



January 2007

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which contains an update on our activities, news from the museum sector and a selection of events and exhibitions at National Museums in 2007. www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Museums & Galleries in Britain: Economic, Social & Creative Impacts

The report by Tony Travers, *Museums & Galleries in Britain: Economic, Social and Creative Impacts*, jointly commissioned by NMDC and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, was published on 13 December. The report analyses Britain's leading museums and galleries in terms of visitor numbers, economic impacts, civic functions and contributions to the country's creativity and educational performance. It finds that "the UK's museums and galleries could, with greater capacity to expand and improve, allow this country to be a world leader in creativity and scholarship."

Tony Travers describes how museums have increased productivity, developing new and wide-ranging roles as civic institutions at the centre of conversations about identity and history, tying communities together and pioneering fresh forms of international engagement, as well as maintaining their position as mass visitor attractions and centres of excellence in learning and research. The findings include:

- Britain's museums and galleries are among the very best in the world. There is no other country in the world with such a powerful museum and gallery grouping in such a relatively small area.
- The economic benefits of the UK's major museums and galleries are estimated to be £1.5 billion a year. Broadly £1 in every £1,000 in the UK economy can be directly related to the museum and gallery sector. The major museums and galleries spend over £650 million a year.
- New museums and galleries have contributed to the economic and social regeneration of industrial cities.
- There are 3,000 volunteers and over 140,000 'friends' linked to museums in the study – a major contribution to civic engagement.
- There are over 42 million visits each year to major museums and galleries - more than attendance at the Premiership League plus the whole of the rest of league football for 2004-05.
- Seven of the top ten visitor attractions in the UK are museums.
- In 2005-06 there were over 100 million website visits to major museums and galleries covered by the report.
- At least 180,000 exhibits were loaned by museums and galleries to other institutions within the UK. National and regional museums are increasingly working together in strong partnerships, including innovative exhibitions, learning and outreach programmes and workforce development.
- Museums and galleries have expanded their activities as partners with universities, as well as extending their access to schools and increasing the numbers of visits by young people.
- More than 1,400 academic or similar publications were recorded during 2004-05.

The report also warns that:

- Up to a third of museums displays and facilities are in need of significant renovation.
- Income has not been rising as fast as staff and other inflationary costs in the economy.
- Additional income will be required to enable museums to continue to deliver.
- Capital expenditure has dropped sharply since 2001-02 as a percentage of total expenditure.
- The availability of resources for investment in museums and galleries appears to be unrelated to the needs of the sector. There has been little available for improvement of existing assets.

The report concludes that:

- "Britain's museums and galleries...underpin the creativity upon which future high value added economic activity is likely to be based. The storehouses represented by these institutions will encourage people in this country to use their creativity and talent to develop new services, products and even manufactured goods.

- The agglomeration of institutions, talent and audiences in Britain has parallels in only a few other countries. However...there is a risk the institutions will be taken for granted and not seen as the potential opportunity they represent...
- The potential is virtually limitless. The only question is whether, collectively, there is a national desire to deliver, maintain and expand this particularly creative sector."

The report is available on our website www.nationalmuseums.org.uk.

New Year Honours

Congratulations to Robert Crawford, Director-General of the Imperial War Museum and former chair of NMDC, who was awarded a Knighthood in the New Year Honours List.

www.honours.gov.uk/lists/2007honours.aspx

Members' News

Late Openings - Nights at the Museum

The Victoria and Albert Museum has changed its late night opening from Wednesday to Friday evenings, when the museum will stay open until 10pm. On the last Friday of every month, the V&A will continue to host a contemporary late night event centred on a theme or exhibition, featuring live performances, guest DJ's, activities and a late bar.

With the film 'Night at the Museum' topping the box office charts, here is a reminder of when you can visit our national collections after dark:

British Library:	galleries open until 20.00 on Tuesday
British Museum:	galleries open until 20.30 on Thursday and Friday, the Great Court is open until 23.00 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
National Gallery:	open until 21.00 on Wednesday
National Gallery of Scotland and Scottish National Portrait Gallery:	open until 19:00 on Thursday
National Library of Scotland:	open until 20.30, Monday to Friday
National Portrait Gallery:	open until 21.00 on Thursday and Friday
Sir John Soane's Museum:	open until 21.00 on the first Tuesday of each Month
Tate Britain:	Late at Tate Britain until 22.00 on the first Friday of each month
Tate Modern:	open until 22.00 on Friday and Saturday
Victoria and Albert Museum:	open until 22.00 on Friday.

Victoria and Albert Museum to Allow Academic Reproduction of Images at No Charge

From early 2007 the V&A will implement a new policy for image use, to support academics and scholars with their projects and publications and remove barriers to spreading knowledge. Visitors to the website will be able to download hi-resolution images *free of charge*, subject to terms and conditions, which include agreement to credit the image to the V&A. V&A Images will continue to offer bespoke and professional services, researching, advising, commissioning new photography and facilitating non-digital requirements. Fees will be charged for these services. www.vam.ac.uk

Art Treasures of Wales on Show in London

To launch the Centenary of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, more than 30 paintings, sculptures, works on paper and applied arts from the permanent collection of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales will be on show at Christie's, London, from 14-17 January 2007. The exhibition marks the launch of the fundraising campaign to establish a National Museum of Art on the top floor of the National Museum Cardiff building in Cathays Park. www.museumwales.ac.uk

