

newsletter

Issue 33

May 2004

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter which includes a who's who guide to the Regional Agencies. This newsletter can also be found on our website at:

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Spoliation Website

NMDC's website contains lists of works of art in 40 museum collections across the UK, which have gaps in their provenance during the 1933-1945 period. We are working on the next update of these lists, incorporating the findings of the latest provenance research, which has been supported by MLA. The updated lists will be published on our website later this month, along with minor changes to the spoliation pages to make them easier to navigate. For more information about this work visit: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html

Valuing Museums

We are talking to Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics, about taking forward the Valuing Museums project and extending its remit. NMDC's Valuing Museums report analysed the economic and social impact of the national museums, demonstrating that the sector has an economic impact in the region of £1.83 billion to £2.07 billion. The report has been very well received and over 2,000 copies of the document have been downloaded from our website. The report can be found at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/valuing_museums.html

Parents Attitudes for Museums

Last month NMDC published new research from MORI into parents' attitudes to museums. The highlights of the research were included in the Manifesto for Museums. The research found that:

- 80% of parents regard museums and galleries as among the most important resources for educating children, with just over a third (36%) strongly agreeing with this statement.
- Age was a factor: those aged over 55 were significantly more likely than parents in other age bands to "strongly agree". Also, ABC1 parents were more likely that those from social grades C2DE to agree "strongly" (41% vs. 32%).
- 85% of those surveyed believed that "visits to museums and galleries should be part of the National Curriculum"
- Museums are regarded as one of the most trustworthy sources of objective information. Respondents ranked museums second (43%) after television news (52%). Museums are trusted more than books (39%), radio (35%), newspapers (27%), the internet (25%) and magazines (13%).

These results differ from a similar survey conducted by the American Association of Museums (<u>www.aam-us.org</u>) in 2001, in which almost 87% of respondents found museums to be trustworthy, including 38% who saw museums as one of the most trusted sources, with books are a distant second most-trusted source. The US survey found a generally low level of confidence in the news media, with untrustworthiness percentages ranging from 50% for television news to 65% for newspapers to 76% for magazines. The interviews were conducted face-to-face with a nationally representative quota sample of 664 parents.

The full report can be found on our website at: <u>www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/publications.html</u>

British Library on University Challenge

A team from the British Library trounced the Crossword Compilers in the first game of the second series of BBC2's *University Challenge the Professionals* on Monday 19th April. The final score was 180 (British Library) to 80 (Crossword Compilers).

The Library's team consisted of Kathryn Johnson, Curator of Theatrical Manuscripts, Ron Hogg, a Slavonic specialist, Colin Wight, website editor and Bart Smith of the Library's Press Office who was captain. Bart Smith said "The star of the show was Kathryn Johnson who gained the admiration of Quizmaster Jeremy Paxman with her speed in hitting the buzzer (and knowledge of the more arcane names from British railway history), while Bart's own knowledge of obscure historical facts came to the fore with three questions about Warren Harding, US President from 1920-23. The BL team has made the semifinals, which will be shown between 5th an 19th July.

Museums win Tourism 'Oscars'

The Natural History Museum and National Portrait Gallery have one top awards in the Excellence in England Tourism Awards 2004, described as the tourism industry's equivalent of 'Oscars'. This year the awards, run in association with Enjoy England, formerly the English Tourism Board, sought to highlight examples of innovation and improvement work undertaken to advance a recovery in tourism. The Natural History Museum won the Gold Award for Large Visitor Attraction of the Year and was described as "an outstanding attraction offering visitors a complete experience." The Imperial War Museum of the North won the Silver Award for the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year.

The National Portrait Gallery won the new Tourism for All Award for "showing such enthusiasm and commitment in embracing the needs of all visitors with disabilities." Facilities in the Gallery include computers that enlarge a portrait's image, sound guides, and a range of regular events for people with disabilities. For details visit: <u>www.npg.org.uk</u>

The Thackray Museum in Leeds was the winner of the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year Award.

