

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, a briefing on our activities and developments in the museum sector in the UK and beyond. We've made a few changes to the newsletter in response to feedback from readers. Members' news can now be found on p9. We will also be introducing a new e-news format shortly.

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

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## NMDC Activities

### Promoting Philanthropy

#### Tax Treatment of Non-Domiciles

NMDC has sent a submission to the Treasury consultation on the tax treatment of non-domiciles. We believe that it is right that those who live in this country should contribute to the cost of public services. However, NMDC members are concerned about the unintended consequences of the proposed tax treatment of non-domiciles on British museums and galleries. Wealthy non-domiciles are responsible for a very significant proportion of recent gifts to museums, a source of funding which has been crucial to realising capital projects and which would cease should these wealthy individuals move abroad. A number of non-domiciles are also passionate art collectors who are likely as result of the legislation to keep their collections in a more favourable tax regime, with damaging consequences for the current and future loans from those collections which enrich our public collections.

On 12 February, HM Revenue & Customs announced that it will continue to be possible to bring art works into the UK for public display without incurring a charge to tax.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/news/residence-domicile.pdf>

NMDC appreciates the Treasury's efforts to minimise the impact on the sector by exempting works imported for public access or exhibition but fear that it does not go far enough.

NMDC suggests that:

- a) that the introduction of legislation should be delayed for 12 months to allow for full consultation
- b) the tax treatment of imported work of arts should not be changed.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/hmt\\_consultation\\_nondoms.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/hmt_consultation_nondoms.html)

#### Comment pieces:

- Nicholas Ferguson, chairman of the Courtauld Institute of Art and of the Institute for Philanthropy, [The Telegraph](#) (3 March 2008)
- Sir Brian Ivory, Chairman of the National Galleries of Scotland, [The Art Newspaper](#) (March 08)

#### Minister calls for Philanthropy Step Change

The City of London Corporation and the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr), in association with DCMS, hosted a breakfast event last month to discuss the role that philanthropy can play in helping to promote investment in the arts.

Speaking at the event, Culture Minister Margaret Hodge MP said she wanted to see a step change in private giving to culture and that the City is well-placed to spearhead such a change. She suggested there was much to learn from the United States about developing a charity of cultural giving, quoting figures that in the US charitable giving is worth 1.7% of GDP, compared to less than 0.75% of GDP in the UK. She said government, cultural institutions, corporations and individuals all need to do more to raise the level of philanthropy to UK cultural institutions in the UK, including cultural institutions becoming more entrepreneurial to attract diversity of funding.

[www.ippr.org/events/?id=3000](http://www.ippr.org/events/?id=3000)

**Also in this issue: Anthony D'Offay's major donation of contemporary art to the nation, and Conservative Party on donor incentives (page 3)**

## Government Unveils New Plan for Creative Industries

On 22 February the Government published its first comprehensive plan on how it will support the creative industries, moving it from "the margins to the mainstream of economic and policy thinking". The key proposals are the creation of 5,000 apprenticeships, the development of 5 new centres of excellence in creative skills and exploring the creation of a 14-25 academic hub for the creative industries. Tate Liverpool is one of the first organisations to sign up to the apprenticeship scheme.

NMDC's Chairman, Mark Jones, welcomed the efforts set out in the strategy: "Our internationally famous museums and ground breaking programmes are an essential part of the cultural infrastructure that sustains a thriving creative scene - enhancing Britain's international reputation and attracting creative talent. We help designers by providing inspiration, learning and access to technical expertise, by creating networks of students, designers and manufacturers and by giving them a showcase and creating a market for their work. Contemporary collections are vital resources for students, designers and artists in the UK and are essential to enable museums to support the creative economy."

[www.culture.gov.uk/Reference\\_library/Press\\_notices/archive\\_2008/dcms017\\_08.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2008/dcms017_08.htm)

## Britishness, Heritage and the Arts

The Institute of Public Policy Research (ippr) hosted a debate on Britishness, heritage and the arts on 4 March. Speaking at the event, Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Culture, said "cultural sectors offer the chance to create the kinds of safe public spaces where we can explore difference, ask the awkward questions, test the boundaries or simply satisfy that healthy curiosity about those who don't look like us. And Government's role is to provide those places, to ensure that people have access to them and to defend them when they are under threat or when they take risks." She also said she wanted to see cultural institutions as venues for citizenship ceremonies, enabling people to associate their new citizenship with key cultural icons.

Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery also participated in the debate and said museums need to strengthen the link with education - formal and informal - to get through to people.

<http://www.ippr.org/events/?id=3008>

## Tackling Climate Change

NMDC will be hosting a discussion on climate change and museums later this year, in partnership with the V&A and RIBA. NMDC is also a partner in a DCMS project to reduce carbon emissions.

English Heritage and leading energy supplier E.ON have begun a three-year collaboration to explore and deliver initiatives that will make a tangible contribution to the goal of reducing the impact of climate change in the communities in which they operate. The collaboration will include research on energy efficiency in traditionally constructed buildings to ensure that some of the UK's most historic buildings are made more sustainable. [www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.13074](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.13074)

Climate change will also be the theme of this year's Heritage Counts survey published at the end of the year.

## New Director of Royal Navy Submarine Museum

Marion Budgett AMA has been appointed as the new director of the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. She will take over on 1 April, when the current director, Commander Jeff Tall OBE retires. Marion is currently Curator (Operations and Corporate Development) of the West Berkshire Museum, and was until recently Director of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. She has extensive previous museum and heritage experience with South Somerset District Council and as Deputy Keeper of the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon.

[www.rnsubmus.co.uk](http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk)

## National Museum Jobs

More than 40 vacancies at national museums, libraries and archives are currently being advertised on NMDC's new jobs website. There have already been over unique 2,500 visits to the site. Current vacancies include the Director of the National Museum of Childhood, PR and Marketing Assistant at the Royal Armouries, Senior Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland and Head of Publishing at the Imperial War Museum. Visit [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk) for details.

## Forthcoming Meetings

### NMDC Meeting

Friday 14 March, 11am, Victoria & Albert Museum

### Operations Committee

Tuesday 25 March, 2.30pm, Science Museum

More information about NMDC's activities can be found on our website at: [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk)

# Current Issues

## Major Reorganisation of MLA

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced that it will stop funding the nine separate regional MLAs and work with them on plans for their eventual replacement by a unified structure. The streamlining of MLA's national and regional operations is intended to lower the Partnership's cost structure and channel more funding to front-line activities. By April 2009, smaller regional MLA teams will have been set up to work with other cultural services and a joined-up government presence in the region.

The move follows quickly in the wake of decisions to cut back the central MLA Council and move key operations out of London. MLA is being reconfigured as a single national entity based principally in Birmingham. The unified MLA aims to run itself more efficiently and extend its capacity to benefit the future development of the sector. Regional advisory groups drawn from local government, businesses, communities and the sector will be established to ensure its work is targeted at improvement and delivery for consumers.

[http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press\\_releases/regional\\_reorganisation](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/regional_reorganisation)

## Independent Review of Renaissance

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced an independent review of the Renaissance programme. The appraisal by the panel of experts, chaired by Professor Sara Selwood, is intended to be robust and to ensure Renaissance delivers maximum impact for the future. Julie McGuinness of the National Audit Office will join the panel as an observer. The review will examine the delivery of the programme over the past 6 years against the objectives in the Renaissance in the Regions report in 2001. By 2010/11, annual investment in the programme will have risen to £48.7m and the Renaissance programme will have received nearly £300m from central government. The findings will be reported to the MLA Board and used by the MLA to help shape and manage Renaissance from 1 April 2009.

MLA Chief Executive Roy Clare said: the review "will look for ways to underpin the professional capacities that have been established and will examine the extent to which systemic change has been embedded."

[www.mla.gov.uk/news/press\\_releases/review](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/review)

The members of the panel are:

- Sara Selwood (Chair) Professor of Cultural Policy and Management City University
- Mark Taylor, Director, Museums Association
- Diane Lees, Director, V&A Museum of Childhood and Director General Designate, Imperial War Museum
- David Fleming, Director, National Museums Liverpool and Chair of NMDC UK Affairs Committee
- Mark O'Neill, Head of Arts & Museums Glasgow
- Nichola Johnson, Director, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and Museology
- Tim Challans, Assistant Director, Leisure, Culture and Lifelong Learning, Walsall Council
- Hedley Swain, Acting Director of Programme Delivery, MLA
- Observer: Julie McGuinness, National Audit Office

## D'Offay Collection Donated to the Nation

A new modern art collection, to be known as ARTIST ROOMS, has been established, created through one of the largest gifts of art ever made to museums in Britain. Anthony d'Offay's collection of 725 works by 25 artists, assembled over 30 years, is one of the most important holdings of post-war and contemporary art in private hands. It will be jointly owned and managed by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the nation.

