



newsletter

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

NMDC News

NMDC Secretary Emily Candler gave birth to a boy, Samuel Joseph, on 19 April. Mother and son are well.

Members' News

***Time and Space* Opens at the Royal Observatory at the National Maritime Museum**

The Queen will open National Maritime Museum's £15 million *Time and Space* redevelopment at the Royal Observatory Greenwich on 22 May. The galleries will open to the public on Friday 25 May 2007.

Time and Space features the new 120-seat Peter Harrison Planetarium with its advanced digital laser projector, the only one of its kind in Europe, which provides a spectacular introduction to space beyond our solar system. The new Weller Astronomy Galleries describe the work and tools of modern astronomers and the Lloyd's Register Education Centre offers an inspiring learning environment for visitors to explore the universe. www.nmm.ac.uk

Sea Your History

Sea Your History is a new website resource providing information about the Royal Navy in the 20th century. A 3 year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, *Sea Your History* is run by the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth, in partnership with the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Royal Marines Museums, Royal Navy Fleet Photographic Unit, Mary Rose Trust and the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historic Trust.

Current resources include: *The Navy's People*, information about the lives of 20 people who served in the Navy in the last century; the history of Portsmouth Dockyard; an Oral History Gallery and image gallery, with new resources to be added in the coming months. www.seayourhistory.org.uk

New Directors for Tate St Ives

Tate St Ives has announced that the role of Director will be shared between an Artistic Director and an Executive Director. Martin Clark, currently Exhibitions Curator at Arnolfini, Bristol joins Tate St Ives as Artistic Director and Mark Osterfield, acting director since February and Project Director for Tate St Ives Phase Two since March 2005, becomes Executive Director.

The new positions recognise the developing role of Tate St Ives and its ambition to work more effectively with local, regional, national and international partners. After six years as Director of Tate St Ives, Susan Daniel-McElroy will retire at the end of June 2007.

www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2007/9364.htm

Sudley House Reopens Following £1 million Refurbishment

Sudley House, part of National Museums Liverpool and home of the art collection of Victorian ship owner George Holt, will reopen on 26 May 2007, following a two-year £1 million refurbishment.

The listed mansion, which houses the only art collection of a Victorian merchant still in its original domestic setting, has undergone major conservation and renovation work. New features include: improved access, an introductory display about the Holt family; two rooms exploring how Victorian children learned and played; a Costume room; and a temporary exhibition gallery. The art collection, which includes works by Gainsborough, Turner, Reynolds, Romney, Landseer and Millais, has been rehung. www.sudleyhouse.org.uk

Sound Archiving Internships at the British Library

The British Library has launched an internship programme to develop the practical skills of sound archivists and technicians. There will be seven internships at the new Centre for Conservation at the British Library, London: two bursaries of £5,000 for five-month internships and five £2,000 bursaries for internships of two months.

The internship programme will start in September 2007. The closing date for applications is **14 May 2007** and interviews will be held week commencing 25 June 2007.

www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/internships.html

Chairman of the Royal Marines Museum to Retire

Lieutenant General Sir Henry Beverley KCB OBE is retiring as Chairman of the Royal Marines Museum Board of Trustees. During Sir Henry's ten year chairmanship the Museum has achieved Museums, Libraries and Archives Council Accreditation, become a Quality Assured Visitor Attraction and an Investor in People and has opened a new education centre and new storage facilities.

An announcement about Sir Henry's successor will be made shortly. www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk

National Museums Win Tourism Awards

Imperial War Museum North won the Silver Award for *Large Visitor Attraction of the Year* at the *Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2007* organised by VisitBritain to recognise the best of England's tourism. The award recognises achievement in a number of areas including service and customer care.

Sharon Francis of the **National Maritime Museum** won the *Outstanding Customer Service* Silver Award for her work in disability education and provision, which has increased the number of disabled visitors able to visit the museum. www.enjoyengland.com/excellence

New National Galleries of Scotland Website

The National Galleries of Scotland have launched a new website designed to be more informative and easy to use. The website includes a new look at the Scottish national collection, news on projects and a behind the scenes look at conservation and research. The What's On and education sections have been redeveloped and there are new image galleries, podcasts and a revamped online shop.

