

newsletter

Issue 63

December 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

NMDC News

New NMDC Chairman

Mark Jones, Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, takes over as chair of NMDC from 1 December. Mark has been a member of the Conference since 1992 when he became Director of the National Museums of Scotland. Robert Crawford, Director of the Imperial War Museum has served as chair of NMDC for six years. During his chairmanship NMDC has developed its role as a leading voice in the museum sector, participating in the launch of the *Manifesto for Museums* in 2004 and the joint cultural sector statement, *Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture*, in 2006.

Job Opportunity – NMDC Secretary Maternity Cover

NMDC is looking for an exceptional candidate to take over as Secretary, from March 2007, when Emily Candler goes on maternity leave. This is an exciting opportunity for someone interested in developing a detailed understanding of a broad range of museum policy issues.

The Secretary is responsible for the planning, coordination and delivery of all activity, meetings and joint initiatives of the NMDC, for providing members and their staff with up to date information on policy and funding issues, representing them, as required, in the wider museum sector, and managing NMDC resources.

The closing date for applications is: **Wednesday 3 January**

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 17 January.

Full details and a job description will be at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/vacancies.html

NMDC – New Contact Details

The NMDC office is moving to the Victoria and Albert Museum on 18 December. Our new contact details will be:

Emily Candler, Secretary

e.candler@vam.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7942 2817

Suzie Tucker, Executive Assistant

s.tucker@vam.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7942 2818

The new email address for comments and contributions to the **NMDC newsletter** is:

news@nationalmuseums.org.uk

National Museum Directors' Conference

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Celebrating Five Years of Free Admission

On 1 December 2006, National Museums celebrate the 5th anniversary of the introduction of free admission, which gives everyone the chance to visit a museum as and when they chose, for as long or short a time as they wish. To mark the occasion, celebrities, Ministers and local MPs have been invited to take a five minute treasure tour of the top exhibits at National Museums. Treasures range from the Cheapside Hoard at the Museum of London to Picasso's *Weeping Woman* at Tate Modern, the Magna Carta at the British Library and Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* at the National Gallery.

Mark Jones, Director of the V&A and Chairman of the NMDC said: "Free admission is a great British success story. The V&A has never felt more alive or been more widely enjoyed than now. Since the introduction of free admission, visitor numbers have more than doubled to over two million, with half of those visitors coming to the V&A for the first time."

Tessa Jowell said: "These are incredible figures. They completely vindicate our decision to put free admission at the heart of our cultural policy since 1997. There is a real appetite for serious culture in this country - when the obstacle of entry fees is swept away, people come in their millions."

The DCMS has published new visitor figures for National Museums, which show:

- An 83% increase in total visits to former charging museums since 2001, representing an additional 6.5 million visits in 2006, making it the best year ever for admissions nationally,
- Visits to the former charging national museums in London up by 86% on 2001, with visits to the V&A up 138%, the Natural History Museum by 112% and the Science Museum by 81%,
- Visits to DCMS sponsored museums outside London up by 75%, with National Museums Liverpool up by 138%, the Zoological Museum in Tring by 81% and the National Railway Museum in York by 63%.

Figures also show that visits to national museums that have always been free, such as the National Gallery and the British Museum, rose by 8% the same period. www.culture.gov.uk

Members' News

DCMS Sponsorship of the Museum of London to be Devolved to Greater London Authority

The Government is to devolve its responsibilities for the Museum of London to the Greater London Authority (GLA), following a public consultation. The Museum of London is currently co-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the City of London Corporation, with the Prime Minister and the City each appointing half of the Museum's Board of Governors. Under the new proposals, the roles of DCMS and the Prime Minister will pass to the GLA and the Mayor of London.

The change follows a request made by Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, in his response to the 2005 Government proposals for additional powers and responsibilities for the Mayor of London and the GLA, for the GLA to be given greater responsibility for the Museum of London. The *Consultation Paper on Future Sponsorship Arrangements for the Museum of London* generated 157 responses.

The mayor welcomed the move, saying that he and the GLA would "work closely with both the Museum of London's staff and the City of London to raise the profile of this great organisation and ensure its future success."

Provisions to transfer the Government's sponsorship of the museum are described in clauses 41-45 of the Greater London Authority Bill, introduced into parliament on 28 November, which will implement many of the recommendations of the GLA Review, including granting the GLA enhanced powers in housing, planning, health, climate change, energy and culture.