Consultation on National Maritime Museum Conservation Plan

The National Maritime Museum is inviting comments on its draft Conservation Plan, which sets policies to preserve of the Museum's buildings and their settings. The plan, which will be a primary source for the history and significance of the site, will inform maintenance work and its recommendations will shape future developments. www.nmm.ac.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.21350

National Galleries of Scotland Received Record 1.5 Million Visitors in 2006

The number of visitors to the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) hit a record 1.5 million in 2006, a 13.1% rise on 2005. The record figure combines attendance to all NGS sites and follows a year of successful shows. 1.33 million people visited the National Galleries of Scotland in 2005, an increase of 3% on 2004's figure of 1.29 million. www.nationalgalleries.org

Richard Calvocoressi Appointed Director of the Henry Moore Foundation

Richard Calvocoressi, Director of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, has been appointed Director of the Henry Moore Foundation, succeeding Tim Llewellyn, who is retiring in May 2007.

Royal Marines Museum Accredited

The Royal Marines Museum has been recognised again as an Investor in People (IIP). IIP is the national award that sets a level of good practice for training and development of staff to achieve the goals of the organisation. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

The National Archives wins International Information Industry Award

The National Archives has won the Best User Experience category at the International Information Industry Awards, for its Global Search project. The award recognises a project or service that has shown outstanding innovation in improving the user experience.

Global Search allows users to find information in 30 million documents held in 11 catalogues and databases across The National Archives with a single search. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/137.htm

Current Issues

Taking Part: The National Survey of Culture, Leisure and Sport

DCMS has published the first full year of data from the Taking Part survey of cultural participation. The survey of 17,000 people forms the baseline to measure the achievement of DCMS sectors in meeting the Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets agreed with HM Treasury. The survey reveals that 42.3% of adults visited a museum or gallery at least once in the last year. The rate of participation is lower among adults from lower socio-economic groups (28%), Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (35%) and with a limiting disability (32%). To meet the PSA target of a 2 percentage point increase by 2008, museums and galleries need to attract:

- 37% of adults from black and minority ethnic backgrounds;
- 34% of adults with a limiting disability;
- 30% of adults from lower socio-economic groups.

Details at: www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/3EF937E4-4B9F-47BD-8FAF-2ECE7032A1FC/0/FINALPSA3report.pdf

Scotland Culture Bill Published – New Statutory Role for National Collections

The Scottish Executive has published a draft Culture (Scotland) Bill for consultation. Proposals in the draft Bill include: cultural entitlements to be provided by local authorities; a new cultural development body to be called Creative Scotland; changes to the governing legislation of the National Collections; direct government funding of the main national performing companies; and a new criminal offence in Scotland on dealing in tainted cultural objects.

Proposals relating to the National Collections - National Library of Scotland (NLS), the National Museums of Scotland (NMS), the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) - include:

- Keeping the five Collections as independent bodies, with distinctive roles and functions.
- A new body, the National Record of Scotland, to replace RCAHMS.
- Harmonisation of the legislative foundations of the Collections. NAS remains an Associated Department and Executive Agency of the Scottish Executive and so does not feature in the Bill.
- Updating procedures for appointing Trustees for the Collections to reflect the Scottish Executive policy.
- Increasing co-operation and co-ordination between National Collections, to work more efficiently and, where appropriate, rationalise common support functions.
- A new statutory role for the National Collections to offer advice and assistance to local museums, galleries and libraries, to encourage sharing of expertise and the exhibition of nationally significant objects in different parts of the country and so contribute to cultural entitlements.
- Continuing to explore opportunities for joint exhibitions.
- A power for the Scottish Ministers to give directions to the National Collections which they must follow. The consultation document states that "This is a standard power which, while seldom used, is an integral part of the framework of governance and accountability between Ministers and public bodies. It is not designed to compromise the operational independence of the National Collections and Ministers will not use such powers to intervene in the decisions that are...essentially about artistic or professional judgement....Ministers remain strongly committed to the principle that decisions of this kind should not be taken by them."

Comments on the draft Culture Bill should be submitted by **March 30, 2007**.

www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/14095224/6

Bringing Culture to Communities

The Scottish Executive Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Patricia Ferguson MSP has announced a two year programme of 13 community projects, delivered by 26 local authorities, to explore practical ways of delivering cultural services to local people. The projects will inform cultural planning activity by local authorities and help to shape the national guidance on cultural entitlements as part of the draft Culture (Scotland) Bill. www.scottishexecutive.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/12/18141900

Pre Budget Report

The 2006 Pre-Budget Report, *Investing in Britain's potential: Building our long-term future*, was published in December. It presents updated assessments and forecasts for the economy and public finances, and reports on how the Government's policies are helping to deliver its long-term goals. Announcements in the Pre-Budget report include:

- Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) has agreed a Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 settlement, which will reduce its budget by an annual average of 3.5 per cent in real terms over the 2007 CSR period, together with over £100 million of up-front transformation funding.
- Five other small departments have agreed a 5% real terms reduction from 2008-11.
- £1 billion in modernisation funding has been set aside for the early settlements announced to date.
- Capital expenditure on education will see annual average growth in real terms of 4.1 per cent over the 2007 CSR period, totalling £36 billion over the next four years.
- The value for money programme will aim to deliver savings of 3% per year across central and local government in the CSR period.
- 5% annual real reductions in administration budgets across all departments in 2008-11.