Singles' Night - 5 May 2007

Following its success last year, the National Gallery of Scotland is hosting a Singles' Night, with refreshments and brief guided tours, on 5 May as part of Show Scotland's Big Events Weekend.

www.nationalgalleries.org/aboutus/news/1:171/

Parthenon Sculptures at the British Museum

In response to recent statements from the Greek Embassy in London, The Trustees of the British Museum have restated their position on the Parthenon Sculptures in the Museum's collection. In a statement they say that they have been looking for a way forward on the issue for years, but this has been hindered, in part, by the Greek government disputing the Trustees' "unquestionable legal ownership of the Sculptures", which would also preclude the loan of any disputed objects.

The statement says that the Trustees believe that "the best way of finding any way forward is through discussion with Greek museum colleagues, with whom the British Museum has always had friendly relations." www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/news/parthenon_sculptures_21april2007.doc

In a written response to questions from Mark Field MP about the Parthenon Sculptures in the British Museum, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Tessa Jowell reiterated that decisions on the future of the sculptures and issues relating to their ownership or loan "are matters for the trustees and Government do not intervene." [House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 16 Apr 2007 \(pt 0004\)](#)

Web and Communication Awards for National Library of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland's website has won the *Best Use of the Web* category at this year's Communicators in Business Scotland awards. The Library also took top prize for *Best One-Off Publication*, for the Annual Review 2005, and *Best Communication Team*.

Last year the National Library of Scotland website was voted *Best Government Website* by the international Web Marketing Association. www.nls.uk/news/index.html

Current Issues

No Change to Rate Relief for Charities

The Lyons Review into Local Government, which was published at the same time as the Budget, recommended a review of the Council Tax relief for charities. In response, the Cabinet Office has stated that: "The Government agrees with the report that more needs to be done...to enhance the ability of councils to deliver for their local communities. However, the Government will retain the existing relief given to charities and exempt empty charity property from business rates altogether."

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/news/news_stories/070323_rate.asp

Retirement Fellowships to Boost Collections Knowledge

The Museums Association has launched a £150,000 programme of fellowships, funded by The Monument Trust, to capture the collections-related knowledge of retired and soon-to-retire museum professionals. 12 fellowships, lasting between 50 and 100 days over 6-12 months, will enable fellows to return to their museum to pass on specialist knowledge.

Fellowships will be available to curators and museum professionals with relevant collections experience. The scheme is being piloted in the hope that it will become standard practice in the sector.

Closing date for applications is **Friday 1 June 2007**. There will be a further round of applications in 2008. Further information and contact details at: www.museumsassociation.org/monument

New £5 million Art Fund International Contemporary Art Scheme

The Art Fund has launched *Art Fund International*, a £5 million initiative to develop collections of international contemporary art in UK regional museums and galleries. The scheme aims to encourage museums and galleries with permanent collections to work with contemporary arts organisations that do not have collections and will run alongside the Art Fund's grant-giving programme.

Up to five projects will be selected in 2007 and allocated funding to spend over five years. Expressions of interest are invited from institutions who wish to participate in the scheme by noon on **Friday 22 June 2007**.

Proposals will be considered and a selection of applicants will be invited to proceed to the second stage, to submit a detailed proposal by 28 August 2007. www.artfund.org/grants/artfundinternational.html

Responses to the Diversion of Lottery Funds to the 2012 Olympics

The Voluntary Arts Network, the Central Council for Physical Recreation, Heritage Link and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations are campaigning together to press the Government to reconsider the diversion of lottery funds to finance the 2012 Olympics. They have called for a parliamentary debate on the transfer of lottery funds to the Olympics. www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=4824

The campaign was highlighted in the Guardian on 23 April, where a number of arts organisations expressed concern about the diversion of lottery funds. arts.guardian.co.uk/funding/story/0,,2063581,00.html

An early day motion has been tabled in the House of Commons and a debate on the subject has been scheduled for 17 May in the Lords (see Parliamentary Report).

Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport Tessa Jowell defended Labour's record in the arts in an article in the Observer on 15 April. She said that public funding for the arts in England, currently over £500m a year, had risen nearly 75% in real terms in 10 years. She reiterated that no lottery money would be transferred to support the Olympics until 2009 and that the £112.5 million to be diverted from the Arts Council England represents 5% of its total income, from the lottery and exchequer, for 2009-12. Other lottery distributors will make contributions in the same proportion.