Web Awards for Tate and MAGNI

Tate Online (<u>www.tate.org.uk</u>) has won Best Museum Research Site in the Best of the Web Awards at this year's Museums and the Web conference. Each year, nominations for the awards are sought from the museum community and a committee of peers evaluates nominated sites. Full details can be found at: <u>www.archimuse.com/mw2004/best/</u>

The National Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland (MAGNI) have won the Public Sector Category Award for Best Website in the GoldenEye Awards 2004. The GoldenEye Awards are held by Ireland's *Business Eye* magazine, in association with BT Business. MAGNI's website, (<u>www.magni.org.uk</u>) which was re-launched one year ago has received nearly 4m visitors.

Collections Management at NMGW

The Auditor General of Wales, Sir John Bourn, has published a report into collections management at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. Sir John has congratulated NMGW on the considerable steps they have taken since his last report.

The report found that NMGW has a basic level of information or about a third of its collection. Five years ago, this information was only held for 11 per cent of its collection. Backlogs remain in documenting and in verifying the presence and condition of items, which range from paintings to locomotives, and from shells to ancient coins. On current resource levels, NMGW estimates that it would require an additional £1.65 million over ten years to deal completely with the backlog.

Some 57 per cent of NMGW's storage space is classed as good or very good, compared with only 29 per cent in 1996. However, more remains to be done. Items that are not stored appropriately are at risk of deterioration and there have been examples of damage such as to boats at the Museum of Welsh Life. NMGW estimates that to address the existing backlog would require an additional 20 staff working solely on conservation over the next 20 years.

The report can be found at: www.agw.wales.gov.uk/publications/index.htm

National Woollen Museum Re-opens

The National Woollen Museum ad Dre-fach Felindre reopened on 31 March. The Museum has undergone a major redevelopment making it the National Museums and Galleries of Wales' flagship site in west Wales. Listed mill buildings have been restored, including the glass-roofed courtyard and aspects of the National Flat Textile Collection will now be displayed for the first time in a new gallery. A new Research and Collection Centre will be opening later in the year and will include a room dedicated to hands-on learning opportunities. The National Woollen Museum forms an integral part of NMGW's industrial strategy. With the support of the Welsh Assembly Government and other funding partners, £40m is being invested in Objective One areas to celebrate the industrial heritage of Wales.

NMGW also celebrated the 21st birthday of Big Pit: National Mining Museum of Wales as a tourist attraction last month.

Three Years of Free Entry

Three years after free admission was introduced at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales visitor figures are still up by 64%. NMGW received 1,222,206 visits for 2003-4, an increase of 476,971 on their last year of charged admission in 2001-2. For full details visit: www.nmgw.ac.uk

Board Appointments

Brian Ivory, Chair of the National Galleries of Scotland has been re-appointed for a further four years. The post is not remunerated but carries a time commitment of six days per month.

Neena Mahal has been reappointed as a Trustee of the National Museums of Scotland. Mrs Mehal is a freelance associate delivering training and research in the fields of equality, personal and organisational development.

The Prime Minister has appointed Melanie Clore as a Trustee of Tate. Melanie Clore has been the Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's Europe since 1997 and Co-Chairman Worldwide of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department since 2000.

If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Emily Adams -<u>eadams@iwm.org.uk</u>

Current Issues

Museums and Galleries Month

May is, of course, Museums and Galleries Month. The theme of this year's event is *Travel and the Art of Travelling.* Special events are taking place at museums all over the country.

Estelle Morris has written to all MPs encouraging them to visit their local museums during the month. NMDC and MLA have followed this up and ensured all MPs have a copy of the *Manifesto for Museums*.

Embracing the travelling theme of Museums and Galleries Month, the National Army Museum will unveil a fleet of 30 London taxis dressed in uniforms worn by past British soldiers. The liveried taxi campaign will include uniforms of a Gordon Highlander at Waterloo, a Hussar from the Charge of the Light Brigade and a UN peacekeeping soldier in the Lebanon. On the flipseats on the inside of each taxi, passengers will be able to read the story of one of the soldiers who wore that uniform.