The report also included the outcome of consultation on a replacement for the *Research Assessment Exercise (RAE)* after 2008 with a new framework for assessing research quality and allocating funding which is more metrics based. See: www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conResults.cfm?consultationId=1404

The report is at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr06/prebud_pbr06_index.cfm

Gowers Review of Intellectual Property

The Gowers Review of Intellectual Property (IP) aims to provide a robust framework for copyright, trademarks, database rights, performers' rights, patents and other forms of IP, which is fit for the digital age, tackles IP crime and reduces cost and complexity. The Review took into account the submissions of over 500 organisations and individuals including the NMDC, Museums Copyright Group, MDA, MLA and Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance. Key recommendations include:

- provisions for making it easy to copy "orphan works" (for which the author cannot be identified or found);
- creation of a voluntary register of copyright protected works;
- allowing libraries, including those in museums, to make copies of works for archive and preservation;
- creating an exception to copyright for the purpose of caricature, parody or pastiche; and
- maintaining the 50 year duration of copyright for sound recordings and performers' rights.

The Report has been broadly welcomed by the sector and endorsed by the Government. A significant amount of lobbying is likely to be required before the changes are included in legislation.

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/583/91/pbr06_gowers_report_755.pdf

Leitch Review of Long Term Skills Needs

Lord Leitch, who was commissioned in 2004 by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to examine the UK's long-term skills needs, has published a report: *Prosperity for all in the Global Economy: World Class Skills*. The report projects that by 2020 the UK skills base will be inferior to that of many developed nations. A radical step-change is necessary for the UK to compete in a rapidly changing global economy and the report recommends that the UK commits to become a world leader in skills by 2020. Recommendations include:

- Routing public funding of vocational skills through demand-led Train to Gain and Learner Accounts;
- Strengthening the employer voice with a new Commission for Employment & Skills;
- Launching a new 'pledge' for employers to train more employees at work;
- Increasing employer investment in higher level qualifications, including Apprenticeships;
- Raising aspirations and awareness of the value of skills and creating a new universal adult careers service;
- Compulsory education or workplace training up to age 18.

The report is available at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/leitch

Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: Interim Report

This report sets out the key messages from the recent Treasury consultation to identify what is required for the sector to thrive over the next ten years. Building on the consultation, the second stage of the review will focus on: voice and campaigning; communities; public services; social enterprise; and a healthy third sector. Final recommendations will be published as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr06/other_docs/prebud_pbr06_odthirdsector.cfm

Big Lottery Fund Board Appointed

Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Tessa Jowell has announced the appointment of the Big Lottery Fund board, which is responsible for overseeing the running of lottery distributor BIG, created from the merger of the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund in the National Lottery Act 2006. The fund awards £600 million of lottery money a year to good causes throughout the UK.

The board has seven general members and four national chairs, led by overall chair, Sir Clive Booth. The national chairs have responsibility for leading committees and supervising the distribution of funds in their countries. The board members are:

Chair: *Sir Clive Booth*, chair of the New Opportunities Fund and Community Fund Boards since June 2004.

General members:

Judith Donovan CBE, chair of Yorkshire Tourist Board and director/trustee of Northern Ballet Theatre

Roland Doven MBE, a freelance consultant on philanthropy and director, Brockwell Gate Management Company

John Gartside, chair of Warrington Primary Care Trust

Esther O'Callaghan, an entrepreneur, DJ and music producer

Anna Southall, former chief executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, of the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and Chair of the Institute of Conservation

Albert Tucker, former managing director of Twin and Twin Trading (Fairtrade brands, 1997-2006)

Diana Whitworth, co-director of Grandparents plus and former Chief Executive, Carers UK.

National chairs:

Sanjay Dighe (England), principal of Vega Risk Consulting

Alison Magee (Scotland), convener of Highland Council

Huw Vaughan Thomas (Wales), director of Taro Consultancy Ltd

Breidge Gadd CBE (Northern Ireland), former Chief Probation Officer and member of Probation Board for Northern Ireland. www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/index/about/board.htm

Museum Learning Survey 2006

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has published the results of the Museum Learning Survey 2006, the first review of education provision since 1999. The study indicates that museum education in England has improved significantly in terms of the quality and range of services provided. Comparisons with statistics from the previous report *A Common Wealth* in 1997 and 1999 show:

- 86% of museums are now used by formal educational groups and 88% by informal education groups. By contrast, in 1994 37% of museums made limited provision for education and just 51% offered any educational services.
- 40% of museums report outreach to community groups, and 29% report outreach to older visitors.
- 77% of museums have facilities used solely or primarily for educational purposes.
- 73% of museums say that education is a vital part of service delivery in 2006, compared to 64% in 1994.

www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets//M/museum_learning_survey_2006_10480.pdf

MLA Consultation on Response to Local Government White Paper

MLA has published a discussion document on the Department for Communities and Local Government's White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, which sets out a view of local government as a strategic leader, with a key role in shaping places where people want to live.