The consultation also asked whether responsibility for the Horniman Museum and Gardens and the Geffrye Museum should be transferred from DCMS to the GLA. After considering responses received, Secretary of State Tessa Jowell decided that the two museums will continue to be sponsored by DCMS. www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2006/DCMS139_06.htm

The Bill and Explanatory Note can be found on the Parliament website:

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

National Media Museum

The National Museum of Photography, Film & Television has changed its name to the National Media Museum, to reflect the rapidly changing media world.

The National Media Museum is embarking on a transformation to reflect developments in media and technology and ensure that they are chronicled, recorded and interpreted. Plans for 2007 include:

- The redevelopment of the animation gallery to include digital animation and gaming.
- A new gallery exploring contemporary media issues.
- A virtual museum gallery on the website about the history of the internet.
- Updating the television gallery to reflect important changes and consumer choices in TV.
- Strengthening the Museum's commitment to photography by appointing a Chair of photography; offering bursaries for up-and-coming photographers and setting up an acquisitions committee to maintain the collection's position as one of the best in the world.

In coming years the Museum hopes to develop galleries exploring film heritage, radio, the news gathering process and advertising and to update the photography gallery to reflect recent developments and put more of the Museum's collection on display. www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk

National Gallery Appeals for Information about Cranach Painting

The National Gallery is seeking additional information about the provenance of the painting *Cupid Complaining to Venus* by Lucas Cranach the Elder, which the Gallery recently learnt was acquired in 1945 by Mrs Patricia Lochridge Hartwell, then an American war correspondent. Mrs Hartwell was allowed to take the painting from a warehouse of art controlled by US forces in Southern Germany. No information about the painting's ownership prior to its acquisition by Mrs Hartwell has been uncovered.

The entry for the painting on the National Gallery's online List of Works with Incomplete Provenance during the period 1933-45 has been updated to reflect the new information. The National Gallery bought *Cupid Complaining to Venus* in 1963 from the New York dealers, E & A Silbermann. The provenance stated it came to them from the sale of the collection of Emil Goldschmidt from Frankfurt - which was auctioned in Berlin in 1909. www.nationalgallery.org.uk/collection/news/newsitems/restitution.htm

Museum of Childhood Reopens on 9 December

The Museum of Childhood will reopen to the public on 9 December 2006, following a £4.7m redevelopment designed by Caruso St. John architects, which started in October 2005. The 130-year-old building has been restored to its Victorian glory, with a new entrance and gallery for community projects. The galleries and displays have been updated, educational spaces expanded and the Museum is now accessible to all visitors. www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

Imperial War Museum and Old Vic Somme Theatre Project

A new play to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme has been performed at the Imperial War Museum, London as part of Somme Theatre, a community project run in partnership with the Old Vic and local community groups and schools.

The, which play explores life on the front line and home front, was performed by local school children and people from community groups working with professional actors. Rehearsals included sessions on army life during the First World War and looking at material from the Museum's archives.

Somme Theatre is the first partnership of its kind between The Old Vic and Imperial War Museum and was made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and other supporters.

www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.4272

Tourism Awards for National Museums

The **Imperial War Museum North** has been awarded the Large Attraction of the Year prize at the 2006 England's Northwest Tourism Awards. The judges were impressed by the broad appeal of the museum, its excellent facilities for groups and families and its volunteer programme.

north.iwm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.4276

The **National Portrait Gallery** won Visit London's Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2006 and **Tate Modern** and The Lion King were declared joint winners of the Peoples' Choice Evening Standard Entertainment Award. corporate.visitlondon.com/press_centre/press_releases/061124_award_winners.html

Regional winners will represent their regions at the VisitBritain national Awards in April 2007.

Public Invited to Display their Favourite Toys at the Science Museum

The public are invited to bring their favourite childhood toys to be exhibited at the Science Museum, alongside science toys from its collections. Visitors will be asked to write an exhibit label, explaining what their toy means to them and why it should be on display at the Science Museum. Toys can be brought in any weekend between until 10 December 2006 and will be on display until late January.