There are a number of key debates during the month, including "Education in Museums: What should happen next?" hosted by the V&A on 5 May. The panellists will be Mark Jones, Director of the V&A, Professor Lola Young, Head of the culture at the Greater London Authority and Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery. On 19 May Loyd Grossman, Peter Jenkinson and Sir Timothy Clifford will be discussing "Art prizes and their role in stimulating innovation and excellence" at the Museums and Galleries Month Lecture at the RCA.

On the 20 May the Gulbenkian Prize for Museums will be announced at the Royal Academy on 11 May. The four finalists for the £100,000 prize are:

- Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh for *Landform* by Charles Jencks
- The Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle for *Reticulum*, a partnership project with Northumbrian junior schools
- Pembrokeshire Museums Service for *Varda*, a travelling exhibition of Romany history and culture
- Norton Priory Museum, Runcorn for *Positive Partnerships,* where local day centre clients with learning disabilities work alongside museum staff

For full details of MGM events visit: <u>www.may2004.org.uk</u>

Art for Arts Sake?

Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, has published a personal essay examining the relationship between Government and the cultural sector. It sets out a case for continued public subsidy for the arts and urges government to view culture as at the heart, not the periphery of its policies.

The Secretary of State argues that engaging with complex cultural activity is at the heart of what it means to be a fully developed human being, and that only by accepting a child's right to be given the means by which to engage with culture will we be able to move forward.

She says that too often politicians have been forced to debate culture in terms only of its instrumental benefits to other agendas and that we need to find a way to demonstrate the personal value added which comes from engagement with complex art - as she defines "culture".

The essay concludes by asking how, in going beyond targets, can we best capture the value of culture and whether targets should be underpinned with something else - longer term funding agreements underpinned by a lighter touch but more intelligent review that focuses on cultural outcomes?

The essay can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/ archive 2004/Government Value of Culture.htm Comments on the essay can be emailed to mailto:valueofculture@culture.gsi.gov.uk

The Secretary of State's announcement comes days after a new report by IPPR argues that: "art for art's sake' argument won't win cash". The IPPR report, *For Art's Sake? Society and the Arts in the 21st Century* argues that the arts, including museums and galleries, must improve the way they measure and assess their social impact if they are going to secure the funding they need. Its recommendations include that there needs to be a shift toward objective evidence collection and away from advocacy for the arts dressed up as robust evaluation. The IPPR report can be found at:

www.ippr.org.uk/publications/index.php?book=414

Guidance on Learning Spaces

Estelle Morris, Minister for the Arts has launched new guidance on creating successful learning spaces in museums and heritage sites. *Space for Learning: A Handbook for Education Spaces in Museums, Heritage Sites and Discovery Centres* was produced by a consortium including MLA, the Arts Councils of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland; the Clore Duffield Foundation, CABE, DCMS, DfES and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Copies of the report can be found at

www.mla.gov.uk/information/publications/00pubs.asp

£7m for Museum Education

The Government has announced that the Department for Culture Media and Sport and the Department for Education and Skills will jointly invest a further £7m over the next two years for educational work in museums and galleries. This builds on the £2.5m provided last year through the strategic commissioning initiative for national/regional museum partnerships education projects. The funding will be apportioned through the following four channels:

- National museums strategic education development fund – 13 DCMS-sponsored national museums and their regional partners will receive a flat rate grant to spend on strategic education work of their choosing with the overall aim of strengthening partnership working across the country.
- Regional education development fund each of the nine regional Museums, Libraries and Archives Councils will receive a grant to provide educational activities, which address local priorities.
- Teacher and museum educator professional development programme funding will be channelled through MLA to develop a programme of secondments in England in collaboration with Arts Council England, the Museums Association, the Group for Education in Museums and engage.
- Support for gallery education work. For more information visit:

www.culture.gov.uk/museums

The Big Lottery Fund

The Government has announced that the new Lottery distributor will be called The Big Lottery Fund. The new body will take over the functions of the New Opportunities Fund and the Community Fund. The merger of the two Lottery good causes was announced as part of the Government's decision document on reform of the Lottery published last July. Making the announcement, Tessa Jowell said:

"We will call it the Big Lottery Fund because it will be by far the largest and most visible of the distributors. It will be a single point of contact involving the public in the big choices about how to award half of all lottery grants. It will also support communities in securing and spending Lottery grants for their benefit."

