. The report can be found at:

www.nhm.ac.uk/news/items/powerhouse.htm

British Library's £363m Knowledge Dividend

The British Library has published new research demonstrating the Library's impact on the UK economy. The study, carried out by Spectrum Strategy Consultants and Indepen, shows – taking conservative estimates – that for every £1 of public funds the Library receives it generates over £4 of value for the UK economy. In addition, the findings show that the Library adds £363m of valuing each year - £304m indirectly and £59m directly – and that, without the Library, the UK would lose £280m of economic value a year. The study, which uses the contingent valuation technique, was based on interviews with over 2,000 participants, including direct users of the Library's services and the general public. For more details visit: www.bl.uk

Trustee Appointments

Paul Myners becomes chairman of Tate from April 2004. He has been chairman of Tate St Ives since 2002 and is also the current chair of the Guardian Media Group and sits on the board of Marks & Spencer and the Bank of New York.

The Prime Minister has appointed Valerie Gooding CBE as a Trustee of the British Museum. She has been the Chief Executive of the BUPA Group since 1998.

The Prime Minister has appointed theatrical agent Jonathan Altaras, former Conservative Minister Rt Hon Sir Timothy Sainsbury and Renaissance expert, Professor Lisa Jardine as Trustees of the V&A.

Current Issues

Gift Aid Changes Will Hit Museums

The Chancellor announced tax changes in his Pre-Budget Report that could have a significant impact on museums. He said the Government was determined to close a "loophole" in the Gift Aid scheme which encouraged many charities to introduce schemes which offer day admission in return for a donation which attracts Gift Aid. The charities can then reclaim the basic rate of tax on the donation. The Chancellor said it was not the intention of the exemption to treat admission charges as donations that attract Gift Aid. The Association of Independent Museums estimates that this could cost Independent Museums up to £3.5m a year. The Chancellor promised that the Government would consult closely on the detail of how this may best be achieved with the charities concerned.

The Chancellor also announced that many cultural attractions such as theatres, galleries, zoos and museums will no longer be required to charge VAT on visitor admissions, giving many attractions scope to reduce their admission charges. This announcement follows a ruling by the European Court of Justice in the case of the Zoological Society of London last year, which received a payout of £40m. However exemption will also mean that many museums will no longer be able to reclaim VAT on capital projects such as building work. The Chancellor's statement said that transitional arrangements are being put in place to protect the position of affected cultural attractions in respect of major building projects in progress on which they had expected to be able to reclaim VAT.

Cultural Cooperation Agreement

A landmark Agreement has been signed by the Administrations in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to create a Joint Forum for collaboration and cooperation on museums, archives and libraries issues. The new Agreement, while recognising that culture remains a matter for each administration, means that museums, archives and libraries in each of the home nations will benefit from the collective know how of all the UK's expert bodies. By sharing information and planning together at an early stage, the sectors' executive bodies hope to ensure that they collaborate where appropriate so the sector will benefit from a joined-up approach. A Joint Forum of executive bodies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will meet at least twice per year to discuss potential joint working and ensure improved communication and planning. For more information see:

www.resource.gov.uk

Guidance on New Copyright Law

Following UK implementation of an EC Directive, copyright law has recently been amended in a number of important areas, including 'fair dealing', and the use of copyright works on the internet. These changes will certainly affect all museum, library and archive professionals who work with copyright. The Museums Copyright Group (MCG) and the Libraries and Archives Copyright Group (LACA) have together, with the assistance of Resource: the Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives, commissioned a briefing note from Graham Cornish on these changes. A copy of this guidance can be found on the MCG's newly updated website at

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

The next Museums Copyright Group (Wider Group) meeting will take place on Friday 23 January 2004, 11.00, at Manchester Art Gallery. Chair Peter Wienand of Farrers & Co, will be giving a short talk on the impact of the new legislation on the museum, library and archive community. There will also be a Q&A session. Questions are invited in advance and should be submitted no later than Friday 16 January to bhorrocks@npg.org.uk

New Tourism Fact file

The Minister for Tourism, Richard Caborn has announced a new initiative that will create a clear benchmark to measure the value of tourism in the UK. Experts from Cardiff, Nottingham and Limerick Universities have been commissioned to create the pilot 'Tourism Satellite Account' (TSA) which will pull together a variety of information into one easy to use, easy to understand, internationally recognised comprehensive package of statistical information. It will provide details on the structure and economic value of tourism, people in employment and marketing spend. It will also enable comparison between tourism and other economic sectors and improve understanding of the link between them - for example with transport or agriculture.