Playing with Science... your favourite toys aims to make the Museum more accessible by inviting the public to take ownership of the Museum space together with curators and other Museum professionals. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/corporate/commercial/press>ShowPressRelease.asp?Show=433

British Library English Short Title Catalogue Available at No Charge

The English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), which provides bibliographic records for all known British printed material before 1801, is now freely available to researchers. The Catalogue was established in 1977 to create a machine-readable bibliography of books, serials, pamphlets and other ephemera printed in English-speaking countries, based on the collections of over 1,600 institutions world-wide. It is an international venture with editorial offices at the British Library and the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research at the University of California, Riverside. estc.bl.uk

Natural History Museum to Return Human Remains

The Natural History Museum's Board of Trustees has decided to transfer the remains of 18 aboriginal people to the Australian Government. The decision was taken in line with advice from its Human Remains Advisory Panel (NHMHRAP). The Trustees also accepted the panel's advice that the Natural History Museum should complete collection of data from the remains prior to their return.

[Read the full human remains statement.](#)

Museum of London Display Space Auctioned on Ebay

The Museum of London has auctioned a square metre of space in the Museum on Ebay, for £720. The purchaser, a student living in Greenwich, will have the opportunity to stage a display representing his London in the museum, until February 2007. www.mol.org.uk/English/NewsRoom/Current/OnlineAuction.htm

New Director of Scholarship and Collections at the British Library

Ronald Milne has been appointed Director of Scholarship and Collections at the British Library, to succeed Dr Clive Field who retires at the end of the year. Ronald was Deputy and then Acting Director, University Library Services at Oxford University. He chairs the National Preservation Office Board and is a board member of the Digital Preservation Coalition and of the Consortium of Research Libraries in the British Isles. www.bl.uk/news/2006/pressrelease20061117.html

British Library Annual Report Wins Second Award

The British Library has received the Accountancy Age award for public sector annual report of the year – for the second year running. The British Library Annual Report 2005-06 was described as 'excellent, engaging ...very easy to understand in its presentation of the key facts.' The online version of the report was also praised. www.bl.uk/news/2006/pressrelease20061116.html

Amgueddfa Cymru — National Museum Wales Awarded Archaeological Book of the Year

The Tomb Builders in Wales has won the Archaeological Book of the Year award, presented every two years for "the most outstanding book that brings archaeology to the widest audience". The book, which explores prehistoric megaliths focusing on the people who made the tombs and the environment in which they lived, was praised for its beautiful production and for the accessibility of its writing. Museum Wales Books won the same prize in 2002 for the book Vikings in Wales, and a commendation in 2004 for the Catalogue of Mesolithic and Neolithic Collections. www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/news/?article_id=315

Current Issues

Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto

The Government's Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto has been launched at the Natural History Museum. A new £2.7million package for schools aims to make learning outside the classroom an integral part of school life and young people's personal development.

The Manifesto sets out specific measures to help schools widen access to high quality educational experiences for every young person, including:

- Creating an independent Council for Learning Outside the Classroom to act as a single voice for learning outside the classroom providers and advise on future policy.
- Encouraging schools to report on learning outside the classroom provision through Ofsted schools' self evaluation form, starting next year.
- 'Out and About' support package for schools with guidance on planning, funding and evaluating learning outside the classroom; a new overarching safety badge for non-school educational providers; new teacher training modules and better information for schools.

A consultation has been launched on new guidance for schools to reassure teachers of their rights and responsibilities and tackle concerns about litigation in the event of accidents.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and links to educational resources for schools are at: www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2006_0175

DCMS Moves

Following Paul Kirkman's recent move to Arts Division, Keith Nichol, currently Head of Museums Education, will take up the role of Deputy Director for Museums, Libraries and Cultural Property at DCMS from 1st December.

MLA Consultation on Prospectus for 2012 Games - Deadline 12 December

The MLA Partnership has extended the deadline for responses to *Setting the Pace*, its prospectus for the sector's contribution towards the 2012 Games.

Setting the Pace outlines the sector's strengths in key themes of the 2012 cultural programme: 'inspiring and engaging the youth of the world' and 'celebrating world cultures and diversity' and presents ideas for the participation of museums, libraries and archives in Games-related activities during the Cultural Olympiad from 2008 to 2012, and to deliver a lasting legacy after the Games. Following further consultation with LOCOG and other cultural partners, the MLA Partnership will publish an offer for the sector's contribution in spring 2007.

The deadline for responses to *Setting the Pace* is now **12 December 2006**.

The document is available at: www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/settingthepace

MLA London has also published a prospectus for museums, libraries and archives in the Capital. This will be developed in partnership with other regions as a national offer. www.mlalondon.org.uk

Government Response to Nurturing Creativity in Young People Report

The Government has responded to the report *Nurturing Creativity in Young People*, which was jointly commissioned by Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Report concluded that while there is a rich array of creativity work in pre and main school activity, more needs to be done to co-ordinate and support it.

