

# newsletter

Issue 62

November 2006

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](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

## NMDC News

### NMDC Meetings

Many of NMDC's subject-specialist committees met in the last six weeks.

The Learning & Access Committee met at the National Portrait Gallery on 11 October. The Committee discussed opportunities for digital learning programmes with David Dawson from MLA and Gail Durbin and Carolyn Royston from the History Online project, which is funded by the Invest to Save programme and managed by the V&A. Keith Nichol, Head of Museums Education at DCMS also attended the meeting to discuss current policy developments.

The Marketing Group met at the National Gallery on 27 October. The Group shared experiences of marketing campaigns targeting under-represented audiences and discussed potential for future collaboration in this area. They also had a presentation from Viacom on their plans to develop advertising on London Underground over the next few years. Rebecca Aust from DCMS joined the meeting to give an update on the Taking Part survey of cultural participation, which is coming to the end of its first year, and to talk about plans for future developments.

The Operations Committee met at the Dana Centre on 2 October. The Committee had a presentation from William Brown, the new Museums Security Adviser, and discussed current developments in this area.

### Move to the Victoria and Albert Museum

The NMDC office will be moving to the V&A in December 2006. Contact details in the next newsletter.

## Members' News

### Queen Opens Smith Centre at the Science Museum

On 24 October, as part of Buckingham Palace's Science Day celebrations, the Queen opened the Smith Centre at the Science Museum, a pioneering new facility for promoting Britain's scientific heritage and its relevance to the modern world. The Centre, funded by the Martin Smith Foundation, aims to promote debate on science-related issues and encourage philanthropic support for science.

The Centre will host a range of receptions, talks, conferences and exhibitions. It will also pilot special exhibitions prior to their viewing by the general public. The inaugural exhibition is *The Most Sublime Science: Treasures from the Astronomy Collection*.

The Martin Smith Foundation aims to support people and projects in the arts, sciences and education. Martin Smith is Deputy Chairman of the Science Museum Board of Trustees.

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/corporate\\_commercial/press/ShowPressRelease.asp?Show=432](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/corporate_commercial/press/ShowPressRelease.asp?Show=432)

### Science Day at Buckingham Palace

The Natural History Museum and Science Museum were among the organisations participating in Science Day activities at Buckingham Palace on 24 October. Scientists, students and their teachers were invited to explore interactive displays and experiments highlighting advances in medicine, engineering and space exploration to celebrate Science Day, which aims to inspire enjoyment and excitement in the subject.

Science Day was organised with support from the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, Research Councils UK and the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851. [www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page1729.asp](http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page1729.asp) [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/6079280.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6079280.stm)

### **National Gallery Wins RIBA Conservation Award**

The National Gallery's Grade 1 listed East Wing and Central Portico, by architects Dixon Jones with Purcell Miller Tritton, has won this year's special RIBA Crown Estate Conservation Award for the best work of conservation which demonstrates successful restoration or adaptation of an architecturally significant building.

The project has transformed the National Gallery entrance into a series of linked spaces; provided direct access to Trafalgar Square and enhanced the historic interior.

[www.architecture.com/go/Architecture/Also/Awards\\_4029.html](http://www.architecture.com/go/Architecture/Also/Awards_4029.html)

### **New Look for National Museums Scotland**

National Museums of Scotland has introduced a new naming structure and brand to improve awareness of its role and five museums. This follows consultation with visitors, stakeholders, staff and Trustees and is part of a wider programme of strategic change aimed at improving services and communications.

The umbrella title of the organisation is now National Museums Scotland and a new corporate logo replaces six museum logos. The Royal Museum and the Museum of Scotland on Chambers Street jointly become the National Museum of Scotland. The Museum of Flight becomes the National Museum of Flight; the Museum of Scottish Country Life becomes the National Museum of Rural Life; Shambellie House Museum of Costume becomes the National Museum of Costume; the National War Museum of Scotland becomes the National War Museum and the Granton Centre becomes the National Museums Collection Centre. [www.nms.ac.uk/ournewlook.aspx](http://www.nms.ac.uk/ournewlook.aspx)

### **20th Century London Online**

Exploring 20th Century London [www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk](http://www.20thcenturylondon.org.uk) offers an online encyclopaedia of some 8000 objects which tell the story of the capital in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The website draws on the collections of four London museums - Museum of London, London's Transport Museum, the Jewish Museum and the Museum of Croydon - to explore the rich diversity of city life.