Figures collected will cover England and Ireland, as well as breaking down statistics for the nine English regions. They will complement figures already collected by Scotland and Wales and provide a picture for the whole UK. Data collection will begin in the New Year, with figures published in the Autumn. Further information can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/research/statistics/frameworks_and_guidance/tour_sate_acc.htm

Apsley House

Tessa Jowell has announced that the management of Apsley House is to pass to English Heritage. Apsley House, known as No 1 London, was the London home of the Duke of Wellington. The house was previously maintained by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Museum and its collection were managed by the V&A. While in the care of the V&A the Wellington Museum at Apsley House was awarded the 2001 and 2003 Small Visitor Attraction of the Year.

New GCSE Using Museums

A new style GCSE in history is being planned which will include an emphasis on local heritage and museums. *BBC News* reports that it might mean exam questions not only on historical issues but also on how these are dealt with in museums or on TV. The core of the pilot course has been finalised but the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) now want to develop a number of units with an enhanced vocational aspect, an area in which museums will have a great deal to contribute. QCA are now organising a small meeting including museum representatives to start developing these optional units.

Portable Antiquities Scheme Report

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) published its report for 2001-2003 last month. The voluntary scheme records archaeological objects found by members of the public. Since 2001 1,704 finders have volunteered a 49,590 objects for recording. Almost 60% of the finds were made by metal detectorists. One such find featured in the report is the Hollingbourne hoard, a Bronze age weapons cache reported to the Finds Liaison Officer in Kent and subsequently excavated archaeologically. All the finds recorded by the scheme are recorded on the PAS online database www.finds.org.uk

New Name for Bass Museum

The Coors Visitor Centre is the new name for the Bass Museum in Burton upon Trent. The Visitor Centre, which sits beside Britain's biggest brewery receives 200,000 visitors a year. The 24Hour Museum reports that the name change reflects the commitment of its new owner Coors Brewers Ltd to developing the attraction. It has been renamed to align with the Coors Visitor Centre in Golden, Colorado. An additional £500,000 will be invested in visitor services, especially upgrading conference and meeting facilities to meet the growing corporate resource requirements of the Brewery.

Focus on Cultural Diversity

Arts Council England in partnership with Resource, and UK Film Council has published the results of the first survey into attendance, participation and attitudes to the arts amongst culturally diverse population. The Office of National Statistics was commissioned to undertake the survey as part of the National Statistics Omnibus. The findings include:

- 91% of mixed ethnicity respondents had attended an arts event in the last year
- Over 90% of all ethnic groups had accessed the arts through audiovisual media in the last four weeks or on the internet in the last year.
- 33% of respondents had visited a museum or gallery

The full report can be found on the Resource website at:

www.resource.gov.uk/documents/artsurv2003.pdf

Building Civil Renewal

The Home Office has published a consultation document setting out proposals as to how community groups and community capacity building can be better supported at community and neighbourhood level. It asks for comments on those proposals and for examples of good practice that could be promoted more widely. Early feedback will contribute directly to the drafting of the Government's Capacity Building and Infrastructure Framework for Voluntary and Community Sector to be published early this year. Responses are invited till 26 March. For more information and copies of the document visit

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/docs2/ccbrconsultintro.html

Museum Twinning

MoDA, The Museum of the History of the Home, in North London has signed a twinning agreement with Museo del Tessuto, the Textile Museum of Prato, in Tuscany. The key aims of the agreement are to develop educational links between the museums and to widen understanding of the respective museum collections and to extend opportunities for research and teaching and to promote through staff and students a greater awareness of international culture. The twinning is also designed to develop exhibitions and study tours. It will include a programme of exchanges and secondment of staff. For more information visit: www.moda.ac.uk

If you would like to contribute to future editions of the NMDC Newsletter, please contact: Emily Adams, Research & Communication Manager of NMDC (eadams@iwm.org.uk)