For details visit: www.culture.gov.uk/national lottery/

Review of Culture in Scotland

The Scottish Executive has announced an independent commission to review all existing cultural provision in Scotland. The Commission will be asked to:

- explore the notion of cultural rights for the Scottish citizen, and those of its creative community and define how these might be translated into a scheme of entitlements;
- redefine the institutional infrastructure and governance of the Scottish cultural sector to enable it to deliver the entitlements that spring from rights.

The detailed remit includes assessing the current institutional infrastructure in terms of being fit for purpose, impact on sector, cost effectiveness and best value. It is asked to consider the relationship between the institutions, between the sectors – public, private and voluntary, and consider the designation 'national' and how it might be more appropriately determined.

The scope of the Commission's work includes, the arts, the creative industries, museums and heritage, galleries, libraries, archives, architecture and festivals and events. The Commission will be chaired by James Boyle, presently chair of the Scottish Arts Council, who will resign to undertake the review. It will sit for 12 months from 1 June 2004 and will then make recommendations to Scottish Ministers. An interim report is expected in October. Full details of the Commission's remit can be found at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/ncs04-00.asp

Best Ever Year for Inbound Tourism

VisitBritain has said that international visitor figures for January and February 2004 represent some of the best ever. Over 3.5m international visitors came to the UK in the first two months of the year, a rise of 10 per cent on the same period in 2003. In February, visitors from North America were up 14 per cent on the previous year, and visitors from Western Europe up 29 per cent.

Latest figures for the whole of 2003, show that there were 24.8m overseas visitors last year, up 3 per cent on 2002, but visitor spend was up by only 1%, at £11.9bn. For full details visit: <u>www.visitbritain.com/uk/presscentre/</u> <u>press_releases/current/2004_04_15_01.htm</u>

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Business Investment in the Arts

The latest *Business Investment in the Arts* report, published by Arts & Business, shows that the total amount of private support for the arts has grown to £376m. This includes £130m in business investment, a rise of 8 per cent on 2002-3. Individual giving has risen by £20m to £256m. Arts & Business calculates that the total figure for public support for the arts at £957.83m.

The report reveals mixed results both regionally and by sector. There has been an overall drop in investment in museums and galleries, the visual arts and opera, while dance, drama/theatre, music and photography have received the greatest increases. Investment in London, which still accounts for half of the total business investment, was at its lowest level for six years, at just under £50m. However, significant regional increases in investment were reported in the North East (+200% -60% due to one organisation), East of England (+87%), West Midlands (+31%) and Wales (+24%).

The *Business Investment in the Arts* report can be found at: <u>www.AandB.org.uk</u>

Public Libraries Could Shut by 2020

"Who's in Charge" a report by Libri, a new charity promoting libraries has painted a picture of a public library service in terminal decline. The report, funded by the Laser Foundation and written by Tim Coates, a former managing director of bookshop chain Waterstone's, finds that in the last 10 years:

- The number of library users has fallen by 21%
- $\bullet\,$ The number of books borrowed has fallen by 35%
- The national cost of the service has risen by 39%
- Library funding has increased by around 25% over the past five years to £1bn a year, but spending on books has fallen to 9% of the total expenditure
- 100m is wasted on unnecessary administration: one library authority spends £24 each time it buys a £10 book.
- £100m is wasted on over-elaborate management, inappropriate staff deployment, outmoded practices and aged systems replicated in over 200 library authorities.
- Opening hours are still only two thirds of the standard set by Government four years ago.