MLA intends to publish a Position Statement on the White Paper and is interested in views on how to maximise the contribution of museums, libraries and archives to local communities.

www.mla.gov.uk/resources/assets//S/strong_and_prosperous_communities_discussion_paper_10518.pdf

Responses should be sent to: Paul Bristow, Policy Adviser (Local Government) paul.bristow@mla.gov.uk

Metropolitan Police Recruit Curators

The Art Newspaper reports that the Art and Antiques Unit of the Metropolitan Police is to recruit curators and art historians as special constables. Volunteers will work as Special Constables for 200 hours a year. The police have already recruited archaeology and antiquities experts and hope to have 14 constables trained by April. www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=541

Arts & Business Private Investment in the Arts Report

An Arts and Business report on private investment in the arts shows that private support for the arts has grown to £530 million in 2005/6 - 4.3% (twice the rate of inflation) annual growth. The biggest growth area has been in individual giving, to £262.4 million. Business investment remains static at £153.4 million, while funding from trusts and foundations has risen to over £113 million.

The report highlights that many cultural organisations rely on a single source of funding to support their income. It reveals that London accounts for 74% of private investment and that heritage is the top recipient of private investment, followed by visual arts/galleries, museums and theatres. Together these sectors received 70% of total private investment. Libraries and archives saw the greatest increase in share of private investment, with film/video also showing a strong increase. Museums and music received 43% of corporate donations. www.aandb.org.uk/render.aspx?siteID=1&navIDs=1,5,881,1000

HLF Museums and Galleries Collections Development Initiative Consultation

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has launched a consultation paper on proposals it announced in October to help museums and galleries develop their collections, with an investment of £3 million to support acquisitions, curatorial skills, research and increased activities for the public. The deadline for responses to the consultation is **2 February 2007** and the document is available at:

www.hlf.org.uk/MandGCollectionsDevelopmentInitiative

Greater London Authority Heritage Diversity Task Force

The GLA has launched the Heritage Diversity Task Force (HDTF), which will work across London's cultural sector to embed cultural diversity in the capital's heritage infrastructure. The Task force will build on the work of the Mayor's Commission for African and Asian Heritage and will focus on harnessing best practice in the sector and enabling new and innovative approaches to diversifying collections, audiences, workforce and governance.

The Task Force is chaired by **Clara Arokiasamy**, Deputy Director of Operations, Heritage Lottery Fund and members are: **Sandy Nairne** (Vice Chair), Director, National Portrait Gallery; **Dinah Cox** (Vice Chair), Chief Executive, Race on the Agenda; **Jack Lohman** (Cultural Diversity Ambassador), Director, Museum of London; **Maurice Davies** (Cultural Diversity Advocate), Deputy Director, Museums Association; **Graham Fisher** (Regional advisor), Chief Executive, MLA London; **Jack Amos** (Regional advisor), Executive, SERTUC; **Dame Jocelyn Barrow**, Chair, Heritage Diversity Monitoring Group; **Lee Fulton**, Co-Vice Chair, Heritage Diversity Monitoring Group; **Colin Prescod**, Co-Vice Chair, Heritage Diversity Monitoring Group; **Hassan Arero**, Keeper of Anthropology, Horniman Museum; **Suzy Black**, Director, HR, ICI plc; **Hilary Carty**, Director, Cultural Leadership Programme; **Natalie Ceeney**, Chief Executive, The National Archives; **Michael Clarke**, Director, London Libraries Development Agency; **Alan Davey**, Director of Arts & Culture, Department for Culture, Media & Sport; **Michael Day**, Chief Executive, Historic Royal Palaces; **Rachel Hasted**, Head of Social Inclusion and Diversity, English Heritage; **Deborah Jenkins**, Head Archivist, London Metropolitan Archives; **Naseem Khan**, Writer, Researcher and Policy Adviser; **Diane Lees**, Vice Chair, Association of Independent Museums.

OFT Report on the Commercial Use of Public Information

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) report *The Commercial Use of Public Information* recognises the importance of public sector information in the development of commercial products and services. The report argues that encouraging re-use could bring significant benefits and includes recommendations on how re-use can be improved. Some of the recommendations relate to the activities of government trading funds, such as Ordnance Survey, which often operate in the same commercial market as organisations that re-use public sector data, which can lead to problems with charging and competition.

The Report recommends that the Office of Public Sector Information should be given increased regulatory powers and resources to monitor the activities of public sector information holders. This will be underpinned by more robust enforcement and complaints procedures. The National Archives is working with colleagues across Government to recommend a response to Ministers.

The report is at: www.offt.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/25E7503B-7631-4D60-81D2-979B4BA8C9C7/0/oft861.pdf

Science Centre Enrichment Activities Grant Scheme

The Office of Science and Industry (DTI) and DfES are making a limited amount of funding available over two financial years 2006-08. Bids are invited from small consortia of science centres to pilot enrichment activities, on site or through outreach, that will promote collaborative working, complement existing Government initiatives and actively drive best practice in the sector.

[Details of the funding scheme and bidding process](#). Closing date for bids is 5pm, **Monday 15 January**.

Subject Specialist Networks – Applications for Implementation Grants Invited

MLA has announced a further £240,000 of Renaissance funding to encourage museums to collaborate with each other by setting up subject specialist networks.

Applications for implementation grants of up to £25,000 are invited for projects geared towards sharing collections expertise on specific subjects. Application guidelines and an application form are available at: www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/renaissance/subject_specialist_networks
The deadline for applications is 5pm **Wednesday 31 January 2007**. Decisions will be announced in March and the deadline for projects to be completed is 31 March 2008.