International Issues

Russian Museum Director Faces Jail

Yuri Samodurov, Director of the Sakharov museum has been charged with inciting religious hatred in an exhibition called *Look out, Religion!* *The Independent* reports that the exhibition of the work of 40 artists opened early last year but almost all the exhibits were damaged by vandals who poured red paint on the walls and smashed windows four days after it opened. The works - which are now in the prosecutor's office - included a poster by Aleksandr Kosolapov, a Russian-born American, which depicts the image of Jesus on a Coca-Cola advertisement. "This is my blood," it said in English. Another was a Russian Orthodox-style icon with a hole as a head through which visitors could poke their heads. Its title came from the Second Commandment: "Thou shalt not carve idols unto Thee." Most of the artists have been questioned, three have been charged, and the museum curator, Armenian Arutyun Zulumyan, is in hiding. If found guilty, Samodurov faces up to five years in jail or a fine of up to 500,000 roubles (£9,369), and could be moved out of his job for five years.

International Museums Day 2004

The International Council of Museum (ICOM) has announced that the theme for this year's International Museums Day on 18 May 2004 is 'Museums and Intangible Heritage'. ICOM believes that, the issue of intangible heritage is one of the most important areas for the museum profession to explore in the years ahead. The museum has traditionally been a space in which material evidence of the past is collected, conserved and displayed. The practices, ideas, knowledge and skills associated with these physical objects have received less attention. Yet intangible representations are undoubtedly an essential part of any civilisation. For more information visit: <http://icom.museum/imd.html>

Italian Law to Sell-Off Heritage

The Art Newspaper reports that a bill proposed by the Italian Ministry of Finance, which would allow the disposal of State property, to comprise land, buildings and "beni artistici" (cultural goods, possibly including works of art), is expected to go through Parliament in February. The Bill has provoked vigorous opposition not only from the cultural sector but also from the Minister for Culture, Giuliano Urbani. For more information visit: www.theartnewspaper.com/news/article.asp?idart=11442

US Donations to the Arts down 26%

A report published by the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* reveals a sharp downturn in charitable giving in the USA in 2002. *The Art Newspaper* reports that the Chronicle of Philanthropy's annual survey of the 400 largest charities in the country shows donations in 2001 fell 1.2% (adjusted for inflation) compared to an average gain of 12% during the previous five years. The total dipped to \$46.9bn from \$47.5bn. The report states that the decline is "the result of continuing economic uncertainty among donors and heightened competition for money among charities". Donations to the 14 arts groups surveyed fell by 26.5% from the previous year. However *The Art Newspaper* reports that in fact, the decline for cultural groups is less severe than the numbers suggest as the 2001 figures were distorted by large one-off gifts from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to various arts institutions.

Top fundraising museums in 2002 were:

- Smithsonian - \$129m (ranked 97 among the 400 charities surveyed)
- MoMA - \$92 million (more than twice its 2001 total)
- Metropolitan Museum of Art - \$83 m (the museum received \$424 m from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund in 2001)
- American Museum of Natural History - \$69m
- Art Institute of Chicago - \$45,
- Philadelphia Museum of Art - \$42m
- Houston Museum of Fine Arts - \$41m
- Boston Museum of Fine Arts - \$38m (raised 40% more than previous year)

Forthcoming Meetings

Museum Copyright Group

11.00am, Fri 23 Jan, Manchester City Art Gallery
Please note that this meeting starts at 11am (not 12noon as stated in last month's newsletter).

PR Group

12.30pm, Fri 23 Jan, Museum of London

English Art Museum Directors' Conference

1.30pm, Thu 5 Feb, National Portrait Gallery

Leadership Working Party

11am, Fri 6 February, DCMS

NMDC Meeting

11.00am, Fri 2 Apr, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Managers Consortium

10.30 for Fri 11 June, National Gallery

Parliamentary Report

Cultural Objects Report

The House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee published its report into Cultural Objects on 16 December. The report is a follow up to the Committee's report on illicit trade in cultural property published in June 2000. Committee reported that they found a distinct lack of progress with the Government's cultural property agenda since their previous report. They said the "lack of progress made on a national database of illegally removed cultural objects is lamentable."

