



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains an update on our activities and news from the museum sector. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC Members' News

National Museum Jobs

The national museums, libraries and archives employ over 9,000 people across the UK. The NMDC website now includes links to the recruitment pages of our member institutions, which list current vacancies. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/jobs.html

National Cold War Exhibition Opens at Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford

The new 7000m² National Cold War Exhibition, which tells the story of the Cold War period from national, international, social/political and cultural perspectives, will open to the public on 8 February.

The exhibition has a dedicated website that includes a Cold War archive; a virtual tour of the Museum, viewed through a submarine periscope; access to content in touch screen consoles; films and Podcasts ("Coldcasts"). www.nationalcoldwarexhibition.org.uk

Funding for National Museums Liverpool Projects

DCMS Grant for the International Slavery Museum

Culture Minister David Lammy has announced a £500,000 capital grant for the new International Slavery Museum in Liverpool, in addition to £250,000 annual funding already pledged by DCMS. The International Slavery Museum will play a key role in this year's commemoration of the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade act, with the first phase of the Museum due to open on 23 August 2007, UNESCO International Slavery day. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms009_07.htm

HLF Grant for the Museum of Liverpool

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced an earmarked grant of £11.4m to support the fit out of the Museum of Liverpool. The Museum will now submit a Stage Two application to secure the grant.

The Museum of Liverpool aims to become a leading city history museum, reflecting Liverpool's unique geography, history and culture. An archaeology project started on site this month and the main contract is due to start in March. The building is due for completion by 2008 and the exhibition fit-out by 2010. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=598&venue=0

Tate Launches Public Appeal to Save Turner's 'Blue Rigi'

The Art Fund and Tate have launched a public appeal to purchase a JMW Turner watercolour, *The Blue Rigi*, to prevent it entering a private collection abroad. Tate has allocated £2 million towards *The Blue Rigi* and the Art Fund has pledged £500,000. £2.45 million needs to be raised by 20 March.

Members of the public can pledge their support online by 'buying a brushstroke' from *The Blue Rigi* for £5. The aim is to raise £300,000 when the image is complete. The painting is currently on display at Tate Britain, displayed for the first time alongside Turner's other Rigi watercolours: *The Dark Rigi* and *The Red Rigi*.

The Blue Rigi was sold at auction in June 2006 for £5.8 million, making it the most expensive British watercolour. A temporary export bar has been placed on the painting until 20 March 2007 by the Culture Minister, David Lammy. www.artfund.org/savebluerigi/Introduction.html

Record Number of Visitors to V&A in 2006

The Victoria & Albert Museum sites received a total of 2.58 million visits in 2006 - an increase of 13% on 2005 and the highest since records began. At South Kensington, the total was 24% up on 2005 - at 2.37 million also the best ever. The Museum of Childhood reopened in early December and within the month had received almost 30,000 visits, compared to 12,800 in December 2004.

£31.9 Million Announced for Royal Museum Project

National Museums Scotland has secured two major grants to transform the Royal Museum. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced final approval of a £16.7 million grant – their largest ever capital grant in Scotland - and the Scottish Executive has committed a total of £16 million.

The £46.4 million project, planned to complete in 2011, will create sixteen new exhibitions, doubling the number of objects on display. The museum will host international-quality exhibitions and offer learning zones to engage visitors, welcoming and accessible entrances and improved facilities.

National Museums Scotland is committed to securing £12 million from private sector sources, of which nearly £3 million has been pledged. A public fundraising campaign will be launched later in the development. www.nms.ac.uk/royal_museum_funding_secured.aspx

The Theatre Museum

The Theatre Museum's Covent Garden premises closed to general visitors on 6 January 2007.