Ms Jowell concluded that direct Exchequer investment in culture is the bedrock of art in the UK and that the arts deserve an increase. She said that it would be "crazy" to jeopardize the achievements made to date and that she would "make that argument at every turn within government".

arts.guardian.co.uk/funding/story/0,,2057510,00.html

The Guardian reports that the Treasury originally sought an additional £1.9bn from the lottery to fund the Olympics, nearly three times the £675 million settled on. arts.guardian.co.uk/funding/story/0,,2063583,00.html

Museums and Galleries Month 1-31 May 2007

Speaking at the launch of Museums and Galleries Month 2007 this week, Minister for Culture David Lammy said that museums and galleries are central to the discussion of Britishness and shared values, which is "absolutely central to policy debates in this country" and that it is important to build on the success of museums and galleries. Mr Lammy also praised the response of museums and galleries to the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

During May museums, galleries, archives and heritage attractions across the country will be running events on the Museums and Galleries Month theme: *People: who are we?* and participating in *Museums at Night* (19 May). A series of debates will explore issues of identity, including:

Who do they think we are?

Thursday 10 May 2007 at the British Museum, 18:30

The Art Fund and the British Museum will join forces to explore how the contemporary arts can help us understand our own identity. Chaired by *Bonnie Greer*, panellists include: *Ralph Rugoff*, Director of the Hayward Gallery; *Gautam Malkani*, author of best-selling novel *Londonstani*; *Dr Deborah Swallow*, Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art; and *Munira Mirza*, a writer on cultural policy and identity.

To book: call 020 7323 8181 or email boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Ancestry, Identity and Museums

Saturday 12 May at the National Portrait Gallery

Two debates on the subject of ancestry, identity and museums:

Who are we and where do we come from? Family history and roots

13:30

Chaired by *Professor Sara Selwood*, Head of Cultural Policy & Management, City University, and *Professor Ludmilla Jordanova*, Professor of Modern History, King's College. Speakers include *Dave Annals*, Family Records Centre and *Cecile Wright*, BBC's 'Who Am I?'.

Culture and Class: which is more important?

15:30

Chaired by Professor *Laurie Taylor* (BBC), speakers include artist *Grayson Perry* and journalist *Meredith Etherington Smith*.

To book: Tickets free on the day, first come first served, or to book e-mail helen@colmangetty.co.uk

Slaves to the Past

Monday 21 May at Tate Britain, 18:30

Is the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire cause for celebration, or should we instead reflect on the evil of slavery itself? Chaired by *Tiffany Jenkins*, Institute of Ideas, speakers include: *Dr Mike Phillips*, novelist, historian, curator; *Josie Appleton*, Manifesto Club; *Maurice Davies*, Museums Association; and *David Miles*, English Heritage and author of *The Tribes of Britain*.

To book: Tickets are free but must be reserved. Please email museums@instituteofideas.com

Further information at: www.mgm.org.uk/organisers/ART45751.html

Cultural Leadership Programme

The Cultural Leadership Programme is a two-year Treasury funded investment in leadership across the creative and cultural industries. It aims to create strong leadership through providing a range of activities and opportunities for aspiring cultural leaders.

Leadership Development Days are a series of free one-day workshops designed to inspire, challenge and provide support for aspiring black and ethnic minority leaders in the cultural sector. Applications are invited to participate in Leadership Development Days in the South East, Manchester and Newcastle in May and June. Details of how to apply and seminar dates at:

www.LeadershipDevelopmentDays.org.uk.

The website also has details of other initiatives, including general intensive leadership development opportunities; e-learning and e-assessment pilots and governance development. For details visit:

www.culturalleadership.org.uk/opportunities/default.aspx

Museums Association Consults on Code of Ethics

Following research into attitudes towards disposal, which showed a shift in public and sector opinion, the MA is proposing to revise its code of ethics and in particular advice on disposal. Emphasising a strong presumption in favour of retention of items in the public domain, the proposed new wording allows for "responsible disposal...as part of a museum's long-term collections policy, for sound curatorial reasons and in order to increase public benefit".

The MA is consulting on the proposed changes. The closing date for responses **15 June 2007**.

The consultation document and further information can be found at:

www.museumsassociation.org/news1/codeofethics&_IXNEWS_=22

Scottish Museums Council Seeks Chair of Board of Directors

The Scottish Museums Council is looking to appoint a new Chair of its Board of Directors from Autumn 2007. They are looking for someone who is committed to the museum sector and has Chair or Chief Executive level experience with a public agency or major company with a Scottish profile.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Friday 18 May 2007**.