Arts and Kids Foundation 2007 Open for Funding Applications

Start, The Prince of Wales Arts & Kids Foundation 2007 funding programme is open for applications from cultural organisations, to develop and deliver arts enrichment programmes for primary and secondary school students. It aims to encourage students to develop the confidence and enthusiasm to continue their involvement with their local cultural venue. Funding is available for up to £16 for each child involved. www.artsandkids.org.uk/arts-kids-invites-new-applicants-for-its-funding-programme
The deadline for stage one applications is **Wednesday 17 January 2007**.

MA To Pilot Scheme for Retiring Curators

The Museums Association is working on a pilot scheme for a number of 6-12 month Fellowships to allow retired curators to provide advice and training to museum staff. It is envisaged that there will be 12 Fellowships over three years, worth £153,000 in total.

Details of the scheme will be published and formal applications invited in spring 2007. In the meantime, the MA is keen to talk to curators coming up to retirement who might be interested in participating. www.museumsassociation.org/13253&_IXSESSION_=P38dMNzO3D&_IXPOS_=manews1.2

Consultation on the Future of Volunteering

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering, established by the England Volunteering Development Council (EVDC) to develop a long term vision for volunteering in England as a legacy of the Year of the Volunteer 2005, is consulting volunteers and non-volunteers in a wide ranging review of the future of volunteering in England. The consultation, which is open for public submissions until May 2007, will focus on the relationship between volunteering and government, volunteering for all and developing a culture of volunteering. Evidence forms can be downloaded from www.volcomm.org.uk

New Chair for VisitBritain

Christopher Rodrigues has been appointed chair of VisitBritain, taking over from Lord Colin Marshall of Knightsbridge. Mr Rodrigues, a former president of Visa International in the USA and group chief executive of Thomas Cook, is a non-executive director of Ladbrokes plc, an executive committee member of the World Travel and Tourism Council and was a founder non-executive director of the Financial Services Authority and an executive committee member of the National Trust. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2006/DCMS154_06.htm

Arts Council England Appointments

Augustus (Gus) Casely-Hayford has been appointed Executive Director, Arts Strategy, at Arts Council England. He is currently head of the Institute of International Visual Arts (inIVA) and led Africa 05 and the British Museum's diversity programme.

Althea Efunshile has been appointed Executive Director, Arts Planning and Investment, Arts Council England. She is currently Director of Vulnerable Children Group at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and has held senior leadership positions within DfES since 2001.

www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press_detail.php?browse=recent&id=756

Parliamentary Report

Select Committee Investigation: Caring for our Collections

The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee will hold its third oral evidence session into Caring for our Collections at the House of Commons on Tuesday 9 January 2007. Witnesses will include the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, the Acceptance in Lieu Panel, Sir Nicholas Goodison, The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Art Fund and The Art Loss Register.

Uncorrected transcripts of oral evidence given to the Committee are available at:

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

Public Accounts Committee Report on Collections Management at National Museums Northern Ireland

The Public Accounts Committee published its report *Collections Management in the National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland* on 13 December. Key recommendations include:

- Disposal and acquisition of artefacts should be an integral part of collections management and the Committee "would extend this recommendation to all such bodies throughout the UK".
- The proper management and security of Northern Ireland's national collection requires the maintenance of complete, accurate and up to date records that comply with accepted standards.
- The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCALNI) should introduce, as a condition of funding, measures to assess and encourage improvement in National Museums Northern Ireland (NMNI)'s performance in areas such as documentation, storage and accessibility.
- Reference to the risk of damage or loss of the national collection should be included in NMNI's Statement of Internal Control.
- The DCALNI and NMNI should carry out a comprehensive review of its estate to determine the potential for disposal of property which is not essential for its core functions.
- All museums should seek to develop exhibitions which appeal to the widest cross section of the community.

The Committee expressed concern about storage conditions, progress in introducing fully computerised collections records, the need for annual audit checks at each museum and about decisions regarding the conservation and future use of the historic vessel, *The Result*. The Committee concluded that investment decisions should be subjected to economic appraisal. "Preserving our heritage is important but not at any cost." www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmpubacc.htm

Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Bill

The Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Bill, which includes the introduction of immunity from seizure for loans to UK museums, was debated in the Grand Committee in the House of Lords. Lord Howarth, Lord Renfrew and Baroness Ashton spoke on the clauses relating to cultural property, and the importance of due diligence by borrowing institutions to ensure that objects with dubious provenance, including during the period 1933-45, are not borrowed, was emphasized in the debate.

Responding to written questions on this subject, Culture Minister David Lammy said "Only the museums which I have approved will be able to arrange exhibitions of objects benefiting from the immunity provided for in the Bill. A museum can only expect to be approved if it follows appropriate due diligence procedures, including checks on the provenance of works of art it is planning to exhibit. These procedures will help to ensure that any item of dubious origin would be excluded from temporary exhibitions. Our museums are committed to ensuring that they do not exhibit stolen property".

Responding to a question about requiring museums and galleries to publish a list of works they wish to borrow in advance of an exhibition the minister said: "The Government will listen very carefully to all points made in the debates on these provisions and will consider whether they will achieve an appropriate balance between the interests of British museums and galleries and the interests of claimants to stolen property. We will be considering the merits of requiring museums and galleries to publish a list of the items they intend to borrow in advance of the exhibition".