The project is a collaborative initiative, funded by the MLA Designation Challenge Fund and the London Museums' Hub. The website contains images, artefacts, sound files and database records which tell of life in the city and its many communities. Its launch coincides with renovation work at London's Transport Museum and as the Museum of London prepares to start work next year on Capital City, an £18 million redevelopment of its lower galleries, retelling the story of London and Londoners from 1666 to the present day. [www.molq.org.uk](http://www.molq.org.uk)

### **Improving Facilities at National Library of Scotland**

Refurbishment to improve facilities for visitors is under way at the National Library of Scotland. Redevelopment work at the George IV Bridge Building will result in:

- an open-access visitor centre on the ground floor, where visitors will be able to browse catalogues and collections online and register for a reader's ticket. Items from the collections will be on display and a new shop and café will be created.
- dedicated space for material from the John Murray Archive, with a permanent exhibition space and a multimedia area for interpretation of the Archive and cultural and educational events.

Also in progress are developments to the reading room and to facilities for people with disabilities. Work is due to complete in May 2007. [www.nls.uk/news/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/news/index.html)

### **Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales Invites Public Debate**

A Public Open Day at Swansea's National Waterfront Museum, held on Saturday 21 October, marks a new development in the way Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales actively encourages people to have their say on the work of the organisation. Visitors were given the opportunity to debate ideas and themes with senior staff and to discuss Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales' Annual Report.

The Museum is developing a series of Public Open Days to provide an opportunity for people discuss its work and the future direction of the Museum. [www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article\\_id=307](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=307)

### **End of Empire Gallery at Royal Marines Museum**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, the Royal Marines Museum opened its refurbished *End of Empire* gallery, covering the period from the end of the Second World War to the end of the Falklands Campaign. The refurbishment allows more artefacts to be displayed, including medals, weapons, maps and uniforms and a pair of renovated Swiss-built anti-aircraft guns, captured by Royal Marines at Port Said during the Suez Conflict in November 1956. [www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk](http://www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk)

### **Enhanced Online Prints and Drawings Catalogue at National Maritime Museum**

The National Maritime Museum's online Prints and Drawings Catalogue has been re-launched to provide improved access to over 60,000 records and nearly 20,000 digital images. The online catalogue contains records for all items in the collection, which can be searched by artist, title, subject, place, event and other keywords. Some of the prints and drawings in this catalogue are also available in [Collections Online](#), which features in-depth descriptions of objects and links to other objects within the NMM collection. [www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/prints/](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/collections/prints/)

### **Meet the Chief Executive at National Archives**

The National Archives is holding a 'Meet the Chief Executive' day on Thursday 16 November. Natalie Ceeney will hold surgeries in each of the main reading rooms at Kew. This is an opportunity to put views or questions to her about the management and future direction of The National Archives. The surgeries will be held on a first-come-first-served basis, no advance booking needed.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/126.htm?homelink=news](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/126.htm?homelink=news)

### **Michael Dixon appointed Interim Chief Scientific Advisor**

Dr Michael Dixon, Director of the Natural History Museum, has been appointed Interim Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for DCMS, with the role of scoping the position in anticipation of DCMS appointing a CSA in 2007. Following an initial 3 month period of consultation with key players in DCMS and sponsored bodies, Dr Dixon will produce a report by March 2007, including a job description and specification. DCMS science strategy is at: [www.culture.gov.uk/about\\_us/science.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/about_us/science.htm)

### **Head of International Slavery Museum Appointed**

National Museums Liverpool has announced the appointment of Richard Benjamin as Head of the International Slavery Museum. Richard will play a key part in the development of the new museum, due to open in 2007, the bicentenary of the abolition of the British Slave Trade.

Richard was previously Community Consultation Co-coordinator for National Museums Liverpool.