Further information at: www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/index.asp

Arts Council Directors for Theatre, Literature and Arts strategy

The Arts Council has appointed three Directors of strategy.

- *Barbara Matthews*, freelance arts consultant, theatre producer and trainer, has been appointed Director, Theatre Strategy.
- *Antonia Byatt* will move from the Women's Library at London Metropolitan University to become Director, Literature Strategy.
- *Anna Jobson*, currently Head of Policy and Planning at Tate, will take up the newly created post of Director, Arts Strategy.

www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press_detail.php?browse=recent&id=853

MLA Chief Executive to Retire

Chris Batt OBE, Chief Executive of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced that he will retire at the end of the year after four years in the post. The Chief Executive position will be advertised in due course. www.mla.gov.uk.

Wellcome Trust - Arts Awards Funding

The Wellcome Trust Arts Awards funding scheme supports arts projects that engage the public with biomedical science. It aims to bring together individuals and organisations to develop innovative and creative activities and is part of the £3.2 million Wellcome Trust *Engaging Science* programme.

Applications are invited for projects up to £30 000 to support the development of new project ideas, deliver productions or workshops, investigate and experiment with new methods of engagement through the arts, or develop new collaborative relationships between artists and scientists.

Application deadlines are: **13 July, 28 September and 15 November 2007**. Decisions will be made approximately three months after the deadline. Full details can be found at: www.wellcome.ac.uk/arts

Spoliation Advisory Panel Members Reappointed

Culture Minister David Lammy has announced that six members of the Government's Spoliation Advisory Panel have been reappointed for a third term. Anna Southall, Professor Peter Jones, Peter Oppenheimer, Professor Richard Evans, Sir Terry Heiser and Sir Donnell Deeny have been reappointed to the Panel, which was set up in April 2000 to help resolve claims made for cultural objects lost during the Nazi era 1933-1945. The Panel has advised on six claims since it was established.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2007/dcms049_07.htm

Gulbenkian Prize Short List 2007

The short-list for the £100,000 Gulbenkian Prize for museums and galleries, which will be announced on 24 May, has been published. The short-listed projects are:

- **New Century Project, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow**
A £28m restoration and re-display of Glasgow's 100 year old civic art gallery and museum.
- **Kew Palace, Historic Royal Palaces, London**
A £6.6 million conservation and re-presentation project by Historic Royal Palaces.
- **Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, West Sussex**
An £8.6m contemporary gallery extension, the first in the UK to use geothermal heating and cooling.
- **Weston Park Museum, Sheffield Galleries & Museums, Sheffield**
A £19 million redevelopment highlighting Sheffield's archaeology, history and art collections.

Comments on the shortlisted museums are invited at: www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk

In Touch With Art: Art, Museums and Visual Impairment Conference

This conference will examine models of best practice in visual arts interpretation for a visually impaired audience, exploring how people engage and interact with visual art in galleries and museums.

28-29 November 2007, V&A London. The programme and booking information is available at:

www.st-dunstons.org.uk/pages/news_item.asp?i_ToolbarID=1&i_PageID=1014

Record Tourist Numbers Boost London's Economy by £600 million

2006 saw a record number of overseas visitors to London. According to figures from the International Passenger Survey, overseas visits to London last year grew by 9.4%, bringing the total to a record 15.2 million. This increase also helped to drive record spending - which rose from £6.9 billion in the previous year to £7.5 billion in 2006. Spending by US visitors rose to £1.5 billion, the highest it's been since 2000.

The largest increase in visitors came from Europe, up 11.6% to 9.6 million, followed by the United States, up 5.2% to 2.4 million. corporate.visitlondon.com/press_centre/press_releases/070423_stats.html

Cultural Tourism Workshop

2008 will be an important year for Cultural Tourism: the Beijing Olympics will hand over to London marking the start of the four year cultural programme in the run up to 2012; Liverpool will be European Capital of Culture and culture will underpin all VisitBritain's promotional activities.

This workshop, organised by VisitBritain, will look at the potential for cultural tourism, exploring how organisations can get a share of the growing cultural market and how VisitBritain can help.