The acquisition was made possible through a part gift/part sale at cost agreement. Anthony d'Offay will receive the £26.5m he originally paid for the works over the past 30 years, now valued at £125m. The costs of the acquisition have been met by £10m each from both the Scottish and British Governments, £7m from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and £1m from The Art Fund. The agreement also includes a provision for the establishment of a £5m endowment fund by the National Galleries of Scotland and Tate to fund acquisition of further rooms by contemporary artists and emerging young artists. Anthony d'Offay will serve as an unpaid ex-officio curator for the museums for a period of 5 years.

A series of opening displays will be launched in 2009 at Tate galleries and the National Galleries of Scotland and at 11 partner museums and galleries across the UK. For full details visit: [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)  
[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

## Conservatives considering incentives for donors

Responding to the D'Offay donation, the Conservative Culture team say they are looking at the Acceptance in Lieu scheme to see if it can be amended to accept works from living donors, whether Gift Aid can be simplified and other changes to make it easier to give.

# Cultural Learning

## Demos and Funding Bodies issue Consultation on Cultural Learning

Demos and major donors have issued a challenge to cultural professionals and educationalists to provide a new and coherent direction for creative learning and for encouraging creativity through culture. *Culture and Learning: Towards a New Agenda* is a consultation paper written by John Holden and commissioned by major donors to museums working together as the Culture and Learning Funding Consortium.

The paper argues that cultural learning has a low status, and is fragmented: culture is undervalued in the education sector, and that learning is undervalued in the cultural sector.

It asks how the profile, scale and effectiveness of cultural learning can be improved. One proposal is that a joint initiative by all the cultural sector's NDPBs could raise the profile of learning, encourage networking and cross-disciplinary working, undertake research, produce evidence, establish coherence across the cultural sector, and provide an audit function so that cultural organisations can benchmark their own performance.

### Culture and Learning Funding Consortium

- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- Clore Duffield Foundation
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Foyle Foundation
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Northern Rock Foundation
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Seminars, one-to-one meetings and web-based public consultation will be organised during the year. The Funding Consortium will publish the final report later in 2008. The deadline for responses is 30 April 2008.

[www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page\\_sub.php?id=99&parent=37](http://www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page_sub.php?id=99&parent=37)

## Teaching Outside the Classroom - Teacher Training Placements

*Teaching outside the Classroom* is a new national programme which encourages providers of teacher training to offer their students placements in a diverse range of educational settings, including museums. The programme will offer a comprehensive package of support, including bespoke guidance, for providers and settings who wish to develop inspiring, creative placements for student teachers. *Teaching Outside the Classroom* is being developed by Creative Partnerships in partnership with MLA, CapeUK, the DCSF Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto and the Training and Development Agency for Schools.

[www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com](http://www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com)

## £31m Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has announced £31m funding over the next three years for third sector organisations through the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme. Culture 24 (previously the 24 Hour Museum) will receive £160,000 over 3 years. The programme awards funding to organisations whose work improves outcomes for children, young people and families and is in line with the overall strategic priorities of DCSF. The next round of funding will open early summer 2008.

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/cypfgrant/](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/cypfgrant/)

## Spotlight on Welsh Museums

The Welsh Assembly Government has published *Spotlight on Museums*, a comprehensive survey of Wales's museums and collections. The survey covers subject number and significance of collections, access and learning, audience development and physical aspects such as buildings, facilities and storage. It also provides information on the numbers of staff and volunteers working in the sector, working patterns and finance including admission charges, budgets and funding and support arrangements. The data will be revisited every four years to measure change and identify trends. The survey will inform the development of a new museums strategy for Wales, which should be published for consultation early in the summer.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presrelesearchive/1989187/?lang=en>

## Cultural tourism and Free Admission to Heritage Sites in Wales

The Welsh heritage Minister, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, has outlined his vision for cultural tourism in Wales, saying he wants to "use Wales's cultural assets to set Wales apart from our competitors." He confirmed his commitment to developing an integrated tourism strategy, ensuring that the different tourism partner organisations work together. As a first step, the Minister announced that as of 21 March 2008 access to the Blaenafon Ironworks will be free to all, and that Cadw, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council would be working together to develop and promote the Blaenafon Industrial World Heritage Site.

