

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

Members' News

National Galleries of Scotland and Tate Join to Acquire Art Collection

Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) have formed an alliance to acquire the Anthony d'Offay Collection of post-war modern and contemporary art. Anthony d'Offay, a London art dealer has offered his collection, which comprises major groups of works by artists, on a part gift, part sale basis.

Details of how the partnership would work are under discussion, but it is envisaged that the d'Offay collection, together with works from the collections in Edinburgh and London, would form a single resource that would be made available to the public through loans and exhibitions across Britain. The two institutions and Mr d'Offay are keen to use the Collection to inspire younger audiences to develop an interest in contemporary art. www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2006/7496.htm

National Museums at Chatham Secures Funding

National Museums at Chatham, a partnership between the National Maritime Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the Science Museum and Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, has received a £4.97m grant from Heritage Lottery Fund and £2 million from the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

The partnership aims to create a world-class museum resource at The Historic Dockyard Chatham in Kent to deliver access, learning, conservation and regeneration benefits regionally and nationally. The 19th Century No.1 Smithery building at The Historic Dockyard Chatham will be restored to provide education spaces, a high quality gallery to attract temporary exhibitions, permanent galleries that will draw on the museums' collections - including ship models, paintings and other artefacts - and specialised storage and research facilities. National Museums at Chatham is due to open to the public in 2010.

The total cost of National Museums at Chatham is estimated at £14 million, of which £9.2 million has been allocated, including £2.2 million from the Department for Communities & Local Government (DCLG). The remainder will be raised over the next few years. HRH The Prince of Wales is Patron of National Museums at Chatham. www.historicdockyardchatham.com/NetsiteCMS.php?pageid=217&articleid=136

British Museum, eBay and MLA Work Together to Ensure Legal Sale of Antiquities

The British Museum and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) have partnered with eBay.co.uk to ensure that antiquities found in the UK are being sold legally on its site.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), which is managed by the British Museum on behalf of MLA, has set up a team to monitor antiquities sold on eBay.co.uk and to ensure that sellers have the right to trade them. Where the listing is illegal, PAS will report it to the Art and Antiques Unit of the Metropolitan Police and eBay.co.uk, which has committed to end illegal listings.

In many cases, sellers innocently trade items, unaware that archaeological finds that constitute 'treasure' need to be reported under the provisions of the Treasure Act. eBay has worked with the British Museum and PAS to create a guide to buying and selling antiquities safely on its site with advice about reporting obligations. The guide is at: pages.ebay.co.uk/buy/guides/antiquities www.mla.gov.uk

National Railway Museum Named Yorkshire Visitor Attraction of the Year

The National Railway Museum has been named best Large Visitor Attraction in Yorkshire for the fourth time. Judges highlighted "the Museum's excellent record in customer care, and the overall standard of the ever-changing experience it offers to visitors". The Museum will now go forward to the national Enjoy England Awards next spring. www.nrm.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/2006/wra.asp

British Library Intellectual Property Manifesto

The British Library launched its manifesto on Intellectual Property (IP) reform at a fringe event of the Labour Party Conference: *IP: Fee or Free? Public Access Versus Commercial Opportunity in the Digital Age*, which explored the problems and paradoxes of IP rights in the digital age.

To ensure a balance between the rights of creators to be recognised and rewarded for their work, and the public interest in ensuring access to information and ideas that underpin creativity and innovation, the Manifesto's key recommendations include:

- Existing limitations and exceptions to copyright law should be extended to the digital environment;
- Licenses providing access to digital material should not undermine longstanding limitations and exceptions such as 'fair dealing', the right to make a copy from an in-copyright work without permission from the rights-holder for non-commercial research, criticism, review and news reporting.
- The right to copy material for preservation purposes should be extended to all copyrightable works;
- The copyright term for sound recordings should not be extended without evidence of the benefits and consideration of the needs of society as a whole;
- The US model for dealing with 'orphan works' – creative works where it is not possible to trace the rights holder - should be considered for the UK;
- The length of copyright term for unpublished works should be life plus 70 years.

To read the IP Manifesto in full, visit: www.bl.uk/news/pdf/ipmanifesto.pdf (PDF format) 43KB

Future of Theatre Museum

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) and the Royal Opera House have announced that they are unable to go ahead with a partnership to run a new centre on the site of the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden. The organisations said the sticking point had been the investment necessary to transform the current building into a suitable space for the future and ongoing running costs.