Wednesday 13 June 2007

RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London

www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/Cultural%20Tourism%20Workshop_tcm12-32194.pdf

Association of Independent Museums Celebrates 30 Years

The Association of Independent Museums (AIM), which represents independent museums is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Its 750 members will mark this milestone at the Anniversary Annual Conference on 21-23 June at Ironbridge Gorge Museums, Shropshire, when Culture Minister David Lammy MP will give the keynote speech.

The website has further information at: www.aim-museums.co.uk

Scottish Executive Supports Science Engagement

The Scottish Executive is offering a total of £260,000 to help support science engagement projects in Scotland during 2007-2008. Activities that complement and enhance the school curriculum, take science into communities, provide professional development for science communicators, or further the aims of the Scottish Science Centres Network Strategy, will be eligible for funding. Details will be available at: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/science/16607/Scienceengagement

Arts Council of Wales Appoints Chair

The Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, Alun Pugh has announced the appointment of Professor Dai Smith as Chair of the Arts Council of Wales. Professor Smith's appointment will run for three years from 1 April 2007. He had been interim Chair of the Arts Council of Wales since April 2006 and has helped steer the Arts Council through a comprehensive review of funding for the arts in Wales.

www.artswales.org.uk/viewnews.asp?id=602

REFLECT Creative Partnerships National Co-Mentoring Programme

This national programme, commissioned by Creative Partnerships, aims to enhance creativity in schools, creative and cultural organisations and businesses through developing and embedding innovative partnership practice. Led by The Sage Gateshead, 150 co-mentoring partnerships will be set up across England, supported by a series of face-to-face training and networking events. The programme will run for 12 months from May 2007. The closing date for applications is **11 May 2007**.

For further details visit: www.thesagegateshead.org/l_and_p/creativepartnerships/mentoring_register.aspx

Adult Learners' Week 19-25 May

Adult Learners' Week is an annual week-long national campaign, organised by National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), which seeks to engage and inspire people to pursue adult learning. It takes place from 19-25 May, with a Cultural Diversity Day on Saturday 19 May, which aims to raise awareness and understanding between different cultures, encourage community cohesion and explore barriers to learning. A free guide to Adult Learners' Week 2007, including information and case studies on Cultural Diversity Day, and further information are available at: www.alw.org.uk.

ICON Opportunities for Conservation Training

The Institute of Conservation (Icon) is inviting applications for the second year of its scheme for broadening access to careers in heritage conservation and diversifying its workforce. Icon offers 12 work-based internships starting in September as part of the 4-year scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Many of these placements are aimed at new entrants to conservation from arts, science, crafts or wider heritage-related backgrounds. The closing date for applications is **8 June**. www.icon.org.uk

Collections Link Shop Open

MDA has launched an online shop on the Collections Link website, which allows customers to browse and purchase MDA publications, multi-media resources and membership. Other goods, such as accession registers and manual documentation systems, and products from other organisations in the sector will be made available in future. shop.collectionslink.org.uk

Parliamentary Report

Diversion of Lottery Funds to the Olympic Games

Lord Kenneth Baker has secured a debate in the Lords "to call attention to the effect upon heritage and the Arts of the transfer of Lottery funds to the 2012 London Olympic Games" on 17th May.

In the Commons, Mark Fisher MP put down an Early Day Motion on 24th April, condemning the re-direction of up to £675 million of National Lottery funding to meet "increased infrastructure costs to the 2012 Olympic Games" and calling on the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Chancellor of the Exchequer "to support and protect the arts and heritage sectors by safeguarding Lottery funding from any further diversion to the Olympics at a time when the culture of the UK will be on view to the world". The text of the motion and a list of MPs that have signed it are available at:

edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=33110&SESSION=885

Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites in Iraq

In response to a written question from Don Foster MP asking what funds have been allocated by DCMS to protect Iraqi cultural heritage sites since 2003, the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport Tessa Jowell highlighted the work of the British Museum and the British Library in Iraq.

[House of Commons Hansard Written Answers for 27 Apr 2007 \(pt 0001\)](#)

Greater London Authority Bill

The Greater London Authority bill has had its second reading in the Lords and has been committed to a Grand Committee. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/greater_london_authority.htm

International Issues

International Museum Day 2007 - Museums and Universal Heritage

Museums and Universal Heritage is the theme for International Museum Day 2007, **Friday 18 May**.

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) is encouraging members to participate with events, performances, exhibitions of art from reserves and free entry.