The report can be found at: www.libri.org.uk

£3.8m for Designated Collections

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has awarded grants totally £3.8m towards the development of the collections held in 39 museums and galleries in England. The funding will support projects running from 1 April 2004 - March 2006. Examples include:

- a £325,000 joint initiative between the Museum of London and London's Transport Museum, to produce learning resources about 20th Century London, giving electronic access to 9,000 objects from their collections.
- £71,750 for the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth to create an environmentally controlled storage facility, which will enable a significant proportion of as yet unstudied artefacts from the ship to be researched.
- Projects at the University of Cambridge, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the University of Manchester, Manchester Museum and the Horniman Museum will involve collaboration with diverse communities in the Torres Straits, Pacific region and the Caribbean.
- Disabled visitors will benefit from improvements to interpretation at Colchester Castle including the development of tactile and audio resources, improved labelling and increased interactives, which will be made possible by an award of £112,000 to Colchester Museums.
- An award of £124,898 to Birmingham City Museums and Art Gallery towards the creation of a web-based database and learning resources related to the Science and Industry collection, now based at Thinktank, will also bring benefits for other museums in the region, through an integrated approach to user research.

Full details of the awards can be found at: www.mla.gov.uk/action/designation/desig dcf.asp

Urbis Visits up 550%

Urbis, Manchester's 'museum of the modern city', has seen a 550% increase in visitor numbers since it removed its £5 admission fee at the end of last year. BBC News reports that the museum has had over 55,000 visits since January.

DCMS Annual Report

The DCMS Annual Report 2004 has been published including details of GIA for sponsored bodies. The report can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/ archive 2004/Annual Report 2004.htm

Standards in Public Life

The Prime Minister has announced that Sir Alistair Graham is to become chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. Sir Alistair will succeed Lord Nolan, who continued in post beyond his term, which ended on 28 February, while a successor was found.

Creative Capital

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, has published the final version of *London: Cultural Capital,* a ten-year framework to develop London as a centre of cultural excellence and creativity.

The strategy argues that the infrastructure for London's major institutions requires further substantial investment if it is to sustain and develop its world-class reputation. The Mayor's priorities focus on major events such as New Year's Eve celebrations, London Film Festival, St Patrick's Day, Chinese New Year and London, and on major cultural developments like Wembley, South Bank Centre and National Film Theatre, as well as Exhibition Road.

To help London develop its brand and promote itself as a world cultural city and tourism destination, the Mayor intends to support the management of the evening and late night economy by promoting good practice guidance and supporting late-night opening by cultural institutions.

The strategy also seeks to ensure a spread of highquality cultural provision cross London and at all levels. Most of London's larger cultural institutions are in central London, while three-fifths of the population live in outer London. The document argues that a better balance between facilities at the centre and the outer regions is needed, and more local cultural provision in the town centres will reduce the need for people to travel.

The strategy can be found at: www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/ culture/index.jsp

The major has also launched *Creative London*, a package of measures to support London's creative industries. For more details visit: www.creativelondon.org.uk

Scottish Museums Council

Joanne Orr has been appointed as the new Director of the Scottish Museums Council (SMC). Ms Orr is currently Assistant Director Cultural Services-Collections and Strategy for Durham City Council and was previously Director of two Scottish independent museums, Wanlockhead Lead Mining Museum and Dunaskin Open Air Museum. She takes up her new post in July.

National Theatre Chair

Sir Hayden Phillips, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Constitutional Affairs, has been appointed as the next chairman of the National Theatre. Sir Hayden, who leaves his current post in July, was previously Permanent Secretary at the Department for National Heritage (now DCMS). He will succeed Sir Christopher Hogg when he stands down in September.

International Issues

American Art Museums Statistics

The Association of Art Museum Directors has published its third annual *State of the Nation's Art Museums* survey. AAMD represents 175 directors of major art museums in the US, Canada and Mexico. 135 museums responded to the survey, representing a broad range of America's art museum community, including federal, university, private and public institutions. The key findings are:

- 40% reported increasing their education programming since January 2003
- of those museums reporting expansion plans, 95% are moving forward with these projects
- 43% reported a growth in attendance, which is an improvement on the previous year when a third reported an increase.
- 61% reported that total revenue had increased or remained steady, an increase of 20% on 2002.
- 43% reported increased contributions to their endowments
- 56% reported an increase in individual giving
- 39% reported an increase in support from Foundations, with 35% indicating no change.
- Corporate giving was split with one third reporting increase, one third reporting no change and one third reporting decrease, but this is an improvement over 2002 when 42% of museums reported a decline in corporate giving.
- 32% reported a growth in earned income from sources such as admissions, concessions, and traveling exhibitions rose.
- 88% of museums reported that they had increased or sustained their education programming
- 92% reported that their collection-building activities either increased or remained stable
- 31% of museums reported that they had reduced staff since 2003, by an average of 8.6%
- Average salary increases in 2003 were 2.3%, the smallest increase since 1987