Education workshops and group visits will continue until August 2007 and the Covent Garden collections will move this summer. V&A staff are now focussing on a new programme for the theatre collections. This will include touring displays and major exhibitions at the V&A, including an exhibition on Diaghilev and the Ballet Russes in 2009. Work is being done to establish a new permanent gallery, create greater website access, develop theatre-based learning and maintain and enhance research and other uses of the collections at Blythe House. www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/theatre/

New Chair Sought for Victoria and Albert Museum

DCMS are looking to appoint a new Chair to the board of the Victoria and Albert Museum. Details are available at: www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/Public_appointments/pa_vacancies

The closing date for applications is **28 February 2007** and interviews will be held in May.

New Trustees Appointed

The Prime Minister has appointed Mr Tom Dixon and Mr Edwin Davies (from November 2007) to the Board of the **Victoria and Albert Museum**. www.pm.gov.uk/output/page10805.asp?fq=d&tp=n&dt=20070122

Mr Iain Watt has been appointed to the **National Museums Scotland** board, from 15 January. Mr Watt is a non-executive director of Edinburgh Dragon Trust plc, a Director of Harvey McGuires Ltd and a member of the General Purposes Committee of The Queen's Nursing Institute in Scotland.

Norman A Kurland has been appointed a Trustee of **National Museums Liverpool** for four years from December 2006. He was Senior Adviser to the President of the J Paul Getty Trust and has a background in television production and representing writers and directors in film and television.

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=597&venue=0

Scottish National Collections Collaborate on Highland 2007 Exhibition Tour

The exhibition Fonn's Duthchas: *Land & Legacy* has opened in Inverness, showcasing the history, culture, music, language, geology and geography of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It includes iconic objects, paintings and manuscripts from the collections of National Museums Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland and from Highland and Island museums. The exhibition will visit Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stornoway after Inverness and is part of *Highland 2007*, a year-long celebration of highland culture. www.fonnisduthchas.com

Symposium on the Value of Human Remains in Museum Collections 3-4 March

The Museum of London is organising a symposium to explore the different values that human remains can have to museum collections and to debate how these collections will be valued in future. Recent international policy and legislation changes will also be covered. Speakers include: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC; Dr Doug Owsley (Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC); Vince Collison (Haida First Nation Community, Canada); and Prof. Jack Lohman (Museum of London).

Museum in Docklands, Canary Wharf, London, 3-4 March 2007

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Events/2007Symposium.htm

Grant for Royal Marines Museum Medal Room

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £50,000 to the Royal Marines Museum's Medal Room project. The medal collection documents bravery and service over the last 200 years and includes more than 8200 medals, and all ten Victoria Crosses, awarded to Royal Marines.

Work on the Medal Room, which will begin this spring, will see the installation of touch-screens to enable people to discover more about the collection, new graphics panels for visitors with visual impairments, conservation quality lighting and repairs to the ceiling. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

British Library and US Department of Energy Collaborate on Global Science Gateway

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has signed an agreement with the British Library to collaborate on the development of a global science gateway. The gateway, called *Science.world*, will eventually make scientific resources published by participating nations accessible via a single Internet portal, using the model of *Science.gov*, the U.S. interagency science portal. A prototype will be developed during 2007. www.bl.uk/news/2007/pressrelease20070125.html

New Manager at Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales National Wool Museum

Ann Whittall has been appointed Museum Manager at the National Wool Museum in Dre-fach Felindre, which hosts Wales' national textile collection. Mrs Whittall was previously Curatorial Officer at the Museum. www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=331

The National Archives Wins e-Government National Award

The National Archives digitisation programme has received the *Central e-Government excellence: Take-up and usage growth award*, for delivering high and growing take-up of an e-enabled service through effective service delivery and marketing. The National Archives digitisation programme aims to digitise over 90% - more than 1 million - of the most popular documents by 2012 and includes projects such as Domesday Online and the Censuses. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/144.htm

NMDC Members Nominated for Arts & Business Awards

NMDC members have been shortlisted for the 29th Arts & Business Awards, which celebrate collaboration between business and the arts:

- Tate & BP for BP Saturdays, a series of free events to introduce new audiences to the BP British Art Displays.
- Tate Liverpool & DLA Piper UK LLP for the sponsorship of Tate Liverpool's core display.
- The Victoria and Albert Museum & Habitat for sponsorship of the *Modernism* exhibition at the V&A.
- The National Portrait Gallery & Herbert Smith LLP for sponsorship of the Gallery's 150th Anniversary.
- The National Portrait Gallery & Taylor Wessing for sponsorship of *World's Most Photographed*
- The National Maritime Museum & Morgan Stanley for *Leading Lives*, a project that supports and encourages young Business Studies students to gain citizenship and leadership skills.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony at the Hayward Gallery in London on 8 March 2006.

www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,5,881,1031

Gulbenkian Prize Long List and European Museum of the Year Nominations

The long list for the Gulbenkian Prize for Museums and Galleries 2007 has just been announced, and includes the Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art at the V&A. The full list can be found at:

www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk/press/pr020207.htm

World Museum Liverpool and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea have been nominated for the 2007 European Museum of the Year Award www.europeanmuseumforum.org. Two other UK museums, the ss Great Britain and the Roald Dahl Museum have also been nominated. The winner will be announced in May 2007. The deadline for nominations for the 2008 awards is **15 March 2007**.

Current Issues

Valuing Our Heritage

English Heritage, the National Trust, Heritage Link, the Historic Houses Association and the Heritage Lottery Fund have published *Valuing our Heritage - The case for future investment in the historic environment*. The report details the challenges facing owners and guardians of historic sites and sets out the benefits of investment in the historic environment, ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The report argues for an additional £37m public funding per annum in order to:

- Support the implementation of a new heritage protection system, following the Heritage Protection Review;
- Maintain the fabric of our heritage by increasing funding for restoration and preventative maintenance;
- Restore English Heritage's grant in aid to 1997 levels;
- Broaden audiences and get more people involved with the historic environment.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Valuing_Our_Heritage.pdf

Calendar of Events to Mark Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

The government has published a calendar highlighting some of the events happening across the country to celebrate the bicentenary of the parliamentary abolition of the Slave Trade. Further details will be published later in the year. www.direct.gov.uk/en/slavery/DG_065915

Courtauld Institute of Art to Return Spoliated Drawings

The Spoliation Advisory Panel has recommended that the Courtauld Institute of Art return three drawings in its possession to the heirs of the late Dr Arthur Feldmann (1877-1941). The Panel concluded that there was firm evidence that the drawings - *Architectural capriccio* attributed to Giuseppe Bibiena; *A lion* attributed to Carl Ruthart and *A dog lying down* attributed to Frans van Mieris the Elder - were seized from Dr Feldmann's home by the Gestapo in 1939. The drawings were acquired by Colnaghi at a sale at Sotheby's, London, in 1946 and sold to Sir Robert Witt (1872-1952). They were part of the Witt bequest of over 3,000 Old Master drawings made to the Courtauld Institute of Art in 1952.

The Courtauld Institute of Art worked with Dr Feldmann's heirs to research the provenance of the drawings and they jointly submitted the case to the Spoliation Advisory Panel in June 2006. The Panel considered exploring means to make an ex gratia payment equivalent to the market value of the drawings to the claimants, so that the drawings could remain in the Courtauld collection. However, following valuations, the Panel concluded that "two of the three drawings are of poor quality, so that any public benefit to be derived from the three drawings...would be minimal; consequently, it would not...be fair to burden the taxpayer with...an ex gratia payment...when the alternative remedy is available. Accordingly, we recommend that the three drawings should be returned to the claimants".