[House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 04 Dec 2006 \(pt 0021\)](#)

The latest version of the Bill and transcripts of the debates can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/tribunals_courts_and_enforcement.htm

Parliamentary Questions: Spoliation 2007 Bicentenary, Advisory Panel, Museum Visits

Responding to questions in Parliament, Culture Minister David Lammy reiterated Government support for plans to commemorate the 2007 bicentenary of the parliamentary abolition of the slave trade and, in response to a question about discussions at Government level about a national day of remembrance, said "Discussions about that memorial day continue. [The questioner] will understand that there are differences of opinion about whether the date should be the one in August or the March date. We continue to talk to the members of the advisory group about that, and I think that that debate must continue into next year". [House of Commons Hansard Debates for 18 Dec 2006 \(pt 0002\)](#)

The work of the Spoliation Advisory Panel was highlighted in a written answer from David Lammy's to a question from Andrew Dismore MP. [House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 04 Dec 2006 \(pt 0021\)](#)

During Parliamentary Questions on 6 December, the Prime Minister said: "there have been around 5 million extra visits to museums since we introduced [free entry]...it has been a major change which has allowed low income families, particularly youngsters, to gain access to our museums. The fact that millions of people are visiting and using museums is a wonderful thing for our country, and we should be very proud of it".

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm061206/debtext/61206-0003.htm#06120652000454

Freedom of Information (amendment)

Last month David Maclean MP presented a Private Members Bill to amend the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to exempt from its provisions the House of Commons and House of Lords and correspondence between Members of Parliament and public authorities. The Bill will have its second reading on Friday 19 January.

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm061218/debtext/61218-0005.htm#0612182000013

International Issues

Encouraging the Mobility of Collections in Europe

The *Encouraging the Mobility of Collections* (Helsinki 19-20 July 2006) conference report and Action Plan for the EU Promotion of Museum Collections' Mobility and Loan Standards have been published. The Action Plan covers: loan administration and standards; state indemnity schemes; valuation, self-insurance and non-insurance of cultural objects; immunity from seizure (working group chaired by Hillary Bauer); loan fees and long term loans; building trust/networking; and digitisation. www.nba.fi/mobility

Culture 2007 Workshops

The deadline for applications for Culture 2007, the 27€ million EU funding programme for cultural projects, is 28 February. To assist with the application process Euclid is running Culture 2007 Workshops across the UK. For more information and to book a place please visit www.euclid.info

MICHAEL European Portal Launched

The new MICHAEL European Portal, designed to help users find and explore digital resources from museums, libraries, archives and cultural institutions in France, Italy and the UK, has been launched. Funded through the European Commission's eTEN programme, MICHAEL is part of a larger programme that will enable access to digital contents from 15 countries by 2008. MLA is a leading partner in the MICHAEL project and is coordinating a programme to catalogue digital and online contents from cultural institutions in the UK. www.michael-culture.org/en/home

UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity Ratified

The UNESCO convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression has been ratified. The convention paves the way for enhanced cultural cooperation at international level, notably through exchange of views and best practice to promote cultural diversity and will come into force in March. portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36209&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Smithsonian Deal with Showtime does not Hamper Access for Researchers

A review by the United States Government Accountability Office has concluded that the Smithsonian Institution's partnership with Showtime Networks has not hampered researchers' access to Smithsonian materials. The Washington Post reports that filmmakers, researchers and members of Congress had objected to what they interpreted as restricted access to Smithsonian archives as a result of the contract, which gives Showtime semi-exclusive rights to the use of Smithsonian resources. The GAO found the Smithsonian had rejected only two of the 117 requests for filming received since the contract was put in place. www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/15/AR2006121501894.html

Forthcoming Meetings

Marketing Group

Monday 12 February, 2pm, Tate Modern

UK Affairs Committee

Monday 5th March, 2pm, venue TBC

HR Forum

Friday 9th March, 11am, venue TBC

NMDC Meeting

Friday 16 March, 11am, V&A

2007 Exhibitions and Events

The following is a selection of events and exhibitions taking place at National Museums during 2007:

Amgueddfa Cymru — National Museum Wales celebrates its centenary in 2007 with developments at National Museum Cardiff and St Fagans: National History Museum. **National Museum Cardiff** is being transformed to provide 40% more space to display the art collections, with the top floor of the building dedicated to art due to open later in the year. In December the redeveloped *Origins: in search of Early Wales* galleries will open, exploring life in early Wales and human origins. The galleries will showcase recent discoveries and cast fresh light on old treasures. *Oriel Un*, a new gallery re-interpreting the social history collections at **St Fagans: National History Museum**, is due to open in March with the exhibition *Perthyn: Belonging*. In October *St Teilo's Church*, which has been moved stone by stone from its original site in West Wales, will open at the Museum with the 16th century interior restored. www.museumwales.ac.uk