For more details visit: www.aamd.org/press.html

Looted Art to be Loaned to Israel

Fourteen Old Master and Impressionist paintings stolen by the Nazis from Jewish owners in France and now in French museums have been offered to Israel in what could be the first in a series of French loans of Nazi-looted art. The Art Newspaper reports that the Réunion de Musées Nationaux is preparing a further list of hundreds of works of art confiscated by the Nazis and available for loan to Israel. The loan was first proposed four years ago by a commission set up to assess the issue of looted property. The deal was delayed because of French insistence that legislation be passed in the Knesset, protecting paintings on loan from ownership claims made in Israeli courts. The Art Newspaper has published a list of the works to be loaned, including paintings by Monet, Sisley and Renoir, some from the collection of the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay. For further details visit: www.theartnewspaper.com/news/

article.asp?idart=11628

Prado Governance Changes

The Council of Ministers in Spain has passed a royal decree, which will enable proposals giving the Prado semi-autonomous status to be implemented. The changes to the governance of the Prado were approved by the Spanish parliament last year. *The Art Newspaper* reports that the changes covers issues such as the structure and competences of the museum's governing bodies, employment of staff and wages, budget, financial control and accounting. Similar changes were introduced in France in January. The Louvre is now able to keep all revenue from ticket sales - previously 45% went to the State - and is now entirely responsible for its exhibition policies and budgets.

For more details see: <u>www.theartnewspaper.com/news/</u> article.asp?idart=11629

Acropolis Museum Gets Go Ahead

The Council of State, Greece's highest administrative court has rejected a suit to have the building project for the new Acropolis Museum abandoned. The English language paper *Kathimerini* reports that the court dismissed arguments that the construction work would damage ancient building remains found on the site of the €94m museum. The project was opposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites and by local residents.

Parliamentary Report

Funding for Museums

Responding to a question from Barry Sheerman regarding funding for museums, libraries and archives in the last ten years, Estelle Morris provided the following figures.

DCMS expenditure			£ million
Year	Museums	Libraries	Public archives
1994–95	225.0	85.3	1
1995–96	227.6	85.5	1
1996–97	220.9	89.7	1
1997–98	214.2	94.0	1.1
1998–99	212.4	89.2	1
1999–2000	236.5	88.7	1.1
2000–01	235.5	91.7	1.5
2001–02	251.8	95.8	1.4
2002–03	274.0	92.1	1.5
2003–04	294.5	97.1	⁽¹³⁾ 0.2

In addition, DCMS provides Grant in Aid to the museums, libraries and archives council, which was £13.3 million in 2003–04.

In response to question from Mr Sheerman about support for museums, Estelle Morris said: "We are increasing our support for the DCMSsponsored museums and galleries. Starting from the 2002 baseline, we have delivered a real-terms increase in resource grant-in-aid funding, for the larger institutions, of 1.5 per cent in 2004–05 and 2.5 per cent in 2005–06, and 7 per cent in each of these two years for the smaller ones. We have also provided additional funding to help our sponsored museums carry out programmes of modernisation and reform."

Forthcoming Meetings

Spoliation Working Group 4.30p, Tue 18 May, Tate Britain

Leadership Working Party 11.00am, Fri 21 May, DCMS

Joint Advocacy Group 3.00pm, Tue 25 May, Victoria & Albert Museum

Museum Copyright Group Executive 3.30, Wed 26 May, Farrers

NMDC Executive Committee 11.00am, Thu 10 Jun, Imperial War Museum

Turner Bequest

Andrew Hunter, MP for Basingstoke asked the Secretary of State for Culture a series of questions relating to the Turner Bequest, including whether the Government would compel the National Gallery and Tate to ensure the completed pictures were housed together. Estelle Morris responded that the government had no intention to do so and that the housing of the collections of the National Gallery and Tate was a matter for their Trustees.