The Committee recommended that DCMS liaise with the Attorney-General on the relationship between the statutes covering museum governance and charitable status respectively. They said DCMS should include a definitive answer; in any reply to the Report to the British Museum's query over its ability to respond to moral claims for the return of objects. The Committee recommended that DCMS should not wait for a valid spoliation claim to be made (that cannot be satisfied by compensation) to start to seek a change in the law. The lead-in time is simply too long. The full report, as well as evidence submitted to the inquiry can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcmds.htm>

Power to De-accession Human Remains

The Government introduced the Human Tissue Bill on 3 December. Clause 49 of the Bill gives those national museums listed the power to de-accession human remains if it appears to them to be appropriate to do so for any reason, whether or not relating to their other functions. The Bill applies to the following museums:

The Board of Trustees of the Armouries
 The Trustees of the British Museum
 The Trustees of the Imperial War Museum
 The Board of Governors of the Museum of London
 The Trustees of the National Maritime Museum
 The Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside
 The Trustees of the Natural History Museum
 The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum
 The Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Bill can be found at
www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200304/cmbills/009/en/04009x--.htm

A full report on relevant parliamentary activity last month is available from Alexander Baker (abaker@iwm.org.uk)

Real Terms Grant-in-Aid

Culture Minister, Lord McIntosh of Haringey published the following table, in response to a question from Lord Baker of Dorking regarding the grants to various national museums and the real terms value related to 1997.

£ million	1997-98 (base year)	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	real increase on 97-98 baseline
British Museum	(i) 31.9	(i) 33.9 (ii) 33	(i) 34.7 (ii) 33.2	(i) 34.9 (ii) 32.8	(i) 36 (ii) 33	(i) 36.9 (ii) 32.9	(i) 37.7 (ii) 32.7	(i) 37.4 (ii) 31.4	(i) 37.8 (ii) 30.9	-1.0
Natural History Museum	(i) 27.7	(i) 27 (ii) 26.3	(i) 29.6 (ii) 28.4	(i) 30.4 (ii) 28.7	(i) 32.4 (ii) 29.9	(i) 38.1 (ii) 34.7	(i) 39.6 (ii) 35.1	(i) 39.6 (ii) 34.1	(i) 40.8 (ii) 34.3	6.6
NMSI	(i) 21.1	(i) 20.3 (ii) 19.7	(i) 23.8 (ii) 22.9	(i) 24.1 (ii) 22.8	(i) 26.7 (ii) 24.7	(i) 32 (ii) 29.3	(i) 34.8 (ii) 31.2	(i) 32.6 (ii) 28.1	(i) 32.9 (ii) 27.6	6.5
National Maritime Museum	(i) 10.5	(i) 10.2 (ii) 9.9	(i) 10.9 (ii) 10.4	(i) 11.7 (ii) 11	(i) 12.6 (ii) 11.6	(i) 13.7 (ii) 12.4	(i) 14 (ii) 12.3	(i) 15.5 (ii) 13.5	(i) 14.8 (ii) 12.4	1.9
Victoria & Albert Museum	(i) 29.9	(i) 29.1 (ii) 28.3	(i) 30 (ii) 28.7	(i) 30.5 (ii) 28.7	(i) 32.5 (ii) 29.9	(i) 34.6 (ii) 31.1	(i) 34.8 (ii) 30.3	(i) 36.4 (ii) 31	(i) 37.1 (ii) 30.8	0.9
National Gallery	(i) 18.3	(i) 18.7 (ii) 18.2	(i) 19.5 (ii) 18.7	(i) 19.2 (ii) 18	(i) 19.9 (ii) 18.2	(i) 20.4 (ii) 18.2	(i) 20.4 (ii) 17.6	(i) 21.2 (ii) 17.9	(i) 21.5 (ii) 17.7	-0.6
National Portrait Gallery	(i) 4.8	(i) 5 (ii) 4.9	(i) 5.1 (ii) 4.9	(i) 5.1 (ii) 4.8	(i) 5.5 (ii) 5.1	(i) 5.7 (ii) 5.1	(i) 5.7 (ii) 5	(i) 6.1 (ii) 5.2	(i) 6.2 (ii) 5.2	0.4
Imperial War Museum	(i) 10.6	(i) 10.6 (ii) 10.3	(i) 10.8 (ii) 10.3	(i) 11.9 (ii) 11.2	(i) 13.1 (ii) 12.1	(i) 16.3 (ii) 15.0	(i) 16.5 (ii) 14.7	(i) 17.5 (ii) 15.3	(i) 17.8 (ii) 15.2	4.6
National* Army Museum	(i) 3.3	(i) 3.2 (ii) 3.1	(i) 3.9 (ii) 3.7	(i) 4.1 (ii) 3.9	(i) 4.7 (ii) 4.4	(i) 4.8 (ii) 4.4	(i) 4.4 (ii) 3.9	(i) - (ii) -	(i) - (ii) -	0.6