The V&A said its Trustees will now review the situation but it is likely that the Theatre Museum will close in January. The V&A added that it remains committed to safeguarding and displaying the theatrical collections and is proposing a new programme which will include a new gallery at the V&A in South Kensington, touring displays, education activities and a major exhibition in 2009 to mark the first performance of the Ballets Russes. www.theatremuseum.org.uk/news/details.php?id=39

Their Past Your Future Website Wins Award

The Their Past Your Future website, part of the innovative programme led by the Imperial War Museum to commemorate the Second World War, has won the People's Choice Award for Best Use of Flash at the inaugural Y Design Awards. The new awards were launched at the London Design Festival which celebrates the UK's creative talent. www.theirpast-yourfuture.org.uk

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced that it will create a digital archive for more than 500 gigabytes of historic material created last year through projects under the Their Past Your Future programme, working with the University of London Computer Centre. www.mla.gov.uk

Premiere of Re-mastered Battle of the Somme Film

A digitally re-mastered version of the film, *The Battle of the Somme*, is to be screened with orchestral accompaniment for the first time since the film's original release in 1916. To mark the 90th anniversary of the battle, the Imperial War Museum is holding a gala screening of the film with a new orchestral accompaniment composed by Laura Rossi and performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Sunday 22 October 2006, 7:30 pm Queen Elizabeth Hall, London www.iwm.org.uk/thesomme

The Battle of the Somme, 1 July - 18 November 1916, was the first British offensive of the First World War to which cameramen were given access. *The Battle of the Somme* film was released in August 1916, while the battle was still being fought. In recognition of the film's importance as a documentary record, The Battle of the Somme has recently been inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World register.

Archived Seeds Germinated

Scientists from the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place have germinated 200-year-old seeds that were found in files at The National Archives. The seeds are believed to have been collected by a Dutch merchant during a trip to the Cape of Good Hope in 1804.

A few seeds from each of 32 species were sent to the Millennium Seed Bank. Against expectations, three of the species have germinated and are growing into healthy plants. The seeds have been carbon dated to verify their age and DNA is being extracted. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/127.htm

Redevelopment of the Ulster Museum

The Ulster Museum will close on 2 October 2006 for a two and a half year redevelopment to transform the interior of the building and greatly enrich the museum experience for visitors. Innovative learning and outreach programmes, new exhibitions and interactive displays will make the museum's collections stimulating and intellectually meaningful for visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

During the closure visitors will be able to explore the Museum's collections on a new website and an outreach programme will include touring exhibitions, lectures, talks and workshops throughout Northern Ireland. www.ulstermuseum.org.uk/newsroom/

Forensic Science at W5

CSI W5 is an innovative education challenge at W5, Northern Ireland's science and discovery centre. As part of Skills and Science, a new programme of workshops and events for 14-19 years olds at W5, students will have the opportunity to use forensic tools and work in teams to evaluate their findings, untangle evidence and solve a case. W5 worked with the Police Service of Northern Ireland forensic team to ensure an element of reality in the challenge.

W5 were recently awarded the Education Technology Award at the 2006 Business Eye Golden Eye T Awards for innovative use of technology in Northern Ireland.

www.w5online.co.uk/sections/default.asp?cms=Take+5%5FPress+Releases+Forensics+Challenge&cmsid=104186203&id=203&secid=5

Map Thief Sentenced

E Forbes Smiley III, an art dealer who admitted stealing 98 historic maps from libraries, has been sentenced to 3.5 years in prison in the US and obliged to pay financial restitution of \$1.926 million. Dr Clive Field, Director of Scholarship and Collections at the British Library, which attributes the loss of four maps to Smiley, expressed the Library's disappointment at the short sentence "which it believes does not adequately reflect the seriousness of the offences".