Following the Panel's recommendation the Courtauld Institute of Art will return two of the drawings to the heirs of Dr Arthur Feldmann. The third, attributed to van Mieris, is to be presented to the Courtauld by Dr Feldmann's heirs. The drawing will go on display and its history will be acknowledged in records and publications. [Report of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in Respect of three Drawings now in the Possession of the Courtauld Institute of Art](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/new/index.html)

Chancellor Launches Discussion on Children and Young People's Services

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, has launched a discussion paper *Policy Review of Children and Young People*, one of a series of policy reviews to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. The paper sets out evidence gathered during the first stage of the review, identifying the challenges young people face, the next areas the review will examine and the Government's forthcoming Ten-Year Youth Strategy.

The paper shows that regular participation in positive activities helps young people develop confidence and build new skills. The Government is determined to increase participation and to give young people more control over the activities and facilities available in their communities.

The Review will report in spring 2007. The document can be found at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/cyp_review/cypreview_index.cfm

Local Authorities Required to Provide Positive Activities for Young People

From 8 January, following the introduction of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities in England are expected to secure access for young people to 'positive activities' such as youth clubs, sports facilities, cultural events, volunteering schemes and art projects, and to take account of young people's views on available activities and facilities. www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2007_0002

Government Response to Select Committee on Science and Heritage Report

DCMS has published the Government's response to the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee's report on Science and Heritage. The response has been compiled with the assistance of many of the UK non-departmental public bodies that submitted evidence to the Committee. The Government response rejected the Committee's finding that the current governance and funding structure severely threatens the maintenance of the science base for conservation, but recognised that available sources could be spent more strategically and efficiently, with assistance from a DCMS Chief Scientific Officer and the Arts and Humanities Research Council as the Research Council with lead responsibility for heritage science.

www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/56B4B774-3172-4881-AFC1-F5D172C26305/0/Cm7031.pdf

Clore Cultural Leadership Programme Invites Applications

The Clore Leadership Programme, which aims to help to train and develop a new generation of leaders for the cultural sector in the UK, has opened the latest round of applications for 2007-08 Fellowships, due to start in September 2007. The programme recruits Fellows from the cultural sector and beyond, who undertake a tailored programme of activities and experience using a combination of learning, work, research, training and secondment designed to develop their leadership skills and experience. The closing date for applications is **19 February**. www.cloreleadership.org

Public Procurement Reforms

The government has published *Transforming Government Procurement*, which sets out a range of public procurement reforms to equip the UK to deliver world class public services. Measures include: reforming the Government Procurement Service to make it more flexible and focus resources where they are most needed; raising procurement capacity within departments and introducing procurement capability reviews; making greater use of the Government's collective buying power in collaborative procurement; broadening the Major Projects Review Group to ensure complex procurement projects are subject to effective scrutiny. ['Transforming government procurement'](#)

45% Increase in Number of Archaeological Finds Reported

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Treasure Annual Reports show a significant increase in reporting of finds. In 2005/6 57,566 finds were recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, the voluntary scheme to record archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales, an increase of almost 45% compared to 2004/5. 506 treasure finds were reported and declared as Treasure in 2004, an increase of nearly 20% on the previous year. The PAS website saw a 2680% increase in traffic from April 2003 to March 2006. The PAS is managed by the British Museum on behalf of the MLA. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcmspn_07.htm

Examples of Environmental Best Practice Sought

Euclid, the EU's Cultural Contact Point in the UK, is looking for projects and initiatives in the creative, heritage and media sectors which demonstrate environmental best practice, to feature as case-studies in seminars. Euclid is looking for examples that go beyond simple energy conservation and recycling. Organisations whose work is pushing the boundaries of environmental practice should contact: rachel@euclid.info.

Connecting Culture and Commerce: Getting the Right Balance

The Museum Copyright Group and Kings College London hosted a lively conference on intellectual property in museums at the National Gallery on 26 January.

Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery and Alan Yentob, Creative Director, BBC discussed broad strategic issues and Alex Beard, Deputy Director, Tate, spoke about Museums' perspective, as owners and users of intellectual property. Other topics covered included the synergy between culture, commerce, copyright and education and the Gowers Review of IP. Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics, highlighted the economic, social and creative impact of museums and galleries in the UK and the event concluded with a panel discussion.