In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government has confirmed that proposals are being considered for free-entry to Assembly-funded heritage sites: an announcement will be made later in the year.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presrelesearchive/2033372/?version=1&lang=en>



## 2007 Visitor Figures Published

The Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) has published its annual survey of visitor figures. ALVA found little change over all from 2006 with an increasing number of visitors from the New Accession States within the EU tending to balance out slower growth from India and China. Seven out of the top 10 visitor attractions are national museums.

The Art Newspaper has published its annual survey of exhibition attendance. The figures reveal that an average of 10,071 visitors a day saw Leonardo da Vinci's *Annunciation*, on loan from the Uffizi in Florence to the Tokyo National Museum for three months last year.

For the first time the Art Newspaper's survey also includes total visit numbers for each museum, listing the top 60. The survey revealed that Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum was the 14<sup>th</sup> most visited museum in the world last year.

### Association of Leading Visitor Attractions

Blackpool Pleasure Beach	5.50m -3.0%
British Museum	5.42m +12%
Tate Modern	5.19m +6%
The National Gallery	4.16m -8%
Natural History Museum	3.60m -4.1%
Science Museum	2.71m +11%
Victoria and Albert Museum	2.44m +3%
Tower of London*	2.06m -1%
National Maritime Museum	1.70m +10%
St Paul's Cathedral*	1.62m 0%

\* admission charge

[www.alva.org.uk/visitor\\_statistics/](http://www.alva.org.uk/visitor_statistics/)

### The Art Newspaper

Louvre Paris	8.3m
Centre Pompidou Paris	5.5m
British Museum London	5.42m*
Tate Modern London	5.19m
Metropolitan Museum of Art New York	4.55m
National Gallery of Art Washington	4.52m
Vatican Museums Vatican City	4.31m
National Gallery London	4.16m
Musée d'Orsay Paris	3.17m
Museo Nacional del Prado Madrid	2.65m

\*Corrected: Art Newspaper published 2006 figure 4.84m

[www.theartnewspaper.com/attfig/AttFig07.pdf](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/attfig/AttFig07.pdf)

The French Ministry of Culture has also published figures for French national museums revealing that they had 23.8m visits in 2007, an 8% rise on 2006 and a 57% rise since 2002. The Night of the Museums on 19 May 2007 attracted an estimated 1.3m visitors to 953 participating museums in France.

[www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/index.htm](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/index.htm)

## Disposal Guidelines Published

The Museums Association has published its Disposal Toolkit and is encouraging museums to include disposal as a routine part of collections development. The toolkit is designed to support changes to the MA's Code of Ethics for Museums which encourages transfer of objects that could be better used elsewhere, and, in exceptional circumstances, allows for the sale of objects on the open market. The Museums Association's change of policy follows consultation with the sector and reflects long running debates on this issue (including [Too Much Stuff?](#) published by NMDC in 2003).

A Disposal Digest has been distributed with the March Museums Journal. An advocacy document, checklist and FAQ will be sent out in the April Museums Journal. [www.museumsassociation.org/disposal](http://www.museumsassociation.org/disposal)

Comment piece:

- Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery and Vice-President of the MA [The Guardian](#) (25 February 2008)

## Trustee appointments

The Prime Minister made the following appointments:

- Franck Petitgas** appointed as Trustee of the **Tate**. He is Global Co-Head of Investment Banking for Morgan Stanley and an active supporter of the visual arts.
- The film producer, **Michael Wilson OBE** re-appointed to the Board of the **National Museum of Science and Industry**. He is chairman of the National Media Museum. Mr Wilson has produced numerous James Bond films, and is also a leading expert on 19th century photography.
- Professor Georgina Mace CBE FRS** re-appointed as a Trustee of the **Natural History Museum**. She is Director of the National Environment Research Council Centre for population biology at Imperial College London. [www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page2517.asp](http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page2517.asp)

## Royal Armouries Trustee

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is seeking a suitably qualified person to appoint as a Trustee of the Royal Armouries. Applications are invited from people with a successful track record in local government, as well as some knowledge and experience of the development capital sector in the UK.

[www.culture.gov.uk/working\\_with\\_us/Public\\_appointments/pa\\_vacancies/](http://www.culture.gov.uk/working_with_us/Public_appointments/pa_vacancies/)

# National Lottery News

## National Lottery Awards 2008

The annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects has begun. Shortlisted projects will compete to go through to the finals, with the overall winners being announced on a BBC1 primetime TV show later in the year. All Lottery-funded projects can be nominated by the public or enter themselves.