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=587&venue=0](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/about/news/newsarticle.asp?id=587&venue=0)

### **Velson Horie Joins the British Library**

Velson Horie, former Keeper of Conservation at the Manchester Museum, has been appointed Project Manager for two conservation research projects funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation. The projects, in partnership with the National Libraries of Wales and Scotland, Oxford and Cambridge University Libraries, the library of Trinity College Dublin, The National Archives and the National Archives of Scotland and academic partners, will assess copies of the same books held in different libraries to relate their condition to differences in storage environments. More details at:

[www.bl.uk/about/collectioncare/consresearch.html](http://www.bl.uk/about/collectioncare/consresearch.html)

### **Appointment at RAF Museum**

The RAF Museum has appointed Mr Alex Medhurst as General Manager of its Cosford, Shropshire site. Mr Medhurst previously held the position of General Manager at Blists Hill Victorian Town, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. He joins the Museum at a crucial stage in the development of the new National Cold war Exhibition, due to open in 2007. [www.rafmuseum.org/cosford/index.cfm](http://www.rafmuseum.org/cosford/index.cfm)

## **Current Issues**

### **MLA Report on Renaissance in the Regions**

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has published the results of the first phase of Renaissance in the Regions, its £150 million programme to transform England's regional museums, raise standards and make them fit for the 21st century. Achievements include:

- The number of visits to Hub museums exceeded 13 million in 2005-6, an increase of 5.3% since 2002-03.
- By 2008, approximately £31m will have been invested in collections, and by 2008, at least 580 new posts will have been created, 188 of them curatorial posts.
- Over the past three years school visits by children (5-16 yrs) increased by nearly 19%. In the same period there has been a 90% increase in the number of children participating in organised activities at Hub museums outside school and a seven-fold (663.6%) increase children participating in outreach activities organised by Hub museums off site.

[www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/renaissance/hub\\_data/](http://www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/renaissance/hub_data/)

## Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has published a document setting out its priorities for England's museums over the next decade. *Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums* highlights priorities in five key areas:

- fulfilling potential as a learning resource;
- fostering, exploring, celebrating and questioning the identities of diverse communities;
- more dynamic and better used collections;
- a workforce that is highly skilled and representative and
- closer work between museums and with partners outside the sector.

This document is the second in a three-stage process to set priorities for museums in England and the public programmes that support them. At the beginning of 2006 a collaborative working group was set up to look at responses to the DCMS 2005 consultation paper *Understanding the Future: Museums and 21st Century Life*, and use them to form the basis of a national strategy. The latest document is based on the working group's conclusions. The document has been issued as a consultation paper, and the consultation process will include seminars on each of the key themes. Following this consultation, MLA will lead on development of an action plan to implement the strategy across the museum sector. Responses to the document are invited by **19 January 2007**.

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Consultations/2006\\_current\\_consultations/cons\\_of\\_pem.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2006_current_consultations/cons_of_pem.htm)

## Secretary of State's Speech to Museums Association Conference

Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, used her speech to the Museums Association Conference to praise museums for reaching out beyond an 'elite' audience, engaging more with people from the regions and schoolchildren, increasing visitor numbers and working with more volunteers. She said that in the UK, "the popularity of museums has never been higher.... This is wonderful news, and reflects the hard work, energy and commitment of many of the people in this [sector]. And it marks a real leap forward for the museums sector, compared with five years ago".

Launching the DCMS consultation *Understanding the Future: Priorities for England's Museums* Ms Jowell urged museums to be 'at the heart' of their communities and said they should do more to engage with academics, make their collections more dynamic and useful, and recruit staff from a broader pool of talent. The anniversary of the abolition of slavery next year would be a focal point, while the 2012 Olympics would be "the opportunity of a lifetime" which the sector has to create and shape itself.

She concluded by saying that "Museums are far more than just repositories of the past; they are also beacons of learning and mutual understanding for our future. I want to make sure that museums have the resources they need to really reach out to the communities they serve; and the ability, diversity and energy they need to actualise their vitally important role in our society. We must see our museums as channels for cultural foreign policy, channels which keep dialogue open at home and abroad, where other routes sometimes break down".