Presentations and audio from the event will be available at: www.kdcs.kcl.ac.uk/mcq2007/index.htm

Jodi Awards 2007 – Call for Nominations

Nominations are being sought for the Jodi Awards 2007. This year, for the first time, the awards will recognize museum, gallery, library, archive or heritage projects that demonstrate commitment to using technology in the service of accessibility, as well as website accessibility.

Nominated projects will be examined by a panel of judges and tested by disabled users. The awards are supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, (MLA), 24 Hour Museum, the British Museum and University of Leicester. The deadline for nominations is **Monday 30 April 2007** and winners will be announced on 13 June 2007. www.mla.gov.uk/website/policy/Diversity/Web_Accessibility

Annual Convention of the Association for Cultural Enterprises 15-16 February

The 2007 Annual Convention of the Association for Cultural Enterprises (ACE), the largest event of its kind in the UK, includes sessions on fundraising and sponsorship for the first time, as well as on retailing, catering, publishing, events, location hire and business management, including ethical trading and sustainable business practice. Speakers include Dr Michael Dixon (Director, Natural History Museum) and Ken Robinson CBE (Chairman of the Visitor Attractions Forum). The convention dinner will be held at St Paul's Cathedral. www.acenterprises.org/ASSETS/DOCUMENTS/delegate_information_booking_form_2007.pdf
Olympia Conference Centre, London, 15-16 February 2007

Conference: All Change: Adapt and Thrive in a Digital Age 26 April 2007

This conference, organised by the London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group, will look at web, digital and electronic knowledge-sharing developments and the opportunities and challenges they bring for museum libraries and archives. It will explore how to exploit these opportunities; collaborative partnerships and the impact of information-sharing developments on library and archive services.
Thursday 26 April 2007, British Museum, London WC1B 3DG www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/lmlag.html

Antonine Wall Nominated as World Heritage Site

The 2nd century Antonine Wall in Scotland, which was the north west boundary of the Roman Empire, has been nominated for World Heritage Site status, as an extension to the trans-national Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. UNESCO, which administers the scheme, will make a decision next year. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms008_07.htm

Heritage Link VAT Grant Scheme

Heritage Link has submitted a proposal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for VAT to allow all registered charities in the UK to claim a refund on the 17.5% VAT levied on repairs and maintenance to listed buildings in their ownership. www.heritagelink.org.uk/docs/HL_VAT_proposal.doc

Parliamentary Report

Immunity from Seizure Legislation

The Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Bill containing clauses on immunity from seizure for cultural property, passed the Report Stage in the House of Lords on 31 January. Government amendments making immunity from seizure conditional upon museums and galleries publishing specified information about the objects they propose to borrow; allowing the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring a museum or gallery to provide specified information to an enquirer about an object in an exhibition, and ensuring museums seeking immunity maintain a sufficiently high standard of due diligence regarding provenance of loans; were agreed. The Third Reading is scheduled for 20 February. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals_courts_and_enforcement.htm

Lords Debate on Museums and Galleries: Funding

Opening the debate on 15 January, Lord Sheldon asked the Government what effect the increasing cost of the 2012 Olympics would have on government spending on the arts. Lord Evans of Temple Guiting responded: "there is an overrun on funding for the Olympics and various methods are being looked at to bridge the gap, but it is unlikely that the arts will suffer as a result".

In response to Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Chairman of the National Maritime Museum, asking for reassurance that budget cuts of 5 per cent would not take place, the Minister replied that he could not "assure the noble Lord that that will not take place because it is part of the next spending review, and the Treasury has asked all government departments to look at possibilities for reduction, as it will be a quite tight review."

Lord Howarth of Newport asked the government to consider doubling the National Heritage Memorial Fund grant to £20 million. Lord Evans responded that it would be difficult for him to agree to the request and highlighted the "encouraging" income generated by national museums, with a 73 per cent increase in total self-generated income from 1997 to 2005.