National Museums Liverpool will mark Liverpool's 800th anniversary with exhibitions and openings. A major new exhibition, *Magical History Tour* at the **Merseyside Maritime Museum**, opening in July, will chart the history of the city. The first part of the **International Slavery Museum**, which will tell the story of the transatlantic slave trade, opens on 23rd August, and **Sudley House**, featuring the only Victorian merchant art collection in Britain still hanging in its original location, reopens in the summer. At the **Walker Art Gallery** from January *Doves and Dreams* tells the story of arbiters of the Glasgow Style Frances Macdonald and J Herbert McNair and from June the **Lady Lever Art Gallery** will host *Masquerade: the work of James Ensor (1860-1949)*, a special showing of paintings, drawings and etchings on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Tate Liverpool will mark the city's anniversary with a number of exhibitions including: *Centre of the Creative Universe: Liverpool and the Avant-Garde*, opening in February, exploring how artists have contributed to the view of Liverpool; *The Real Thing: Contemporary Art from China*, opening in March, featuring recent work by an emerging generation of artists; and *Peter Blake*, opening in June, a major retrospective of the artist's work. From October, **Tate Liverpool** will host the *Turner Prize 2007* exhibition, the first time the prize has been held outside London, as a curtain-raiser for Liverpool European Capital of Culture 2008. At the same time, **Tate Britain** will host a *Turner Prize Retrospective*, presenting a selection of key works shown over the twenty-three years of the prize. Other highlights at Tate Britain include: *Hogarth* opening in February, a comprehensive exhibition of Hogarth's work; *BP British Art Displays 1500–2007* from March, a rehang of the BP British Art Displays highlighting art of the last forty years and recent acquisitions; and from September *Millais*, bringing together around 130 paintings and works on paper. **Tate Modern** will host a retrospective of the work of artists *Gilbert & George* from February. *Dali & Film*, from June, will explore Salvador Dali's enthusiasm for and response to cinema and *Louise Bourgeois*, from October, will be the first major survey of Louise Bourgeois' work since 1995. *UBS Openings: The Long Weekend*, an annual cultural festival which brings together performance, dance, music, theatre and film to celebrate the Tate Modern Collection, will take place in May. www.tate.org.uk

The **RAF Museum, Cosford** launches *Cold War* in February, a new 7000m² exhibition telling the story of the Cold War period from national, international, social/political and cultural perspectives. The exhibition is housed in a new building in the form of two triangles divided by a central walkway, representing a world divided by opposing ideologies. www.rafmuseum.org.uk

At **Imperial War Museum North**, which celebrates its 5th birthday in July, *Witness 2: Highlights of Second World War Art* from February will bring together highlights from the Museum's art collection and first-hand accounts of life on the front line and at home. The 25th anniversary of the Falklands conflict will be marked by a photographic exhibition *A Long Way From Home: The Falklands, 25 years on*, opening in March. *The Falklands War* at the **Imperial War Museum London**, from May, will feature the experiences and memorabilia of those involved and be accompanied by an online exhibition. **Imperial War Museum Duxford's** Air Show on 20 May will incorporate a tribute to the Falklands War. *AirSpace* a new exhibition exploring Britain's civil and military aviation past, present and future will open in the summer at **Imperial War Museum Duxford**, incorporating an Aircraft Hall and Exhibition Gallery, Learning Centre, Lecture Theatre, Corporate Suite and Conservation Area. *Camouflage*, which opens at the **Imperial War Museum London** in March, will explore the development of military camouflage from the First World War

to the present day and its adoption into popular culture and *Posters of Conflict*, from October, will feature over 300 posters from the Museum's collection. www.iwm.org.uk

Special exhibitions at the **Royal Naval Museum** include: *Task Force South: The Navy and the Falklands War*, opening in March, which focuses on the role of the Navy in the Falklands conflict and *The Royal Navy and the Suppression of the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, from February, presenting the Royal Navy's role in combating the trade and its continuing work defending human rights. www.royalnavalmuseum.org

Renoir Landscapes 1865-1883 will open in February at the **National Gallery**, bringing together some 70 landscapes from the first two decades of the artist's career. Opening in June, *Dutch Portraits: The Age of Rembrandt and Frans Hals*, jointly organised with the Royal Picture Gallery Mauritshuis (The Hague), is the first international loan exhibition in 50 years to survey painted portraiture in the Netherlands between 1600 and 1680. *Renaissance Siena: Art for a City*, from October, includes major loans from abroad and Sieneese paintings in the National Gallery collection, many of which will be cleaned and restored for this show. *Leon Kossoff*, from March, features works made by the artist during visits to the National Gallery and the Royal Academy; and *German Renaissance Stained Glass*, from November, displays German stained glass from the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum next to a selection of National Gallery paintings from the same period and regions. www.nationalgallery.org.uk

At the **Victoria and Albert Museum** *Uncomfortable Truths – the shadow of slave trading on contemporary art and design*, from February, will commemorate the bicentenary of the Parliamentary abolition of the British Slave Trade with works by eleven contemporary artists from Europe, Africa and America displayed as a series of interventions throughout the museum. *Surreal Things – Surrealism and Design*, from March, will explore the influence of Surrealism on the world of design, featuring iconic objects such as Dalí's Lobster Telephone and Meret Oppenheim's Table with Bird's Legs. *China Design Now*, from March, will bring together for the first time in the UK some of the most exciting design projects created in China over the past two decades. Opening in September, *The Art of Lee Miller* marks the centenary of her birth and will explore Miller's career from model and muse, to avant-garde photographer, war photographer and correspondent. www.vam.ac.uk

In May the **National Maritime Museum** will open the £15 million *Time & Space* redevelopment of the **Royal Observatory Greenwich** which includes four new astronomy galleries; the Peter Harrison Planetarium and the Lloyd's Register Learning Space. The Astronomy Galleries will offer visitors a spectacular environment where they can interactively explore the universe, solar system and the science of modern astronomy, improved visitor facilities and full access. Contemporary art will feature in two exhibitions: Lawrence Weiner's *Inherent in the Rhumb Line*, opening in March and a video installation by Esther Shalev-Gez exploring the history of the Queen's House from November. *Sailor Chic*, opening in July, will celebrate the naval uniform's influence on modern fashion. *Atlantic Worlds*, a new gallery exploring 300 years of transatlantic connections that have shaped the Atlantic World and featuring Museum's slavery-related collections, will open in October. www.nmm.ac.uk