## Consortium to Manage £40 Million Legacy Trust UK Announced

Legacy Trust UK Consortium has been selected by the Millennium Commission, DCMS, Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England as the preferred candidate to establish a new charitable Trust to support cultural and sporting initiatives throughout the UK associated with the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

When it is established next year, Legacy Trust UK will receive a £40 million endowment (£34 million from The National Lottery and £6 million from the Exchequer) to be spent up to and including 2012 on a UK wide programme of projects to:

- promote the Olympic and Paralympic ideals celebrating mind, body and spirit;
- foster innovation and creativity;
- strengthen the creative and technical skills base across the UK;
- encourage a joined-up approach across sport, physical activity, culture and education;
- offer young people and diverse communities the opportunity to fully participate in the build up and delivery of the wider vision for the Games in 2012, and
- leave a lasting positive legacy of the 2012 Games for future generations.

One of the projects it is intended that the Legacy Trust will fund is the UK School Games.

Legacy Trust UK Consortium comprises the City of London, Business in the Community, East London Business Alliance, TimeBank and Yorkshire Forward. The Trust is not currently seeking grant applications.

[www.millennium.gov.uk/news/](http://www.millennium.gov.uk/news/)

### **Demos Report - Knowledge and Inspiration: the democratic face of culture**

Produced in partnership with The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), *Knowledge and Inspiration: the democratic face of culture* looks at the changing face of our museums, libraries and archives. The report articulates the public value of the sector, drawing on examples from both national and regional museums. [www.demos.co.uk/publications/knowledgeandinspiration](http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/knowledgeandinspiration)

### **National Trust Report: Museums: Policy From Practice**

A National Trust report *Museums: Policy From Practice* highlights the challenges facing museums and makes recommendations to address them. The Trust is the largest provider of museums in the country and cares for more than a million artefacts.

*Museums: Policy From Practice* shows how museums promote scholarship, inspire understanding of different cultures, provide vital educational services and contribute to urban and rural regeneration. The Trust recommends that the museum sector to develop and use consistent methodologies for understanding the social contribution of museums and their public value. The report calls on the government to look at the possibility of a permanent endowment to care for national collections and to offer tax incentives to retain collections and support the gifting of works to the nation.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/webpack/bin/webpack.exe/livebase?object=LiveBase1&itemurn=2009&mode=wbFullItem](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/webpack/bin/webpack.exe/livebase?object=LiveBase1&itemurn=2009&mode=wbFullItem)

### **HLF Fund for Acquisitions**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced an investment of £3 million, to be allocated in 2007-2008, to support acquisitions, the development of curatorial skills, research and increased activities for the public by registered museums and galleries in the UK. Grants from £50,000 up to a maximum of £200,000 will be available to individual museums and galleries or small consortia with a shared collecting interest. Up to 20 projects around the UK could be funded through this initiative.

HLF will consult on detailed proposals for this initiative from November 2006 to February 2007 and the scheme is likely to be launched in April 2007. HLF will continue to consider applications for individual acquisitions under its generic grants programmes, along with projects that increase the use, relevance and care of collections. Acquisitions must be at least 10 years-old to be eligible for HLF support.

[www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Museums+and+galleries.htm](http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/Museums+and+galleries.htm)

### **Significance Scheme for Scottish Museums and Galleries**

The national importance of collections held by Scotland's non-national museums and galleries is to be recognised through the Significance Scheme, which will ensure that important collections are identified, cared for, protected and promoted to a wider audience.

The scheme is funded by the Scottish Executive, which will invest an additional £500,000 a year for the next two years in Scotland's non-national museums and galleries. The Significance Committee will oversee the recognition of collections of national significance and advise on the dispersal of grants from the fund and the scheme will be managed by the Scottish Museums Council

[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/10/26113251](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/10/26113251)

### **New Collecting Scheme for Regional Museums**

The Art Fund has launched a new initiative, *Enriching Regions*, targeted at the UK's poorest regions for collecting, which makes up to £45,000 per region available to museums in the East Midlands, East of England and West Midlands to help develop their collections. The scheme, made possible with funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, allows museums to apply for up to 100% of the cost of the work (minimum grant of £2,000), but priority will be given to those museums that find local funding.

In a similar initiative in 2003, £100,000 helped nine museums in Northern Ireland acquire 29 new objects for their collections. An additional £50,000 was earmarked in April 2006, which has awarded grants to another four museums. *Enriching Regions* runs from 1 November 2006 – 1 November 2007.