Universal heritage encompasses natural and cultural heritage: the objects in collections, as well as the intangible knowledge and creative expressions that accompany them. According to Alissandra Cummins, President of ICOM: "*This year, more than ever, we need to raise consciousness about the role of museums in teaching individual and collective responsibility for global heritage.*"

icom.museum/jmd.html

Entry Fees Deter Museum Visitors in Sweden

The Art Newspaper reports that visitor numbers to Swedish museums have declined since the re-introduction of entrance fees in January this year. A survey by the newspaper Dagens Nyheter comparing visitor figures for 15 museums in January 2007 with the same month in 2006 showed a 33% decrease in visitors, from 272,300 in 2006 to 183,000 in 2007.

The centre-right coalition government, which came to power in September 2006, removed the legal requirement for museums to retain free entry and cut their subsidy by up to a quarter. Carl Johan Swanson, political advisor at the ministry of culture, said that free entry to museums made it harder for other institutions to attract visitors and that museums "can now decide for themselves, what they prioritise—free entry, education or restoration". www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=622

Texas Museum Reacquires Spoliated Turner Painting

The Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas has paid \$5.7 million at auction to buy a J M W Turner painting, *Glaucus and Scylla*, which it first bought in 1966. The Museum returned the painting to the heirs of John and Anna Jaffé last year, after it was proved that the painting had been unlawfully seized and sold by the pro-Nazi Vichy regime in 1943.

www.kimbellart.org/news/turnerbuyback.cfm

European Year for Intercultural Dialogue 2008

2008 has been designated as the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The goal of the Year is to strengthen respect for cultural diversity and the coexistence of different cultural identities and beliefs, to highlight the contribution of different cultures to EU Member States' heritage and way of life and to recognise that culture and intercultural dialogue are essential for living in harmony. The European Commission has issued two calls for proposals for projects to mark the Year:

- An open call across Europe for around 8-10 trans-national projects involving partnerships across several countries – deadline **31 July 2007**
- A call for one project from each of the 27 Member States – the UK deadline is **9 July 2007**

Further information at: inter.culture.info/projects

Museum and Google Zoom on Darfur

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has launched a multimedia initiative with Google Earth, which displays satellite images of the earth online, to highlight the genocide in Darfur, western Sudan.

Crisis in Darfur brings information from organisations including Amnesty International, the State Department and the UN High Commission for Refugees together with aerial images of the region to provide evidence that atrocities are occurring. Symbols on the satellite images highlight places that have been damaged or destroyed and links are provided to related video footage, photographs and eyewitness testimony. This is the first project of the Museum's Genocide Prevention Mapping Initiative, which aims to provide information on potential genocides. www.ushmm.org/googleearth/

Canada Creates First National Museum Outside Ottawa

The new Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg will be Canada's first designated national museum outside the Ottawa area. The government has committed \$100 million toward the \$265 million capital cost of the museum, which is due to open in 2011. The Government will take responsibility for Museum operating costs once it opens.

The move follows the election of a new government last year, which has said it will develop a new policy for national museums. www.canadianmuseumforhumanrights.com/pdf/Fed-Govt-Apr_20-07.pdf

Exhibition to Mark Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, the EU's founding document, the Italian president Giorgio Napolitano invited EU heads of state to select a masterpiece that represents their country's history, to be displayed at an exhibition in Rome. The works of art, which range from the Stone Age to the 20th century, are on display alongside the original Treaty of Rome at the Quirinale Palace, Rome until 20 May. The UK is represented by *The Arrival of Louis Philippe at Portsmouth, 8 October 1844* by JMW Turner. A list and images of the works of art in the exhibition can be found at: www.quirinale.it/palazzo/arte-cultura/mostre/2007-europa/europa-galleria.htm

Munch Art Thieves Jailed

The BBC reports that three men convicted of stealing two paintings by Edvard Munch have been jailed by an appeal court in Oslo. *The Scream* and *Madonna* were stolen from the Munch Museum, Oslo, in an armed raid in 2004. The paintings were recovered last year and are being restored. The prison sentences range from 5.5 to 9.5 years. The men were also fined \$263,000 (£131,000).

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6583857.stm

Forthcoming NMDC Meetings

Marketing Group

Monday 4 June, 2pm, venue TBC

HR Forum

Friday 8 June, 11am, Royal Naval Museum

UK Affairs Committee

Wednesday 13 June, 2pm, Manchester Art Gallery

NMDC meeting

Friday 13 July, 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

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