Gift Aid

David Heath MP asked what discussions the Secretary of State for Culture had had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on gift aid in relation to museums. Estelle Morris replied that officials from DCMS, representatives from the museum sector and Inland Revenue officials met in February to discuss gift aid in relation to Museums. The results of the consultation will be announced around the time of the 2004 Spending Review.

A full report on this month's parliamentary activity is available from Alexander Baker.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Contact details for the NMDC Secretariat:

Sean Bullick, Secretary, tel: 020 7416 5202, email: <u>sbullick@iwm.org.uk</u> Emily Adams, Research & Communication Manager, tel: 020 7416 5208, email: <u>eadams@iwm.org.uk</u> Alex Baker, Office Manager, tel: 020 7416 5203, email: <u>abaker@iwm.org.uk</u>

PR Group

11.00am, Fri 4 June, Tate Modern

National Museum Managers' Consortium 10.30am Fri 11 Jun, National Gallery

Human Resources Forum 10.30am, Fri 18 Jun, Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans

National Museum Directors' Conference 11.00am, Fri 9 Jul 2004, Imperial War Museum

NMDC Executive Committee 11.00am, Fri 10 Sep, Imperial War Museum

Who's Who in Regional Agencies

ALM London, the new strategic development agency for archives, libraries and museums in London became operational on 1st April 2004. Now that all nine regional agencies are up and running, here is a guick reminder who's who and how to contact them.

ALM London

Cloister Court 22-26 Farringdon Lane London EC1R 3AJ

www.lmal.org.uk Telephone: 020 7549 1712

Chief Executive: Graham Fisher Acting Head of Learning & Access: Conrad Peters Chairman: (revolving between Board Members)

Yorkshire Museums, Libraries and Archives

Council Farnley Hall Hall Lane Leeds LS12 5HA

www.ymlac.org.uk Telephone: 0113 263 8909

Chief Executive: Annie Mauger Chairman: Cllr Mike Pye, Director Learning Access & Skills: Jane Walton

MLA West Midlands

Second Floor, Grosvenor House 14 Bennetts Hill Birmingham B2 5RS

www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/ Telephone: 0121 631 5800

Chief Executive: Kathy Gee Chairman: Judith Elkin Access & Learning Development: Lesley-Anne Kerr

East of England Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

110 Northgate Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 1HP

www.eemlac.org.uk/ Telephone: 01284 723100

Chief Executive: Terry Turner Chair: Marion Williams Hazel Courtley, Head of Learning and Access

South West Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

Creech Castle Bathpool Taunton Somerset TA1 2DX

www.swmlac.org.uk/ Telephone: 01823 259696

Chief Executive: Sam Hunt Chairman: Sir Geoffrey Holland Head of Learning & Access: Martin Thomas

South East Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

15 City Business Centre Hyde Street Winchester, Hants SO23 7TA (also at Sussex University and Chatham Historic Dockyard)

www.semlac.org.uk/ Telephone: 01962 858844

Chief Executive: Helen Jackson, Chairman: John Hicks Head of Access and Learning: Isabel Hughes

East Midlands Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

56 King Street Leicester LE1 6RL

www.emmlac.org.uk Telephone: 0116 285 1350

Chief Executive: Dr Tim Hobbs Chairman: (to be elected) Learning and Access Strategy Officer: Nicky Morgan

North West Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

Ground Floor, The Malt Building Wilderspool Park Greenalls Avenue Warrington WA4 6HL

www.nwmlac.org.uk/ Telephone: 01925 625050

Chief Executive: Clare Connor, Chairman: Steve Garland Head of Learning and Access: Chris Chadwick

North East Museums, Libraries & Archives Council

House of Recovery Bath Lane Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5SQ

www.nemlac.co.uk/ Telephone: 0191 222 1661

Chief Executive: Sue Underwood Chairman: Councillor Alex Cunningham Head of Access & Learning: Ian Blackwell

The role of the Regional Agencies is to provide strategic leadership and advice and act as influential advocates for museums, libraries and archives throughout the English Regions. They are funded by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. For further information visit: www.mla.gov.uk/action/regional/regionsmap.asp

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