[www.artfund.org/news/487](http://www.artfund.org/news/487)

The scheme is a response to research, published in *The Collecting Challenge: The Art Fund Museum Survey 2006*, which found that many museums are no longer actively collecting. The full report is now available at: [www.artfund.org/pdf/CollectingChallengeFullReport.pdf](http://www.artfund.org/pdf/CollectingChallengeFullReport.pdf)

### **Fund for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Young People**

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has announced that there will be another round of funding from its Fund for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Young People, which encourages projects to help vulnerable 11-18 year olds become integrated in mainstream provision. [www.phf.org.uk/refugee&asylum.htm](http://www.phf.org.uk/refugee&asylum.htm)

### **24 Hour Museum Links with VisitBritain**

Visitors to VisitBritain's promotional websites will be able to find information on museum and gallery events and exhibitions as a result of a data-sharing partnership between the 24 Hour Museum and VisitBritain. From next spring, the 24 Hour Museum will share its events database with [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com) and its 46 websites in 23 languages. This will make information about events at museums and galleries during Museums and Galleries Month, and throughout the year, visible to more than 15 million people around the world.

The 24 Hour Museum has 3,700 UK institutions registered on its database. Organisations can enter their own event information and update it as it changes. The new partnership means that information entered onto the 24 Hour Museum site will be automatically available to international audiences.

For more information on entering data on the 24 Hour Museum contact [dde@24hourmuseum.org.uk](mailto:dde@24hourmuseum.org.uk). [www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh\\_gfx\\_en/ART41049.html](http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART41049.html)

### **Volunteering in Museums**

A new report *Exhibiting Support: developing volunteering in museums* has been published by the Institute of Volunteering Research (IVR). The report draws out the learning and key lessons from a programme, funded by the Baring Foundation, to provide grants to three museums to enhance the involvement of volunteers. The review focuses on some of the issues facing museums and their volunteer programmes including diversity, volunteer management and sustainability. [www.ivr.org.uk/](http://www.ivr.org.uk/)

### **Charles Darwin's Works Online**

The complete works of Charles Darwin are being published online in a three year project, run by Cambridge University. The first phase is now available online and contains more than 50,000 pages of text and 40,000 images of original publications, all of which are searchable.

Works available include a field notebook from Darwin's Beagle voyage to the Galapagos Islands, first editions of the *Journal of Researches* (1839), *The Descent of Man* (1871), *The Zoology of the Voyage of HMS Beagle* (1838-43) and the editions of the *Origin Of Species*. More works are being added and at present the site contains about half of the materials that will be online by 2009, the bicentenary of Darwin's birth. [darwin-online.org.uk/](http://darwin-online.org.uk/)

### **Copying Ordnance Survey Maps**

The Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance (LACA) has concluded an agreement with Ordnance Survey (OS) to clarify the conditions under which librarians and archivists may copy OS maps. Librarians and archivists within 'prescribed libraries and archives' (defined by the library and archive copying regulations, SI 1989/1212, including all archives in the UK and any library or archive within a museum) are now permitted to copy from OS copyright paper and electronic mapping for users without specific licensing under terms similar to fair dealing copying. The Agreement takes effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 and will be reviewed in December 2009. Further details and conditions are available at: [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/business/copyright/libraries.html](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/business/copyright/libraries.html)

### **New National Office Structure for Arts Council England**

Arts Council England has published the new structure for its national office following a major review of its strategic national functions. The new structure is designed to enhance the organisation's ability to provide national leadership and planning, build new partnerships and make a stronger case for the arts. Four new teams will be created:

- Arts Strategy - delivering national leadership and an international overview for the arts and art forms; developing new policy and strategy and encouraging greater participation in the arts
- Arts Planning and Investment – developing investment strategies for funding programmes and taking an overview of project delivery and information management
- Advocacy and Communications – bringing a sharper central campaigning focus to the Arts Council's communications across the organisation
- Resources – guaranteeing operational delivery across the organisation, providing leadership on finance, human resources, information technology and corporate governance

The annual savings as a result of the changes will be approximately £1.8 million. An additional review of staff numbers and the structure of shared services, such as Finance and IT, across the organisation will follow in 2007. [www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press\\_detail.php?browse=recent&id=723](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/pressnews/press_detail.php?browse=recent&id=723)

## **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities, has outlined her vision for the future focus and direction of Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). From the beginning of October, DCLG focuses on its role as the "Department of place". She said that "Community, opportunity and prosperity" were the themes at the heart of the department's work and that her vision is "of prosperous and cohesive communities, offering a safe, healthy and sustainable environment for all."