Responding to a question from Baroness Sharp of Guildford about funds for "proper care of collections", Lord Evans said "...we recognise that we have to watch this area very carefully, and I am sure that the Government and the Wolfson Foundation...will continue to ensure that the fabric of our museums does not decline". [Lords Hansard text for 15 Jan 2007/15 Jan 2007 \(pt 0001\)](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ldhansrd/0701/ld070125/halltext/70125h0001.htm)

Commons Debate on Heritage

The first parliamentary debate on Heritage for more than 10 years was held on 25 January, to debate the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's Report and the Government's response to it. John Whittingdale MP, Chair of the Select Committee, opened the debate, highlighting the recent falls in real term funding for English Heritage and HLF and the role of local authorities in heritage. He called for increased funding, and the removal of VAT on the restoration of listed buildings, to encourage the maintenance of historic buildings. Other speakers echoed these themes, calling on DCMS to raise the priority of heritage.

David Lammy, Minister for Culture, responding for the Government, said "It is absolutely clear that our history, social cohesion, sense of community and sense of civic pride is absolutely underpinned by our heritage and culture. It is hugely important...That is my position and that of the Government." He highlighted DCMS's work on public value, the role of DEFRA in funding the historic environment and the Heritage Protection Review. The Minister undertook to publish the Heritage White Paper 'before the Easter Recess' (29th March).

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070125/halltext/70125h0001.htm

Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee

Report on London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: funding and legacy

The Select Committee for Culture, Media and Sport has issued its second report into the 2012 Olympic Games. Responding to the announcement of £900 million additional costs for the 2012 Olympics, the Committee warns against increasing contributions from the National Lottery and the London Council Tax which it says "risks placing an unacceptable burden on both". It calls on the Treasury to forgo the duty payable on proceeds of the Olympic Games; to consider amending the tax regime for the Lottery and to use the increase in land values from regeneration work to contribute to the games.

With reference to the Cultural Olympiad the report states "We recommend that the Government should do more to publicise and co-ordinate it, drawing together ideas, sharing good practice, and increasing awareness of some of the more practical and imaginative suggestions which are being made."

It concludes: "We remain convinced that London can and will host a Games as good as any ever seen before. However...more needs to be done and quickly if we are to achieve all of the potential benefits for the UK." www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmselect/cmcomeds/69/6902.htm

Caring for our Collections Inquiry

Last month, the Culture, Media & Sport Committee heard evidence from The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, the Acceptance in Lieu Panel, the Goodison Review Group, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Art Fund, the Public Catalogue Foundation, the Art Loss Register and Swift-Find, as well as MLA and Government Ministers. In its final session on 23 January, the Committee heard from MLA, Culture Minister David Lammy and Baroness Ashton of Upholland, from the Department of Constitutional Affairs. Questions covered: the Renaissance programme and its effectiveness, the involvement of independent and non-Hub museums and the potential impact of cuts funding.

Relationships between national museums and local museums were discussed, with Committee member Helen Southworth MP highlighting the Science Museum and National Museums Liverpool's collaboration with Warrington Museum, as an example of how partnership working can enable top-class exhibitions around the country. The Committee also had questions about funding for acquisitions and the implementation of the Goodison Review recommendations, and pressed Ministers on the need for a more joined up approach to archives policy and funding.

Uncorrected transcripts of the oral evidence are at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcomeds.htm

New inquiry: Tourism

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee has announced a new inquiry into the tourism sector in the UK. The Committee is interested in receiving evidence on a number of issues including:

- The challenges and opportunities for the domestic and inbound tourism industries;
- The effectiveness of DCMS and its sponsored bodies (such as VisitBritain) in supporting the industry;
- The structure, funding and effectiveness of sponsored bodies in the sector in promoting the UK; and
- How to derive maximum benefit for the industry from the London 2012 Games.