Smiley admitted the theft from the British Library of the Peter Apian world map of 1520, an uncoloured woodcut, which has been recovered by the FBI. www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-2378983.html

Turner Prize in Liverpool in 2007

The Turner Prize will be shown at Tate Liverpool in 2007, in the run up to Liverpool's year of celebrations as European Capital of Culture in 2008. Christoph Grunenberg, Director of Tate Liverpool, will chair the 2007 Turner Prize jury. This is the first time the Turner Prize has been held outside London since it began in 1984. Tate Britain will present an exhibition celebrating the history of the Turner Prize next autumn and the Turner Prize will return to Tate Britain in 2008. www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2006/7445.htm

Victoria Cross Holder at National Army Museum

Private Johnson Beharry, the first living recipient of the Victoria Cross since 1969, will be in conversation with Nick Cook, co-author of Beharry's memoirs, Barefoot Solider, at the National Army Museum on 11 October. Private Johnson Beharry's actions in Iraq in 2004 saved the lives of thirty of his comrades and earned him the first Victoria Cross issued by the British Army in 22 years. www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/pages/beharry.shtml

England Footballer in Museum Film

Liverpool captain and England midfielder Steven Gerrard features in a short film, shot during a visit to the World Museum Liverpool and the Walker Art Gallery, which is being shown on the Big Screen in Clayton Square, Liverpool city centre during the World Museum Liverpool's new exhibition Love Sport.

Love Sport explores how playing sport can develop a healthy body, a healthy mind and even contributes to a healthy economy through advances in technology. blog.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Current Issues

Engaging Places: Unlocking the Educational Potential of the Historic Environment

A new project from DCMS and DfES, supported by English Heritage and Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, aims to increase engagement with the built environment by developing a network to support the delivery of built environment education services to schools.

Three pilot projects in London, the South East and Yorkshire and Humber in 2006/7 will research what is needed to build a sustainable network to help children, young people and communities learn and engage with the places that surround them. A report to Ministers in September 2007 will set out an action plan. www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Architecture_design/engaging_places.htm

Research Published into Extended Schools

A report by the Universities of Newcastle and Manchester on Full Service Extended Schools (FSES), shows that schools that open their doors to pupils, parents and local people outside traditional hours can expect improvements in performance. The report represents the findings from the second year (school year 2004-5) of the national evaluation of Full Service Extended Schools. Key findings include:

- There is good evidence that FSES can have significant positive effects on children, adults and families. They can also be associated with benefits for schools in terms of improvements on performance measures (such as student attainment and exclusion rates) and increased intake numbers.
- On the basis of the evidence so far available there is every reason to persevere with the implementation and development of extended provision.
- FSES were able to take individuals and families through processes of change which re-engaged them with learning and had significant impacts on their life chances.
- FSES experienced tensions between their long term approaches and the more immediate demands of the attainment agenda.
- Some schools experienced problems in engaging their key partners.
- There is also work to do in finding ways of engaging the most vulnerable and marginalised people, deciding what it is realistic for the school to achieve alone and in partnership, finding ways of seeing local people as active partners, and reconciling the long-term aims of the FSES with the continuing need for raised pupil attainment.

The research comes after OFSTED found that children, young people and families benefited from enhanced self confidence, improved relationships, raised aspirations and better attitudes to learning where their school or children's centre was providing access to extended activities. Over 3,000 schools – 1 in 8 – now offer access to extended services.

The Government wants all schools to offer access to extended services by 2010, with half of primary schools and a third of secondary schools doing so by 2008. The core services include:

- A variety activities such as homework clubs, study support, sport, music, dance and drama, arts and crafts, special interest clubs such as chess and first aid courses, visits to museums and galleries, learning a foreign language, volunteering, business and enterprise activities;
- Providing wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities including adult learning.

£680 million has been allocated for the start of extended services between 2006 and 2008. Of this, £430m will be distributed to schools via local authorities and £250m is going direct to schools.

The report is available at: www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR795.pdf

Ofsted Report on Creative Partnerships

Ofsted has published a report on Creative Partnerships and made recommendations for boosting partnerships between schools and creative practitioners. The research was commissioned by Culture Minister David Lammy and looked at a sample of Phase 1 schools. Ofsted found that:

- Most Creative Partnerships programmes were effective in developing in pupils some attributes of creative people: an ability to improvise, take risks, show resilience, and collaborate with others.
- Good personal and social skills were developed by most pupils involved in Creative Partnerships programmes.
- For a small number of pupils a Creative Partnerships programme represented a fresh start. Opportunities to work in creative industries motivated pupils and inspired high aspirations.
- Schools offered evidence of improvement in achievement in areas such as literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) which they associated with pupils' enjoyment in learning through Creative Partnerships programmes and developing thinking skills.
- Creative practitioners were very well trained and well matched to school priorities and needs. Most teachers gained an understanding about teaching to promote pupils' creativity.
- Programmes promoted collaborative planning between subject areas in the majority of schools.
- Reasons for the selection of schools and individual pupils were unclear, which contributed to inadequate tracking of pupils' progress, particularly regarding their creative development or ability to transfer the skills learned in Creative Partnerships programmes to other aspects of their work.