[www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503539](http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503539)

## **Parliamentary Report**

### **MPs debate Museums and Galleries (Funding)**

MPs held an adjournment debate on 11 October to debate funding for museums and galleries.

Conservative MP Patrick Cormack acknowledged that progress had been made in funding museums and galleries, but claimed that British museums and galleries were facing a crisis, with the possibility of funding cuts. He pointed out that there had been no funds earmarked for acquisitions since 1993. While welcoming the increase in the National Heritage Memorial Fund's budget - from £5 million to £10 million - he claimed that it was inadequate in view of the soaring art prices. He called for more funding for acquisitions and an extension of the Acceptance in Lieu scheme.

Mark Fisher MP highlighted the need for museums and galleries to collect contemporary art, noting that the Contemporary Art Society acquisition scheme expired last year and has not been replaced.

Culture Minister David Lammy defended the Government's record on investment in museums, pointing out that funding had increased since 1997. He insisted that collections and acquisitions were the "raison d'être" of British museums and galleries and acknowledged that Mr Cormack was "right to highlight the issue of acquisitions and to raise matters about which museums feel keenly". He emphasised that acquisitions could not be looked at in isolation and reiterated that DCMS had increased spending on museums from £205 million in 1997 to £294 million.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm061011/debtext/61011-0022.htm#0610116600002](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm061011/debtext/61011-0022.htm#0610116600002)

### **Lords Debate on Funding for Museums and Galleries**

The Lords held a debate on funding for museums and galleries on 30 October.

Lord Howarth of Newport opened the debate and proposed a number of measures including: a scheme to support acquisitions of contemporary art, funded by the Arts Council Lottery; introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities to support museums and galleries and a cultural component in the revenue support grant system; changes to the Acceptance in Lieu scheme; increased budget for NHMF and a 'Paramount List' identifying key works of art which the government would commit to supplying the funds to purchase in order to retain them in the UK.

Other speakers highlighted the issues of VAT on unbound manuscripts; the system of export controls on works of art; proposed funding cuts; loss of revenue from admissions; rising values in the art market; allocating a fund for acquisitions from Unclaimed Assets and tax incentives to donate works of art to public museums and galleries.

In response, Lord Evans of Temple Guiting said that the Government could not compete with private art investors to ensure that every key work of art remained in the country. He insisted that museums and galleries should make the most of existing Treasury tax concessions.

Lord Evans reiterated that the Government's policy on arts remained an arms length one and that it was important for those taking decisions on which works to purchase to be based in galleries and museums. He concluded by saying that the debate had "not heard a word of criticism about our museums and galleries. There is a general view that they are run by brilliant directors and have terrific dedicated staff. I should like to finish by paying tribute to those people who are giving us a better museum and gallery service than anywhere else in the world".

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/61030-gc0003.htm#0610308500002](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/61030-gc0003.htm#0610308500002)

### **Select Committee Hearings on Caring for our Collections**

The Culture, Media and Sport Parliamentary Select Committee has started its enquiry into 'Caring for our Collections'. The first Committee hearing, on Tuesday 10 October, heard from the Museums' Association, National Gallery, British Museum and the Victoria & Albert Museum. Issues raised included the success of the *Renaissance Programme*; DCMS' consultation on *Understanding the Future*; issues surrounding collections and disposals; funding for acquisitions and the impact of the London Olympics. The second hearing was held on 31 October with evidence from the British Library, The National Archives, the British Film Institute and others. [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcmds.htm#evid](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcmds.htm#evid)

### **Impact of Funding for the 2012 Olympic Games on Arts Funding**

In a written response to a question asked by Susan Kramer on the possible effect of funding for the 2012 Olympics on resources allocated to the theatre and the arts, David Lammy responded:

"It is too early to say with any certainty what effect funding the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will have on the arts, including theatre. The overwhelming majority of funding for theatre in England comes from Exchequer funding. It is not anticipated that this will be materially affected by staging the Games.