The government response sets out the steps that Government will take, including:

- Exploring the idea of Creative Portfolios for young people;
- Building Creativity into Early Years, Extended Schools and Building Schools for the Future;
- Supporting schools to develop partnerships with the Cultural and the Creative Industries;
- Mapping current access and progression routes in creative disciplines and
- Establishing a Creative and Cultural Education Advisory Board.

The new Creative and Cultural Education Advisory Board, jointly sponsored by DCMS and DfES and chaired by the author of the original report, Paul Roberts, will represent the major stakeholders working in this area. It will have responsibility for implementing the actions agreed as part of the Government's response to the Roberts report. The Culture and Creative Education Advisory Board is expected to meet in January 2007. www.dfes.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2006_0169

Treasury Analysis of Long-term Opportunities and Challenges for the UK

The Chancellor has published a report on long-term opportunities and challenges facing the UK, laying the analytical foundations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2006/press_100_06.cfm

Government Response to Select Committee Inquiry on Heritage

The Government has responded to the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee's recent Report *Protecting and Preserving our Heritage*.

www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/12DA916B-D3C8-456E-82DB-9542754066B0/0/Cm6947_ctee_pph.pdf

New Science Minister

Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Minister of Science and Innovation at the Department for Trade and Industry, has retired. He will carry out a review of science and innovation policies across government, to look at what needs to be done to ensure the UK's continued success in wealth creation and scientific policy-making, reporting to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry and Education and Skills.

Malcolm Wicks has moved from his role in energy to become Minister of State for Science and Innovation. DTI Secretary of State Alistair Darling has taken over the energy brief. Lord Truscott becomes a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy.

www.pm.gov.uk/output/page10403.asp?fq=d&tp=n&dt=20061110

Heritage Counts Report

Heritage Counts 2006, English Heritage's annual report on the state of the historic environment, has been published. It highlights the challenges facing public buildings as a result of major changes in the way public services are delivered. www.heritagemeasures.org.uk

Arts Council Public Value Inquiry

Arts Council England has launched the Arts Debate, its first public value inquiry. Through a programme of research and consultation the Arts Council will explore how people value the arts and, by gaining a deeper understanding of what is important to them, become more accountable to the public it serves.

The first stage of the inquiry will be a series of in-depth discussion groups with members of the public across the country, including people who have little or no involvement with the arts. The next stage of the programme will include research with artists, arts organisations and other Arts Council stakeholders.

In the new year a wider public consultation and debate will be opened up through on-line discussion forums and a series of regional events. The inquiry will close in May 2007 and findings will be published in the autumn, with the Arts Council's response and plans for the future. www.artsdebate.org.uk

National Collections Development Strategy for Scotland

The Scottish Museums Council (SMC) has announced a new National Collections Development Strategy which puts people, their inspiration and learning at the heart of the future development of Scotland's museum and gallery sector. The new strategy is designed to engage more people with museum and gallery collections and builds on museums' role in shaping and promoting national and local identity to Scots and visitors.

Over the next three years, museums in Scotland will review their collections, with emphasis on promoting and embracing innovative approaches to engaging visitors.

194.200.63.26/pdfs/Publications/Collections_Development_Strategy.pdf

Welsh Arts Review Published

The Arts review, which was commissioned after Welsh Assembly Members rejected assembly government plans, which included direct funding of the six major arts companies, has been published. It recommends setting up a new arts board with representatives from the arts council, assembly government and other public bodies, and chaired by the Culture Minister, to oversee arts strategy.

The assembly will debate the report on 6 December. new.wales.gov.uk/walesarts/?lang=en

League Table of Museum Art Purchases

The Art Fund has published a report comparing the purchasing power of the UK's major museums with some of their counterparts abroad in 2004-5. The top museums in terms of acquisitions spending were The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (£53.4 million), Museum of Modern Art, New York (£20 million), the Louvre, Paris (£16.8 million) and The Getty, California. In the UK Tate (all sites) spent £4.8 million; the V&A spent £1.3 million and the British Museum spent £761,000.