Creative Partnerships, launched in 2002, is the Government's cultural education programme designed to give school children and teachers the opportunity to explore their creativity by working on projects with creative organisations and individuals. Creative Partnerships operates around the country, primarily in areas of economic and cultural deprivation and rural isolation. To date, Creative Partnerships has worked with over 300,000 young people on over 5,000 projects.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/index.cfm?fuseaction=pubs.summary&id=4267

Providing 'Places to go, Things to do' for Children and Young People

This conference will explore how local authorities and their partners can use culture to meet the requirement to provide access to "places to go, things to do", and achieve the outcomes set by *Every Child Matters*. Speakers will discuss the impact of the Government report on *Nurturing Creativity in Young People* and explore how to improve well-being through providing access to enterprise and activities.

12 October, Royal Overseas League, London www.neilstewartassociates.com/kd144/ 020 7324 4972

£40 million Lottery Fund to Bring Families Together through Learning

The Big Lottery Fund has announced a new Family Learning programme which will fund practical and enjoyable activities for adults and children to do together. Charities, community and voluntary bodies and schools can apply for awards of between £10,000 and £500,000 to help families bond whilst building life skills.

The programme aims to fund a variety of projects that benefit families, including activities such as gardening or cooking together. Other projects might help with reading or maths, using elements of sports, arts, crafts and drama as a basis for learning. BIG will look for projects that meet local needs and remove barriers to learning, for example, by providing childcare for families attending sessions as well as reaching out to families who have not learned together before.

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/pr_190906-eng-fl-lottery_40_million_brings_families_together?regioncode=-uk

Your Place Or Mine? Engaging New Audiences with Heritage

This conference run by English Heritage and The National Trust will reflect on the range of work that aims to engage new audiences with heritage and debate strategies for broadening participation.

Your Place Or Mine? will explore the challenges and issues in engaging new audiences with heritage: whose story are we telling? What role can heritage play in building cohesive communities? What do roots, identity and sense of place mean in today's society? Speakers include David Lammy, Lola Young, Maurice Davies, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown and Nick Merriman.

2 - 3 November 2006 Manchester Town Hall www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.9507

Burlington House Cultural Campus

The six societies at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London – The Linnean Society of London, the Geological Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Academy of Arts - have agreed to work more closely together to generate new knowledge and transfer and communicate it to a wider audience.

In a speech marking the inauguration of the Burlington House Cultural Campus, Lord Sainsbury of Turville, DTI Minister for Science and Innovation, welcomed the initiative which combines historic buildings and arts, heritage and scientific organisations. He praised the collaboration between the Societies and said that the concept of a "cultural campus" mirrors the Government's aim of bringing the arts and sciences together. He highlighted the importance of public engagement with science and the role of the Societies working together in advancing this dialogue.

www.linnean.org/index.php?id=9#481 Minister's speech: www.dti.gov.uk/about/dti-ministerial-team/page34147.html

Train to Gain Goes National

Train to Gain, the Government's £1 billion national training programme, is being rolled out across England. It will help 50,000 employers and 350,000 employees a year to acquire the skills they need to boost productivity and competitiveness and improve life chances for low-skilled employees.

The service is managed and delivered by the Learning and Skills Council. It gives employers access to a free Skills Broker service, offering independent and practical advice to match training needs with training providers. Further information at www.traintogain.gov.uk/index.html

Auction of Donated Work for Whitechapel Gallery

Work donated by leading painters, sculptors and photographers from across the world will be auctioned at Sotheby's on Friday 13 October to raise money for the Whitechapel Gallery.