In terms of Lottery, Non-Olympic distributors such as Arts Council England may lose an average of 5 per cent. of their income because of sales diversion to Olympic Lottery games over the period 2005-06—2012-13. In addition, we have already announced that £410 million will be taken from non-Olympic Lottery proceeds between 2009 and 2012. No decision has been made about how that amount will be shared between the various non-Olympic good causes".

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm061012/text/61012w0003.htm#0610133600047](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm061012/text/61012w0003.htm#0610133600047)

### **Treasure Act**

The House of Lords debated the draft Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (Second Revision) on 24 October. The Code is being revised to reflect that certain administrative responsibilities relating to the valuation of finds of treasure and the payment of rewards are to be transferred from DMCS to the British Museum. Lord Redesdale expressed concern about need to enforce the Act and raise awareness of it. He also argued that funding for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) must be protected. Lord Renfrew praised the success of the Treasure Act and PAS, and suggested that the Government set aside £1 million a year to fund treasure acquisition.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/index/061024.html](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/index/061024.html)

### **Sevso Silver**

Lord Renfrew raised the issue of the Sevso silver both in the debate on the Treasure Act and in written questions. Responding for the Government, Lord Davies of Oldham said "we are not aware of any proposal by a UK public museum or public institution to acquire or exhibit the Sevso silver." He referred to the DCMS publication, *Combating Illicit Trade: Due Dilligence Guidelines for Museums, Libraries and Archives on Collecting and Borrowing Cultural Material*, which states in its guidelines that if a public institution feels there are any doubts about the legal or ethical status of an object it should not proceed with an acquisition or loan of that object.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/61012w0001.htm#0610124300006](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199697/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds06/text/61012w0001.htm#0610124300006)

## **International Issues**

### **Centre Pompidou to Open in Shanghai**

The Art Newspaper reports that the Centre Pompidou, Paris is planning to open a museum in the district of LuWan in Shanghai, China by the end of 2007. A 1908 building will be converted to house the museum and will be complemented by a new building, expected to open in 2009.

20th and 21st century art will be exhibited at the new museum, including works from Paris, as well as other exhibits with links to China. It is understood that the Centre Pompidou will not be responsible for construction or operating costs at the new museum. [www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=490](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=490)

In Eastern France work is due to start on the new Centre Pompidou-Metz, designed by the Japanese architect Shigeru Ban. [www.centrepompidou-metz.com/site/en/nav/accueil](http://www.centrepompidou-metz.com/site/en/nav/accueil)

### **J. Paul Getty Museum Announces Revised Acquisitions Policy**

The J. Paul Getty Museum has announced a strengthened art acquisition policy, which adopts November 17, 1970 - the date on which the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property was signed - as the key date for determining whether an ancient work of art or archaeological material can be considered for acquisition. The Getty's previous policy required objects to be from "established, well-documented collections" and published before 1995. The new policy brings the Getty's acquisition practices into alignment with stricter guidelines adopted by museums in the United Kingdom. [www.getty.edu/about/governance/policies.html](http://www.getty.edu/about/governance/policies.html).

### **Attorney General Report on Getty Trust Published**

The California attorney general has published a report into its investigation of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The report criticises former Getty president Barry Munitz for violating his duty and Getty's trustees for failing to do their governance job. In addition, a former Attorney General will serve as independent monitor of the Trust for two years, to provide ongoing oversight. [www.theartnewspaper.com/ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1376&PHPSESSID=5b5d30c4a0009124ceea87cd95682fa8](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1376&PHPSESSID=5b5d30c4a0009124ceea87cd95682fa8)

### **MoMA and Metropolitan Opera Lead Arts Donations in 2005**

Bloomberg reports that according to a Chronicle of Philanthropy survey the Museum of Modern Art raised more money in 2005 from private sources - \$239.2 million - than any other not-for-profit museum in the U.S. The Metropolitan Opera received the most donations - \$93.4 million - among performing arts institutions.

The 20 arts and cultural organisations included in the top 400 recipients of donations in the U.S. received \$1.5 billion in 2005, a 10.6% decline since 2004. 129 educational institutions received \$15.6 billion in donations, a 12.9% increase on 2004. About 37 social-service charities got \$15.5 billion in donations in 2005, a 39.5% increase on the previous year.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, had the second-largest total of donations among museums and libraries with \$210.2 million, a 12% drop from the previous year. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington received \$163.7 million, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York \$96.4 million and the American Museum of Natural History at \$84.4 million.