[www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/awards) Deadline: 20 March 2008.

## Big Lottery Family Learning Programme

The Big Lottery Fund has announced the latest round of grants in the family learning programme. The programme funds projects that enable family members to participate in and enjoy educational activity more, to have more skills and knowledge and enable parents and carers to interact positively with their children and support them in learning. A total of £40m is available in grants of £10,000-£500,000 for up to five years. Closing date for next round: 29 August 2008.

[www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_family\\_learning.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_family_learning.htm)

## Nominate your Heritage Heroes

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Nationwide Building Society have launched the Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards 2008, inviting the public to nominate people or groups who deserve recognition for community or voluntary work that has made a real difference to people's lives. There are awards categories individuals, groups and young people under the headings "Community Champions" and "Heritage Heroes". The deadline for nominations is 28 April

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/National+search+launched.htm>

## NHMF Trustee Appointments

The Prime Minister has appointed four new Trustees for the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund. **Yinnon Ezra MBE**, Director of Recreation and Heritage Services at Hampshire County Council; **Alison McLean**, an independent consultant specialising in rural policy and regeneration; **Kim Evans OBE**, arts consultant and former Executive Director of Arts Council England; and **Hilary Lade**, Vice Chair of Oxford Inspires. They succeed outgoing Trustees Dr Mike Phillips, Dr Derek Langslow, Catherine Graham-Harrison and Madhu Anjali. The historian and broadcaster, **Dr Tristram Hunt** has been reappointed for a further 4 years.

## Funding to Promote Understanding of Conflict

The *Their Past Your Future* project is offering grants of up to £10,000 for projects that can promote a better understanding of 20th century conflict. The money is available for museums, libraries and archives in England who can develop programmes, workshops, exhibitions and events which increase community and intergenerational learning and young people's knowledge and understanding of the impact and contemporary significance of conflict. This second phase of the project is led by a partnership comprising MLA, the Imperial War Museum, Scottish Museums Council, Northern Ireland Museums Council and The National Library of Wales and supported by the Big Lottery Fund. Grant funding totalling £420,000 is available. Closing date: 23 May 2008.

[www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/their\\_past\\_your\\_future](http://www.mla.gov.uk/website/programmes/their_past_your_future)

## Conservatives Propose Reform of the National Lottery

Conservative leader, David Cameron and Shadow Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, have announced plans to reform the National Lottery, aimed at restoring its independence and generating an estimated £182m more for sport, arts, heritage and charitable causes. The Conservative's National Lottery Independence Bill would return the focus to supporting these original good causes, introduce a gross profits tax regime and cap the administration costs of Lottery distributors.

[www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj\\_id=142217](http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj_id=142217)

## Scottish Arts Council invests £8m for more, wider, better participation in the arts

The Scottish Arts Council has launched *Inspire*, a new £8m Lottery fund "for the development of exciting, innovative projects to inspire and encourage the people of Scotland to participate in the arts and become creative, imaginative members of a confident, cultured nation." Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate that they extend the reach and nature of engagement with the arts, ensure quality artistic engagement and create potential for new, creative cross sectoral partnerships. There is no maximum or minimum grant level. The deadline for applications is 5 May 2008.

[www.scottisharts.org.uk/inspire](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk/inspire)

## Coming up...

[In Parliament](#) - [Portable Antiquities Scheme](#), [Ticketmaster criticised](#), [Culture Online Funding](#), [DCMS Expenditure](#)

[International Issues](#) - [Met and Guggenheim directors resign](#), [Museum donors investigated](#), [Rijksmuseum delay](#)

[Members' News Round Up](#) - [Royal Armouries tackling knife crime](#), [Soldiers send blogs to NAM exhibition](#)

## Other news in brief...

### New Contemporary Arts Centre For Aberdeen

Plans for a major new centre for the contemporary arts in Aberdeen have been approved by the Scottish Government. The £12.5 m development designed by architects Brisac Gonzalez is due to be completed by 2010

[www.peacockvisualarts.com/archive/139/ministers-gve-green-light-for-art-centre-of-the-north](http://www.peacockvisualarts.com/archive/139/ministers-gve-green-light-for-art-centre-of-the-north)

### Fellowships for Retired Museum Professionals

The Museums Association is inviting applications for the second round of the £150,000 fellowship scheme to allow retired museum professionals to return to their former place of work to share their collections-related expertise. Fellows from the first round delivered staff training, information sheets, captions for books and helped to open research files for public access.