(i) Actual grant in aid, including capital. (ii) real grant in aid related to 1997-98.

Highlights of 2004

2004 promises to be another exciting year for the National Museums, Libraries and Archives. Here are just a few of the things to look forward to.

The Wallace Collection begins the year by hosting *From Raphael to the Glasgow Boys*, a splendid exhibition of works of art from the National Gallery of Scotland in Edinburgh, as part of the continuing celebrations of the National Art Collections Fund's centenary. At the end of September there will be a seven-month exhibition focusing on Francois Boucher. The Wallace Collection holds the largest collection of works by Boucher in the world, and in celebration of his 300th birthday will display all his works together in its Great Gallery. www.wallacecollection.org

The calendar at **Tate** is as full, diverse and creative as ever. The spring season brings us Donald Judd at Tate Britain, curated by Nicholas Serota. This major survey exhibition will be the first full retrospective of the work of Donald Judd (1928-1994), and coincides with the tenth anniversary of his death. Over at Tate Britain there is *In-a-Gadda-da-Vida*, featuring new work by Angus Fairhurst, Damien Hirst and Sarah Lucas. During the summer at Tate Modern a major retrospective of the work of Edward Hopper (1882-1967) will be the first in the UK for over twenty years. *This Was Tomorrow: Art and the 60s*, which opens at Tate Britain in June, explores new departures in art in Britain in the seminal years following 1956, a period of seismic change in British culture. The autumn at Tate season will include the works of Sir Antony Caro at Tate Britain (coincides with his eightieth birthday), who is widely regarded as one of the world's greatest living sculptors. Tate Modern will be exhibiting Robert Frank. To coincide with the American artist's eightieth birthday, Tate Modern will present over one-hundred and fifty black and white photographs that have not previously been displayed outside the USA, in Frank's first monographic exhibition in the UK. www.tate.org.uk

The first half of the year continues with the popular *Spirit of the Blitz*, Liverpool in the Second World War, at the **Merseyside Maritime Museum**. **Liverpool Museum** begins a six-month exhibition in April, entitled *Puppet World* looking at the way in which Puppets have been used to tell stories to audiences across the world for centuries. One of the highlights at The Walker will be an exhibition of over 50 original illustrations and humorous drawings by 'The Gadget King' Heath Robinson. The show will include his graphic inventions as well as lesser-known book illustrations for Poe, Kipling and Hans Christian Andersen's 'Fairy Tales'. They will also be opening their Craft & Design gallery at the Walker in the summer. This will be National Museums Liverpool's first permanent gallery dedicated to 300 years of decorative arts and will include over 600 objects from fashion to ceramics, glass to jewellery. It is the final element of the 'Into the Future' Heritage Lottery Funded project at the Walker. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

The National Portrait Gallery begins 2004 by celebrating the centenary of the birth of Sir Cecil Beaton (1904-1980). This major retrospective exhibition shows him to be one of the most outstanding photographers of the twentieth century. The highly successful BP Portrait Award returns in June and with a first prize of £25,000, is one of the most prestigious art prizes in the UK. The Portrait Award is a highly successful annual art prize aimed at encouraging young painters to focus upon, and develop, the theme of portraiture within their work. www.npg.org.uk

The Adventures of Tintin at Sea, a major new exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of the comic strip reporter's first adventure, opens at the **National Maritime Museum** on 31 March 2004, in association with the Fondation Hergé. The National Maritime Museum will be re-establishing their contemporary art strand - *New Visions* and contemporary artist Usman Haque are planning to light up the sky in Greenwich using a cloud of helium filled balloons and mobile phones at the beginning of National Science Week in March. www.nmm.ac.uk