All the museums polled, excluding the Getty, received government funding and took advantage of tax incentives. Many were also able to draw on money from external funders. Museums placed at the top of the table benefit from multiple tax incentives and/or generous government funding.

www.artfund.org/news/504

Local Government White Paper

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published *Strong and Prosperous Communities - The Local Government White Paper*. It states: 'Our vision is of revitalised local authorities, working with their partners, to reshape public services around the citizens and communities that use them.'

Proposals include: giving local people a more powerful voice to question decisions taken by councils; better and timelier information on the quality of local services; a review of barriers to increasing community management and ownership of under-used assets; and a fund to support local authorities refurbishing assets for transfer to community groups. www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1137789

Overseas Visits to the UK Increase

Provisional statistics show that during July to September 2006, there were 8 million visits to the UK by overseas residents – an increase of 1% compared with the previous three months, and up 10% on the same period in 2005. Spending increased by 13% compared to the same period last year.

In the 12 months ending September 2006 visits by overseas residents to the UK rose 6% compared to 2005, from 29.7 million to 31.6 million. The number of visits from residents of North America increased 6%, from Western Europe 5% and from other parts of the world of 10%.

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/ottnr1106.pdf

MLA Disability Survey

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has published the findings of its 2005 Disability Survey. The results indicate changes since the 2001 survey, with enhanced awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act; service improvement and the development of access provision for disabled people in museums, libraries and archives. The MLA Disability Survey 2005 shows that:

- There has been an increase in the proportion of respondents carrying out formal disability access audits since 2001
- Few disabled people hold positions in management and at board level
- Less than half of respondents (43%) have an access plan for disabled people
- Consultation with disabled people tends to be informal and active consultation is infrequent
- Increased provision for disability access in revenue and capital budgets
- Access information and information in accessible formats is increasingly available, but is insufficient to meet the information needs of disabled people
- Provision of outreach and education programmes for disabled people has increased significantly.

www.mla.gov.uk/website/policy/Diversity/People_With_Disabilities

Promotion for *Night at the Museum* Film

Night at the Museum, a family comedy set in a Natural History Museum, will be promoted in shopping centres across the UK from 17th December. Museums in the area can join the promotional tour for the film by offering family tickets or other give aways. For further information contact ylva@campaignformuseums.org.uk.

Museums may also wish to use the opportunity to promote their late night events, including Museums at Night which takes place on 19 May 2007, during Museums and Galleries Month. www.mgm.org.uk

Grants for Research Workshops

The Arts and Humanities Research Council is inviting applications for grants for research workshops to provide an opportunity for museums, archives, and libraries, and university staff to discuss major arts and humanities research themes, or to focus more directly on the work of museums, archives and libraries. Applicants can apply for up to £20,000 for a series of workshops.

The closing date is **25 January 2007**. Further information is available at www.ahrc.ac.uk/maresearch.

The Conservation Awards 2007 - Call for Entries

Entries are invited for the 2007 Conservation Awards, which will be presented at the British Museum in September next year. The Awards offered this year are:

- Award for Conservation: £15,000. Deadline for applications: **15 December 2006**.
- Award for Care of Collections: now £15,000. Deadline for applications: **15 December 2006**.
- Student Conservator of the Year Award: £10,000. Deadline for applications: **28 February 2007**.
- Digital Preservation Award: £5000. Deadline for applications: **31 March 2007**.
- Anna Plowden Trust Award for Research and Innovation in Conservation: £2,500. Deadline for applications: **31 March 2007**.

More information, online application forms and guidance on how to apply at: www.conservationawards.org.uk

Museums & Heritage Awards for Excellence 2007

The Museums & Heritage Awards recognise best practice within museums, galleries and heritage visitor attractions. Entries are invited for the 2007 Awards in the following categories: Use of Technology; Temporary/Touring Exhibition; Restoration/Conservation; Permanent Exhibition; Marketing Campaign; Project on a Limited Budget; Educational Initiative; The Classic Award; Best New Product or Service; Overall Contribution by an Individual and The Independent Award – by public vote. The results will be announced in May 2007. Further information at: www.museumsandheritage.com/a_entry.asp.