[www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=a.sXG8\\_NTY14&refer=home](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601088&sid=a.sXG8_NTY14&refer=home)

### **US Law Restricts Partial Gifts**

The American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors and other groups are lobbying the Senate Finance Committee to revise a new law that restricts tax benefits for donors of fractional gifts, fearing that it could result in a drop in donations of works of art.

In the past, collectors could donate part of a work of art to a museum, with the remainder passing to the museum by a set date or on the donor's death. If the donor gave a 25% share, the work would be available to the museum for three months a year (an offer a museum did not have to take up) and could remain at the collector's home the rest of the time. The donor was entitled to a tax deduction on the donated percentage of the market value of the work of art each time an increment was given. If the value increased, so did the deduction.

Under the new Pensions Protection Act 2006, donors cannot increase deductions in line with the value of the works and if the value falls, fractional deductions must reflect this. It also requires the museum to acquire complete ownership of the work within ten years, or at the donor's death if sooner, and to take "substantial physical possession" of the item during the ten years. Donors failing to comply with the new law must repay previous tax deductions on the gift, plus interest and a 10% penalty.

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=466](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article01.asp?id=466)

### **U.S. Delays Rule on Limits to Chinese Art Imports**

The US State Department has delayed its decision on a request from China that the United States strictly limit imports of Chinese art and antiquities. In 2004 China asked the United States to impose import restrictions on art and decorative objects from the prehistoric period to the early 20th century, arguing that the American market for antiquities was spurring the looting of important sites in China.

In recent years the State Department has negotiated treaties with 11 nations to restrict imports of artefacts. [www.theartnewspaper.com](http://www.theartnewspaper.com)

### **High Museum to Exhibit Ghiberti's Gates of Paradise**

Days after opening the first exhibition in a three-year partnership with the Louvre, Paris, the High Museum in Atlanta has announced that it will host an exhibition of three newly restored panels from Lorenzo Ghiberti's *Gates of Paradise* from the Baptistery in Florence.

The exhibition will open in Atlanta in April 2007 and is scheduled to travel to the Art Institute of Chicago and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Once returned to Florence, the *Gates of Paradise* panels will be reassembled in their original framework and placed in a specially designed, sealed case in the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Florence.

[www.high.org/uploadedFiles/overview/newsroom/GhibertiReleaseFINAL.pdf](http://www.high.org/uploadedFiles/overview/newsroom/GhibertiReleaseFINAL.pdf)

### **Bode Museum Reopens**

The Bode Museum, which houses Berlin's sculpture collection, the Museum of Byzantine Art and Numismatic Collection, has opened after six years of restoration. The Museum is the second building on Berlin's Museum Island to be refurbished. The UNESCO World Heritage Site, which suffered severe damage during World War II, is being renovated in a government funded \$1.5-billion project. The Alte Nationalgalerie, which houses a collection of 19th century art, reopened in 2001.

[www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/news/details.php?lang=en&objID=11774&typeID=12](http://www.smb.spk-berlin.de/smb/news/details.php?lang=en&objID=11774&typeID=12)

### **Austria Publishes Database of Art with Uncertain Provenance 1933-1945**

A database of objects in museums and collections owned by the Austrian government and the city of Vienna whose origin during the period 1933-1945 is unknown, has been launched. It has been put together by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism in cooperation with museums and special commissions to trace the origins of artwork obtained or lost during Nazi rule.

Descriptions of about 7,500 objects have been entered into the database, with more to be added as research results come in. The database is at: [www.kunstrestitution.at](http://www.kunstrestitution.at)

## **Forthcoming Meetings**

### **Leadership Working Group**

Thursday 9 November, 10am, National Maritime Museum

### **PR Group**

Thursday 9 November, 11am, British Library

### **UK Affairs Committee**

Wednesday 15 November, 2pm, Tate Britain

### **NMDC meeting**

Friday 1 December, 11am, Imperial War Museum

### **HR Forum**

Friday 8 December, National Maritime Museum

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email Zoë Nasatyr at [nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk](mailto:nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk)

**[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)**

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The NMDC office will be moving to the Victoria and Albert Museum in December 2006. Our new contact details will be included in the next newsletter