The Gallery recently launched a £10 million plan to expand into the adjacent Whitechapel Library, to provide additional exhibition space and new training and education facilities.

www.whitechapel.org/content.php?page_id=2760

Louise De Winter Appointed Director of National Campaign for the Arts

Louise De Winter, Director of External Relations at Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is leaving in November to take the role of Director of the National Campaign for the Arts. MLA is recruiting for a new Director of Marketing and Communications. www.mla.gov.uk

Museums and Galleries Month Evaluation and Planning Seminar

The Museums and Galleries Month Evaluation and Planning Seminar on 20 September was attended by museums, galleries, MLA, the Arts Council and regional organisations from around the UK. Attendees shared experiences of Museums and Galleries Month 2006 and explored ideas to develop Museums and Galleries Month to increase its impact in 2007. Proposals made at the seminar will be discussed by the MGM Working Group and developed into plans in the coming months. www.mgm.org.uk

Community Website for Archives Launched

The National Council on Archives has launched Britain's first community website for archives, to mark the start of this year's Archive Awareness campaign. www.communityarchives.org.uk will showcase a wide variety of archives and offer a forum for archives to communicate with each other and promote their collections and events.

The theme for this year's Archive Awareness campaign *Neighbourhoods and Woods* encourages people to investigate the history of their community and woodland, with a record number of events taking place in archives across the UK over the next few months. www.archiveawareness.com

Charity Organisations to Work Together

Acevo (Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisation), the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Finance Directors' Group have announced plans to move to shared offices and develop joint services as part of a drive for closer collaboration. The organisations have already worked together on policy issues and are now working towards sharing premises, with combined finance and IT resources, by the end of 2008. The collaboration follows a feasibility study funded by the ChangeUp National Infrastructure Modernisation Fund. There are no plans to merge the organisations.

www.thirdsector.co.uk/charity_news/full_news.cfm?ID=19923

Creative Industries Economic Estimates

Newly published statistics on the role of the Creative Industries in the UK economy show that:

- The Creative Industries accounted for 7.3% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2004.
- The Creative Industries grew by an average of 5% per annum between 1997 and 2004, compared with an average of 3% for the whole economy over this period. Software, Computer Games & Electronic Publishing (9%), Radio & TV (8%) and Art & Antiques (7%) showed higher than average growth
- Exports by the Creative Industries totalled £13 billion in 2004, 4.3% of goods and services exported.
- Total creative employment increased from 1.6m in 1997 to 1.8m in 2005, an average growth rate of 2% per annum, compared to 1% for the whole of the economy over this period.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Research/statistics_outputs/creative_industries_eco_est.htm

London Regional Historic Environment Policy Document

Capital Values, a policy document prepared by English Heritage on behalf of the London Historic Environment Forum demonstrates the contribution of the historic environment to London's strategic development, from regeneration and education to community cohesion and hosting the 2012 Olympic Games. The report includes case studies on tourism, cultural industry, participation and biodiversity and focuses on the potential role of the historic environment in Local Area Agreements which identify and develop priorities for local authorities. www.helm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.7846

Merger of Arts Organisations in Wales

Cywaith Cymru/Artworks Wales and CBAT, The Arts & Regeneration Agency, Wales will merge to form the largest public art company in the UK, Public Art in Wales. Both agencies, funded by Arts Council Wales a long track record of developing and commissioning projects in the public realm and Public Art in Wales, will build on their successes and strengths. Wiard Sterk, currently director of CBAT, has been appointed executive director of Public Art in Wales. www.artswales.org.uk/viewnews.asp?id=551

China-UK Connections through Culture

China-UK Connections through Culture is a partnership between the British Council, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, DCMS and the Scottish Executive which aims to assist collaborative work between UK and Chinese cultural organisations.

As part of the programme, the British Council is hoping to host a networking event at the 2007 Museums Association Conference in Glasgow, but this is yet to be finalised. The British Council office in Beijing is able to offer information, advice and brokering support for cultural organisations wishing to work in China. More information at: ctc.britishcouncil.org.cn/welcome.html

MLA Board appointments

Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell this week announced new appointments to the MLA Board. *Michael Walsh*, formerly of Ogilvy and Mather; *Roy Clare*, Director, National Maritime Museum; *Yinnon Ezra*, Director of Recreation and Heritage for Hampshire County Council; *Nicholas Dodd*, Chief Executive of Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust; and *Sara Selwood*, Head of the Department of Cultural Policy and Management at City University and a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, have been appointed to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) Board. Sir Geoffrey Holland, Sarah Carthew, Glen Lawes, John Hicks, Geoffrey Bond, Alexander Cunningham, John Tarrant, Helen Forde and Robert Wand have been appointed as Regional Chairs and National Members to the Board of the MLA. Current serving regional chairs Geoffrey Bond, Sir Geoffrey Holland, Sarah Carthew, John Hicks, Helen Forde and Alexander Cunningham will serve for three years until 30 September 2009. All the other appointments will run for four years to 30 September 2010.

www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Press_notices/archive_2006/dcms117_06.htm

Party Conferences

Prime Minister Hails Success of Free Admission Policy

In his speech to the Labour Party Conference Tony Blair mentioned free admission to museums as one of the achievements of his government. He said "Now, for all that remains to be done, [let us] dwell for a moment on what has been achieved.....Free museum entry that has seen a 50% rise in visitors..."