ProjectsETC Website Launched

DCMS has launched a new cultural sector resource, projectsETC, to help improve cultural websites. The website offers case studies, practical guidance and comment on culture and digital technology. It aims to spread best practice and to inspire people to look at interactive technologies in a creative way, by encouraging information-sharing on education, culture and technology between organisations. Subjects covered include web statistics, search engine optimisation and how to make websites accessible. www.projectetc.org

ICOM UK Membership Reminder

A reminder that it is time to renew, or take up, ICOM membership for 2007. Membership offers:

- Free or discounted admission to museums around the world
- Access to bursary funding for ICOM conferences, research programmes, study tours and work placements
- Access to the world's largest museum network on a member to member basis or via specialist interest groups

Application forms online at www.icom.museum/uk or contact Lucy Watts on 0207 814 5501.

Collections Link Publishes Standards for Exchanging Exhibitions

The Collections Link website has published updated Standards for Exchanging Exhibitions. The standards have been developed by the Touring Exhibitions Group (TEG), which was commissioned by MLA as part of the update of the Standards in the Museum Care of Collections series.

This is a full revision of the 1995 publication Standards for Touring Exhibitions, presented as a series of interactive pages. It is supported by comprehensive guidelines and notes and has links to the TEG Handbook. www.collectionslink.org.uk/organise_exhibitions/exchanging_exhibitions

Parliamentary Report

Queens' Speech

The Queen's speech contained two items of particular interest:

Immunity from seizure in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill

The Government has introduced a bill which will provide immunity against seizure to objects which are lent to the UK from overseas to be included in a temporary, public exhibition at a museum or gallery in England and Wales.

National Museums have campaigned for this legislation for the last year. Important loans to future exhibitions at museums across the UK are at risk because international lenders are increasingly reluctant to lend to countries which do not have immunity from seizure legislation. NMDC believes the legislation is essential to enable the UK public to continue to benefit from world-class exhibitions in the UK and will bring the UK into line with other countries, including France, Switzerland, Germany and the USA. The bill received its second reading in the Lords on 29 November.

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

Protection of Cultural Property During Armed Conflict Bill

Also announced in the Queen's Speech, this bill will enforce the 1954 Hague Convention, making it illegal to damage cultural property and outlawing trade in cultural property which has been illegally removed from an occupied country.

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Report

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee has published its report into Science and Heritage. The report warns that the knowledge and skills needed to preserve artefacts are being lost and that unless government takes action to address this there is a risk that Britain will lose its reputation as a leader in conservation science and of losses of works of art, rare books and historical buildings.

The Committee call for the Government to recognise that future generations have an equal right of access and to give conservation, based on sound science, a higher priority. The Committee also call on those in the heritage sector to work together to develop a broad-based, national strategy for heritage science. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldselect/ldsctech/256/256.pdf

Parliamentary Questions

Lord Janner has tabled a written question to "ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reconsider proposals in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill, relating to looted antiquities and Nazi looted works of art, to ensure that they will not prevent the rightful owners of the works of art from recovering their stolen property if it is displayed in British institutions." The question is due to be answered on 6 December. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldcumlst.htm

Early Day Motion: Gift Aid

An Early Day Motion was tabled on 22 November expressing concern that the removal of the Gift Aid provision on admission charges would result in a loss of income to independent museums and urging the Government to continue to allow them to benefit from Gift Aid without restriction of the existing conditions. www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmedm/61122e01.htm

International Issues

Culture 2007

The call for applications for the EU Cultural Programme 2007-13 has been published at: eacea.cec.eu.int/static/en/culture/call092006/index.htm The deadline is **28 February 2007**.

EUCLID will run half-day workshops in January 2007 to take applicants through the application form in detail. Additional information is available at www.culture2007.info.

The Economy of Culture in Europe

A report on the Economy of Culture in Europe, which aims to demonstrate the impact of the cultural and creative sector on the objectives of the Lisbon agenda, has been published.

The report shows that in 2003 the turnover of the EU cultural sector was €654 billion, 2.6% of GDP; the sector grew faster than the EU economy and employed 5.8 million people in 2004 - 3.1% of the EU total. The cultural sector also contributed to the Lisbon objectives through: its impact on ICT, with broadband growth dependent on creative content; the role of culture in boosting attractiveness to business; culture as a major drive for tourism and as a tool for social integration and cohesion.