Deadline for applications: 16 May

[www.museumsassociation.org](http://www.museumsassociation.org)

### New Cultural Heritage Laws Database

UNESCO has launched a new online database of cultural heritage laws around the world. The database is intended to be a valuable tool in the fight against looting, theft, illegal export and import, as well as illicit trafficking of cultural property.

[www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws](http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws)

### ICOM UK Annual General Meeting

ICOM UK will be holding its AGM at the British Library Conference Centre at 2pm on Monday 21 April. The meeting will include the election of new members of the board. For more details contact Lucy Watts [lwatts@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:lwatts@museumoflondon.org.uk)

### JPEG 2000 Digital Preservation Standard

The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) has examined JPEG 2000 in a new report which concludes that the format represents a great stride forward for the archival community

[www.dpconline.org/graphics/reports/index.html#jpeg2000](http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/reports/index.html#jpeg2000)

### International Museum Day includes Virtual World

The theme of International Museum Day on 18 May 2009 is museums as agents of social change and development. ICOM also invite all museums to participate at events at The Tech Museum of Innovation on SECOND LIFE for the first-ever International Museum Day celebration in the virtual world. <http://icom.museum/>

### Call for lots for 2008 TopLots eBay auctions

Museums, libraries and archives are being invited to participate in a new round of TopLots, to generate income by offering unique and bespoke experiences to auction on eBay. The pilot TopLots heritage auction that took place in October 2007 raised just under £30,000 for museums and heritage organisations, selling 'behind-the-scenes' tours; meet-and-greets with curators, celebrities and famous families; participation in re-enactments; and unusual skills workshops. TopLots is run by Development Partners in partnership with the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) and eBay for Charity, working closely with VisitBritain. Deadline for registration: 31 March 2008.

[www.toplots.co.uk/organisation.php](http://www.toplots.co.uk/organisation.php)

### Museum and Heritage Show - Free Seminar Programme

The 2008 Museum and Heritage Show at Earls Court in London on 7-8 May will include over 30 free seminars on marketing; education & audience development; income & funding; design & interpretation; collections management and conservation & the environment, a Design Conference and two free drop in advice surgeries on Design & Interpretation and Collections Management.

[www.museumsandheritage.com](http://www.museumsandheritage.com)

### Digital Portal for Collections

A test version of the new Europeana web portal which will break new ground by bringing together millions of digitised resources from Europe's archives, museums, libraries and audio visual collections through a single portal has been published. The Europeana project is directed by the European Digital Library Foundation

[www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080307.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080307.html)

### Euronews

EUCLID has announced the launch of [euronews.culture.info](http://euronews.culture.info), a new online summary of key EU and European information – covering funding opportunities, deadlines, results of calls, reports, networks, policies, events, etc.

*If you have news for future editions of the NMDC newsletter, please send details to [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)*

## In Parliament...

### House of Commons Debate on Portable Antiquities Scheme

Former Arts Minister, Mark Fisher MP, initiated a Commons debate on the future of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) amid concerns that the funding for the Scheme has not been ring-fenced in MLA's budget. Culture Minister Margaret Hodge confirmed that the British Museum would take the lead and run the scheme in future and that financial negotiations would follow a joint review of the scheme by the BM and MLA.

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080305/halltext/80305h0010.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080305/halltext/80305h0010.htm)

### Ticketmaster Criticised by MPs

46 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion expressing concerns about the practices of Ticketmaster. The MPs call on Ticketmaster to advertise clearly the additional prices they charge for booking fees and administration charges when advertising the price of tickets so that consumers are not misled. The MPs expressed concern that some companies only sell tickets through Ticketmaster leaving consumers with no alternative but to pay these additional fees. <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=34990&SESSION=891>

### DCMS expenditure on research, PR and consultancy

In response to Parliamentary questions from Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs, DCMS has published figures on expenditure on consultancy contracts, research, public relations companies and advertising since 2005. For details see:

[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080205/text/80205w0020.htm#08020563007999](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080205/text/80205w0020.htm#08020563007999)

### Culture Online Funding

DCMS has spent £12.5m on Culture Online [Hansard Written Answers, 3 March 2008](#)

## International Issues

### Met and Guggenheim Directors to Step Down

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has announced that Philippe de Montebello will retire after more than 30 years as its eighth, and longest-serving, Director. Mr. de Montebello first joined the staff as a curatorial assistant in 1963, became Director in 1977, and assumed the additional role of Chief Executive Officer in 1998. He plans to step down by 31 December 2008.