The Science of Spying, an interactive family exhibition which examines the secrets of modern espionage, will open in February at the **Science Museum**. Visitors will have the opportunity to test their ability to crack codes, gather information and use the latest technology. *Maurice Broomfield's 'New Look' at Industry: Photographs from Post-War Britain*, from February, features his optimistic portraits of British Industry in the post-war period. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Ice Station Antarctica, opening at the **Natural History Museum** in May, will create a series of mini-environments for visitors to explore using images, interactive activities and Antarctic objects. The exhibition is being developed with the British Antarctic Survey and marks International Polar Year (2007/8). From June, *Systema Metropolis*, a new commission by artist Mark Dion which explores the biodiversity of London, will mark 300 years since the birth of Linnaeus, the father of classification. The exhibition is accompanied by events for young scientists including the *International Student Summit: Green Cities* (10–12 July) for 16-19 year olds exploring the ecological footprints of cities and their environmental impact. The *Diverse City Season* of cultural events will celebrate the ethnic diversity of multicultural Britain from October 2007 and the exhibition of the winners of the *Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007*, which showcases the best photographic images of nature, will open in October and then tour around the UK and the world. www.nhm.ac.uk

William Blake: Under the Influence, opening at **The British Library** in January, will celebrate the 250th anniversary of William Blake's birth with exhibits including Blake's notebook and items lent by writers and

artists who have been inspired his life and work. *The Possibility of Poetry: from Migrant magazine to artists' books*, from January, charts the life of the literary magazine *Migrant*, which published the early work of British and American poets, many of whom went on to win acclaim. From April *Sacred: Discover what we share* will display the Library's collection of Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy books. www.bl.uk

Highlights for 2007 at the **Scottish National Portrait Gallery** include *The Naked Portrait*, from June, bringing together some 150 examples of the genre, from 1890 to the present day, by a diverse range of artists and photographers; and from August, *Painting in Crayons: Portraits in Pastels from the National Galleries of Scotland* featuring around twenty portraits from the collections, which are rarely seen due to their sensitivity to light. At the **Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art** *Richard Long*, a major new exhibition spanning the artist's career, will open in June featuring new works created for the show. It will be Long's first large-scale exhibition since 1991. www.nationalgalleries.org

Exhibitions highlights at the **British Museum** include: *A New World: England's First View of America*, opening in March, featuring the only surviving drawings from the first English voyages to the New World in the 1580s and *La Bouche du Roi* by Romauld Hazoumé, opening in March, a multi-media artwork, made up of over three hundred 'masks' made from plastic petrol cans, created by an African artist as a memorial to the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade. From May *The Business of Slavery* will explore the Transatlantic Slave Trade, examining how it functioned, the commodities involved and how it was ended. *Crafting beauty in modern Japan*, opening in July, will present works by members of the Japan Art-Crafts Association, many of them designated Living National Treasures. *The First Emperor of China*, opening in September, will explore the Terracotta Army, one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, and provide an insight into China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, and his legacy. Objects featured in the exhibition include terracotta warriors and recent discoveries made on the site displayed outside China for the first time. www.thebritishmuseum.org.uk

Freedom and Liberty. The Archive Awareness Campaign 2007 will commemorate the Bicentenary of the Parliamentary abolition of the slave trade. Showcases, open days, workshops and other events will be held in archives across the country in the autumn and throughout the year, telling the story of abolitionism and highlighting original documents from the period. www.archiveawareness.com

At the **National Portrait Gallery** *Face of Fashion*, opening in February, celebrates the innovation and diversity of current fashion portraiture. From March, *Between Worlds: Voyagers to Britain 1700-1850* examines the complexities and ambiguities of encounters between non-European visitors and their British contemporaries, exploring the visitors' stories and the impact they had on British society. *Daily Encounters: Photographs from Fleet Street* opening in July, illustrates the history of British Press photography, drawing upon the archives of newspaper photography and *Pop Art Portraits*, from October, is devoted to pop art portraiture and explores the movement's international legacy. www.npg.org.uk

The **Wallace Collection** is hosting the first exhibition devoted to the maiolica painter Francesco Xanto, *Avelli Xanto: Pottery-painter, Poet, Man of the Italian Renaissance*, from January. *Fragmented Images: New artworks by Charlotte Hodes*, opening in May, features recent papercuts and ceramics by the Jerwood Drawing Prize winning artist made in response to the Collection. www.wallacecollection.org

Sir John Soane's Museum is staging two exhibitions from January: *Visions of World Architecture: Soane's Royal Academy Lecture Illustrations* features a series of drawings produced by Soane to illustrate his Royal Academy lectures between 1809 and 1820; and *Soane and Turner* explores the close relationship between Soane and Turner and features works on loan from Tate. www.soane.org

Work is due to start on the Capital City development at the **Museum of London** in spring. The new *London and Slavery* gallery at the **Museum in Docklands**, which will explore how the trade has shaped London and still resonates today, is due to open in the autumn. www.mol.gov.uk

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

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