The study recommends making better use of existing EU programmes; focusing the EU budget equally on creation and on innovation; promoting creativity and business education; linking creators and technology; establishing a creative industries bank; integrating the cultural dimension in cooperation and trade agreements and improved coordination of activities and policies impacting on the cultural and creative sector within the EU. ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/sources_info/studies/economy_en.html

Stolen Goya Recovered

A 1778 painting by Francisco de Goya, Children with Cart, which was stolen while en route from the Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, to the Guggenheim Museum of Art in New York, has been recovered by the FBI. The painting, which was being loaned to the Guggenheim for its exhibition *Spanish Painting from El Greco to Picasso: Time, Truth, and History*, is believed to be undamaged and will be returned to the Toledo Museum of Art. www.toledomuseum.org/pdf/Goya_Recovered.pdf

Austria Publishes Spoliation Database

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria has published a database of art and objects of cultural value in state museums and collections, which, according to provenance research, are likely to have been expropriated during the Nazi era. www.kunstrestitution.at/frontend/static/catalog/english.html

The Austrian Culture Ministry has agreed to return a painting by Edvard Munch, *Summer Night on the Beach*, to Marina Mahler, the granddaughter of Gustav Mahler and his wife, Alma, who originally owned the work. www.nytimes.com/2006/11/09/arts/design/09munc.html?

Germany Aims for Better Restitution Process

Germany's Culture Minister Bernd Neumann and directors of major museums have agreed to set up a working group to improve the way restitution claims are dealt with. Neumann said: "Restitution must become more transparent, more coordinated and more comprehensible....Germany is unreservedly committed to its moral obligation to restore art seized by the Nazis."

The meeting follows calls from German museums for more funding to be made available for provenance research and criticism of the recent restitution of an expressionist painting *Berlin Street Scene* by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, which was subsequently sold at auction for \$38 million.

www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2243968,00.html

German Museum will not sell Monet

The town council in Krefeld, Germany, has voted not to sell a painting by Monet to raise money for repairs to the museum. The council is considering selling shares to raise the money. The painting will be loaned to the National Art Center in Tokyo for a three-month Monet exhibition from March.

www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2224726,00.html

Damaged Rijksmuseum Painting Back on Display

The *Celebration of the Peace of Münster* by Bartholomeus van der Helst (1613-1670), which was vandalised on 25 June, is back on display in the Rijksmuseum. Damage to the painting was repaired by the Museum's restoration studio. www.rijksmuseum.nl/pers/algemeen/terugvanderhelst?lang=en

American Association of Museums Survey

The American Association of Museums has released 2006 Museum Financial Information, a snapshot of 800 American museums from 2003 to 2005. Findings include:

- National museum attendance is holding steady
- Museums rely more on private funding, less on government funding, than they did a decade ago
- Overall financial stability is increasing, with fewer financial deficits and more surpluses

US museums receive over 600 million visits a year: the average annual attendance is 34,000, with schools accounting for 15% of visits. www.aam-us.org/pressreleases.cfm?mode=list&id=116

National Endowment for the Arts Study Links Arts Participation and Community Health

A study by the US National Endowment for the Arts, *The Arts and Civic Engagement: Involved in Arts, Involved in Life*, reveals that people who participate in the arts also engage in positive civic and individual activities, such as volunteering, going to sporting events and outdoor activities, at higher rates than non-arts participants.

The study shows that arts participants contribute to their communities through high levels of charity work and participation in sports and outdoor activities. The study also reveals that young adults may be susceptible to giving up artistic and civic activities. arts.endow.gov/news/news06/CivicEngagement.html

State Department Launches Initiative to Expand US Cultural Diplomacy

The Global Cultural Initiative (GCI) to coordinate, enhance and expand America's cultural diplomacy worldwide has been launched by the US Department of State. Partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts; the National Endowment for the Humanities; American Film Institute Partnership and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts will develop programmes such as international literary exchanges and enabling overseas institutions to benefit from US expertise in arts management and training. www.state.gov/r/pa/scp/2006/72972.htm

Appropriations for cultural diplomacy programs have more than tripled since 2001.

Forthcoming Meetings

HR Forum

Friday 8 December, 10.30am, National Maritime Museum

Marketing Group

Monday 12 February, 2pm, venue TBC

Conference meeting dates for 2007:

Friday 16 March, 11am

Friday 15 July, 11am

Friday 16 November, 11am

We would like to wish our readers a very happy Christmas

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 nmdcnews@iwm.org.uk or news@nationalmuseums.org.uk from 18/12/06.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat until 15 December:

Emily Candler, Secretary, tel: 020 7416 5202, email: ecandler@iwm.org.uk

Suzie Tucker, Executive Assistant, tel: 020 7416 5208 email : stucker@iwm.org.uk

For contact details from 18 December, please see the front page