[www.metmuseum.org/press\\_room/full\\_release.asp?prid={B88665AC-60DB-4C8D-91A7-8643C3AE6180}](http://www.metmuseum.org/press_room/full_release.asp?prid={B88665AC-60DB-4C8D-91A7-8643C3AE6180})

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation has announced that Thomas Krens will step down as its director later this year, once his successor has been found. Mr Krens has been director since 1988. He will continue with the Foundation as the Senior Advisor for International Affairs developing and overseeing all aspects of the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, its largest and most complex project to date, and other designated special projects.

[www.guggenheim.org/press\\_releases/release\\_217.html](http://www.guggenheim.org/press_releases/release_217.html)

Meanwhile, The New York Times reports that the board of Museum of Modern Art has approved a new five-year contract for its Director, Glenn D Lowry.

[www.nytimes.com/2008/02/15/arts/design/15voege.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/15/arts/design/15voege.html)

### US Museums Assist with Tax Fraud and Smuggling Investigation

Several museums in California and Chicago have been presented with search warrants by the Federal Government looking into the circumstances surrounding the importation and donation or purchase of South East Asian objects that have come into the museums' collections from specific donors of the past several years. The Art Newspaper reports that investigators allege items were illegally imported and donated to museums to produce inflated income tax donations. The museums involved include the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Bowers Museum, Pacific Asia Museum Pasadena and the Mingei International Museum in San Diego.

The museums have issued statements to confirm they are fully cooperating with the investigation. LACMA has provided registrarial and donor files to the Federal authorities relating to gifts from two of the museum's long-standing members and donors. [www.lacma.org/press/releases/124statement.pdf](http://www.lacma.org/press/releases/124statement.pdf)



### MFA Asserts Rightful Ownership of Kokoschka Painting

The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has filed a law suit to assert its rightful ownership of the painting *Two Nudes (Lovers)* by Oskar Kokoschka, in response to a request for restitution made by Dr. Claudia Seger-Thomschitz, represented as the sole heir of the painting's former owner, Dr. Oskar Reichel from Vienna. Seger-Thomschitz has asserted that Reichel was forced to sell *Two Nudes (Lovers)* under duress in Nazi-occupied Austria in 1939. However, the MFA's statement says their recent investigation into the provenance of the painting confirms that the MFA has clear title to the work. [www.mfa.org/dynamic/sub/ctr\\_link\\_url\\_5980.pdf](http://www.mfa.org/dynamic/sub/ctr_link_url_5980.pdf)

### Dissemination of French Contemporary Art

The French Ministry of Culture and Communication and Culturesfrance have jointly launched a programme to support the dissemination of contemporary public art collections overseas.

[www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/lettre/li156.pdf](http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/actualites/lettre/li156.pdf)

### Looking for Owners: Looted Art on Display in Israel

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem is hosting *Looking for Owners*, an exhibition of works from the Musées Nationaux Récupération (MNR) collection tracing the story of works of art looted by Nazi forces in France during the Second World War. The exhibition organised in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture and Communication is part of the French government's active provenance research and restitution efforts. Approximately 60,000 objects taken from France and brought to Germany during World War II, either through looting or commercial transactions, were repatriated to France after the war. Of these, 2,000 objects that could not be restituted due to a lack of clear ownership history or because they had not been looted, were given in custody to the French National Museums forming the Musées Nationaux Récupération.

[www.imj.org.il/exhibitions/2008/MNR/english.html](http://www.imj.org.il/exhibitions/2008/MNR/english.html)

### Rijksmuseum Reopening Delayed

The Dutch Government has said the renovation of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam has been delayed and is not likely to be completed before the end of 2012 or early 2013. The main building has been closed since 2003 and was initially due to reopen at the end of 2009. A statement issued by the Ministry of Culture said it had decided to put the contract up for bidding again after the construction company that originally won the deal said the project would cost 222m euros, compared to a budget of 134m.

The 400 treasures from the museum's collection are still on display in a side wing. This display received more than 1 million people visits in 2006, as many as when the main building was still open.

[www.minocw.nl/](http://www.minocw.nl/)

Translation: [www.reuters.com/article/artsNews/idUSL2692462820080226](http://www.reuters.com/article/artsNews/idUSL2692462820080226)

### Acropolis Museum to Open this September

The Associated Press reports that the Acropolis Museum is due to open in September this year. Culture Minister Michalis Liapis told reporters the delicate operation to transfer hundreds of artefacts from the old museum on top of the Acropolis hill to the new building would be finished by the end of March. The €129m museum was initially scheduled for completion in 2004.