Written submissions are invited by **Friday 16 March 2007**. The Committee will accept as submissions (or as part of submissions) responses to the DCMS Consultation Paper Welcome > Legacy. It is expected that oral evidence sessions will be held after Easter.

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/culture_media_and_sport/cms070117.cfm

Questions for Written Answer in the House of Commons

John Whittingdale MP asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish a response to the recommendations of the Goodison Review of private giving and Government support for museums, John Healey responded saying: "The Government have implemented a number of Goodison's recommendations and will continue to keep the issues raised under review."

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070129/text/70129w0010.htm

Liberal Democrat culture spokesman Don Foster MP asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport about progress on targets to increase the number of people from priority groups accessing museums and galleries collections. Richard Caborn MP replied, highlighting the baseline data published on 14 December 2006 and stated that progress on targets will be monitored regularly with final assessment of achievement available in late 2008.

[House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 08 Jan 2007 \(pt 0013\)](#)

International Issues

International Museum Projects to Benefit French Museums

The French government has announced that proceeds from international museum ventures, such as loans from the Louvre to the High Museum in Atlanta, a new "Louvre" museum in Abu Dhabi and the Centre Pompidou in Shanghai, will be invested in museums in France. According to Le Monde, Abu Dhabi will pay €200-€400 million for the use of the Louvre's name for at least 20 years. The project has been the subject of heated debate in France. www.lemonde.fr www.theartnewspaper.com

Record Numbers of Visitors to Museums

The Louvre, Paris attracted approximately 8.3 million visitors in 2006, up from a record 7.5 million in 2005. This is attributed to Friday night programming for young people, successful temporary exhibitions and a lecture series by author Toni Morrison. www.nytimes.com/aponline/world/AP-France-Louvre.html

The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam attracted over 1.8 million people in 2006, a record for the museum. 1,130,000 people visited the Rijksmuseum's Philips Wing alone, as many as visited the main Rijksmuseum building when it was open. This success is attributed to a series of exhibitions to mark the 400th anniversary of Rembrandt's birth. www.rijksmuseum.nl/nieuwsagenda/bezoekers2006?lang=en

European Study on Digital Content and Convergence

The European Commission has published a study on digital content and convergence. The study looks at obstacles to the full exploitation by European industry of digital content on new technology platforms, taking into account the 2006 public consultation, and proposes actions to address them. Obstacles identified include: piracy; definitions of new-media rights; inter-operability of Digital Rights Management; the territory-based structure of collecting societies; the need to harmonise European laws affecting content; and VAT rates. An official communication on online content is expected later this year. europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/95&format

ICOM Statement on Legal Action for the Return of Illegally Exported Cultural Property

The International Council of Museums has issued a statement affirming its policy to support governments pursuing credible claims seeking the restitution of illicitly appropriated cultural property. It reminds members that they are bound by the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums and emphasizes the importance of retrospective research into the provenance of collections, to ensure that looted works are returned to rightful owners. icom.museum/statement_illegalexport_eng.html

Anna Lindh Euro-Med Foundation Grants

The Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures aims to foster intercultural dialogue in the arts, education, human rights, the media, and religion. A total of €1,800,000 is available for grants of up to €75,000. Projects must involve at least two EU member states and two from Turkey, Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The deadlines for proposals are: **1 March** and **1 June 2007**. www.euromedalex.org

Forthcoming Meetings

Learning and Access Committee

Monday 5 February, 10am, National Portrait Gallery

UK Affairs Committee

Monday 5th March, 2pm, venue TBC

HR Forum

Friday 9th March, 11am, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea

Marketing Group

Monday 12 February, 2pm, Tate Modern

NMDC Meeting

Friday 16 March, 11am, V&A

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Zoë Nasatyr, at news@nationalmuseums.org.uk

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat:

Emily Candler, Secretary

e.candler@vam.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7942 2817

Suzie Tucker, Executive Assistant

s.tucker@vam.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7942 2818