In spring 2004 the **Victoria and Albert Museum** will launch a major exhibition of the work of Vivienne Westwood, one of the most influential fashion designers of the last 30 years. *Black British Style*, starting in August, will explore the dress, style and fashion of black people in Britain, looking at how they have contributed to British culture. The major autumn exhibition, *Exotic Encounters: The Meeting of Asia and Europe 1500-1800*, will examine three hundred years of artistic, cultural and technological interaction and exchange between Asia and Europe. *Exotic Encounters* will bring together a diverse and spectacular range

of objects from Europe, India, China and Japan. In autumn 2004 the V&A and RIBA are opening a joint new architecture gallery at the V&A to display their combined world renowned collections. www.vam.ac.uk

The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art will spend spring looking at Lucien Freud's prints. The exhibition will include Freud's entire output as a printmaker (round sixty works to date) and it is hoped that a number of new works will also be included. In collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery (London), the Scottish National Portrait Gallery has organised *Below Stairs: 400 Years Of Servants' Portraits*. The exhibition will include not only indoor servants, but also gardeners, grooms and estate workers, with sitters embracing all ranks from tutor to the scullion. www.nationalgalleries.org

In March the **Science Museum** is running a series of free hands-on workshops for both families and Key Stage 2 and 3 school groups to support Science Week 2004. *Exclusive! Tales from the tabloid front line - 100 years of the Daily Mirror* will run up until April 2004 at the Science Museum. This exhibition examines how the jobs of technician, printer, photographer, editor and journalist at the Daily Mirror have changed through the technological advances which have shaped the newspaper. Towards spring, a new exhibition from the Energy Savings is displaying the winning entries of the second climate change photography competition. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

For Easter 2004 the **Royal Marines Museum** is re-designing the area of its permanent galleries covering the Royal Marines during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. This new *Nelson's Navy* display will be ready for Trafalgar 200 celebrations in 2005. New displays of artefacts are being installed along with graphics panels detailing the granting of the 'Royal' title to the Marines in 1802, and Napoleon's encounter with the Royal Marines when he went on board HMS Bellerophon to surrender after Waterloo in 1815. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

Joan of Arc in the 20th century, a small display of posters, prints and ephemera using the image of Joan of Arc will open in April at the **Imperial War Museum**. The focus of the year, however, will be on D-Day: 6 June 1944, an exhibition marking the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings, covering the planning and the events of the day itself through the personal stories of those involved. The year concludes with *Escape* in mid October, an interactive/hands-on exhibition about some of the famous escapes from POW camps in WW2. www.iwm.org.uk

The **Natural History Museum** is looking at *Hair* over the summer. Find out everything you've ever wanted to know about hair in this new interactive exhibition for families. See what a strand of hair looks like magnified a million times, discover the science behind hair products and try out new hairstyles virtually. The successful *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* returns in October 2004. This annual special exhibition, organised by the Natural History Museum and *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, showcases the best wildlife pictures taken by photographers worldwide, who emphasise through their work the beauty, drama and variety of life on Earth. www.nhm.ac.uk

The **British Library** is appealing to our appetite in the first half of the year with *A Season Of The Culinary Arts*. This topical display in two parts features the Delia Collection An enticing selection of books about cooking at home from the Library's early printed collections, guest-curated by Delia Smith, as well as Shaun Hill's Selection, a personal selection of highlights from the world of professional catering, drawn from the Library's collections. www.bl.uk

The **British Museum's** ground-breaking exhibition *The Virtual Mummy*, opening in July will use state-of-the-art computer graphics and the latest scientific and medical research, to enable the visitor to conduct a 'virtual unwrapping', and even an autopsy, of a 2800 year old Egyptian mummy using computer images of astonishing clarity. Visitors will also be equipped with 3D glasses and a 'virtual scalpel'. In September *Kingdoms of the Ancient Nile* will show treasures from the National Museum of Khartoum, focussing on recent archaeological discoveries, and will highlight the extremely rich and diverse cultures that flourished in Sudan for millennia and made it not only Egypt's trading partner but also its rival on the Nile. www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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More information about current and forthcoming exhibitions at the national museums can be found on the NMDC website at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/events.html