[www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8UU7C900.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8UU7C900.htm)

## Members' News Round Up

**Botanists from the Natural History Museum, in partnership with an Australian company, have used a DNA technique, originally developed for use in agriculture, to detect genetic diversity in wild plants.** It is the first trial of the Diversity Arrays Technology (DArT) in undomesticated plants and the results give new insights into plant evolution and prove useful in detecting hybrid plants.

[www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/march/news\\_13448.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/march/news_13448.html)

**The Royal Armouries has published 'Tackling Knife Crime' a survey of the statistics on knife crime** and research into current attitudes and behaviours regarding the misuse of knives. The report is part of the Museum's NTK (No To Knives) campaign and identifies the need for local and national partnership projects to tackle knife crime and evaluation of weapons awareness programmes. [www.royalarmouries.org/extsite/view.jsp?sectionId=3825](http://www.royalarmouries.org/extsite/view.jsp?sectionId=3825)

**The British Museum has announced a long term loan to The Manchester Museum of the Lindow Man**, the first century AD bog body discovered in Cheshire in 1984. The loan was proposed by the BM as part of its Partnership UK scheme.

[www.britishmuseum.org/the\\_museum/news\\_and\\_press\\_releases/press\\_releases/2008/lindow\\_man.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2008/lindow_man.aspx)

**The British Museum and the British Army have held talks about a new initiative aimed at restoring Iraq's cultural heritage.** The Art Newspaper reports that the British Army will facilitate specialists coming out from the UK to south-east Iraq to liaise with Iraqi civil contacts, and will assist where possible with contracts for work required, underwritten with a degree of funding. Dr John Curtis, Keeper of Middle East collections at the Museum told *The Guardian* that plans were at an early stage and said "what is encouraging is that the army is now taking an interest in cultural heritage." Further details are expected to be announced in May.

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7570](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7570)

**The National Army Museum's exhibition *Helmand: The Soldiers' Story* will be updated with changing displays of objects, photographs, footage and blogs sent from the front line,** when 16 Air Assault Brigade return to Helmand Province in April 2008. The exhibition is on the long-list for the Art Fund Prize. The National Army Museum has also received its biggest grant to date from the National Heritage Memorial Fund: £80,000 towards the £300,000 needed to save a portrait of General Wolfe, by JSC Schaak

[www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/press/](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/press/)

**Schools Minister, Jim Knight MP, visited the Imperial War Museum** on 4 March to present the Languages Ladder Awards to some of the country's best language learners aged from 8 to 90 years old.

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2008\\_0038](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0038)

**The National Museums of Scotland has formed a partnership with Shetland Amenity Trust.** The partnership will increase access to the national collections through loans, joint exhibitions and collaboration on community projects, and promote exchange of skills. NMS also signed similar partnerships with Western Isles Museum service and East Ayrshire Museum & Arts last year.

An extremely rare and significant clock, made in Edinburgh in the late 17th century has been donated to National Museums Scotland by 79-year-old Lanarkshire woman who found it in a second hand shop.

[www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk)

**Ian Snowley, has been appointed as Head of Education at the British Library.** Ian will work as an ambassador for the British Library within the library and HE sectors to develop and strengthen the relationship with key institutions. [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

**The National Library of Scotland is displaying the world's largest book this month.** *Bhutan: A Visual Odyssey: Across The Last Himalayan Kingdom*, measures 5x7 feet when open and weighs 60 kilos and contains photographs of Bhutan.

[www.nls.uk/collections/foreign/mountains/largest-book.html](http://www.nls.uk/collections/foreign/mountains/largest-book.html)

**Tate Liverpool is launching a new marketing campaign that will put its visitors, and their opinions on art, in the spotlight.** Visitors to the museum on 16 February were invited to write comment cards, with those who wrote the most interesting cards being invited to a filming and photography session to become the face of the Tate Liverpool Collection campaign.

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/14226.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/14226.htm)

**Tate has announced the design and construction team for the new development of Tate Modern.** Work is expected to start on site in mid 2009.

[www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/14132.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/14132.htm)

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If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email the Editor, Emily Candler, at [news@nationalmuseums.org.uk](mailto:news@nationalmuseums.org.uk)