[www.labour.org.uk/index.php?id=news2005&ux_news\[id\]=primeminister&cHash=7e84d2fbb8](http://www.labour.org.uk/index.php?id=news2005&ux_news[id]=primeminister&cHash=7e84d2fbb8)

Natural Resources for the Creative Society: Museums, Libraries and Archives

Natural resources for the creative society: museums, libraries and archives was the theme of MLA's fringe events at this year's party conferences, which were jointly organised with the think tank Demos.

Speaking at a fringe meeting of the Labour Party Conference Minister for Culture David Lammy stated that the cultural sector was "a natural resource for creativity" and called for culture to be at the heart of every community. He stressed that services had to be free while quality should remain at the vanguard of the public debate on identity. Mr Lammy said that the cultural sector had answers to the challenges of immigration, security and terrorism and, while remaining neutral, it should also be at the forefront of discussions. Mr Lammy stated that it would be a challenge to match the recent record investment in the sector, but that he was optimistic about generating funds from other sources.

Demos are organising a fringe meeting: *The 21st Century Society: the role of museums, libraries and archives* at the Conservative Party Conference. www.demos.co.uk/content/partyconferences

Imagine Britain without the Arts – Arts Council Fringe Meetings

Imagine Britain without the Arts was the theme of Arts Council England's fringe events at this year's party conferences. At the Liberal Democrat Conference the Shadow Culture Secretary, Don Foster, said that society needed to value the arts and to ensure that we never had to imagine Britain without them. Mr Foster praised investment made by the Labour government and emphasised the need to value the crucial importance of the arts and advocate the arts. He said that the Liberal Democrats needed to place greater prominence and importance on the role of the arts within society.

At a fringe meeting of the Labour Conference, Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, stated that imagining Britain without the arts was analogous to moving from a high definition state of the art TV to black and white TV. She outlined three ways of arguing the case for the arts: the instrumental argument whereby young people that were creative and involved in the arts did better at school and had a higher level of achievement; the power of the arts and cultures as drivers for regeneration; and the power of art in its own right. 'Through culture', she said 'we learn what it is to be human'.

Shadow Culture Secretary Hugo Swire announced that under a Conservative government lottery funding for arts would be increased by undoing the Big Lottery Fund and refocusing national lottery funding. Speaking at a fringe meeting of the Conservative Party Conference, Mr Swire said that a Conservative government would support the arts "not as an add on, but at the centre of the modern, compassionate Conservative Party". New policy thinking would include a review of the structure of arts policy and establishing a national acquisitions fund and an obligation to acquire war graves overseas.

Reception at Manchester Art Gallery

David Lammy was among speakers at 'Welcome to Manchester - the Culture Reception' organised by Manchester City Council, Arts Council England, the BBC, and Museum, Libraries and Archives at Manchester Art Gallery during the Labour Party Conference.

Lottery Funding

At *The fact and the fury*. What should the Lottery fund? Minister for Sport, Richard Caborn said that the UK Lottery was the most successful lottery in the world. The devolution of powers to the Big Lottery Fund was a risk, he said, but the Lottery must innovate when necessary and take political risks when necessary, while taking a balanced approach and maintaining public support.

At the Liberal Democrat fringe meeting, Don Foster offered support for the Big Lottery Fund, but insisted that the Government must not use the Fund to support its own core service priorities. He said that Liberal Democrat opposition to the National Lottery in 1993 had been a mistake and that the Lottery had demonstrated its worth. He noted that more than half of its payments were for small grants supporting local schemes and that most people could point to projects in their area that had benefited from lottery money.

International Issues

Economic and Social Importance of Culture

A report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) attempts to measure the economic and social value of culture to western economies. It compares data on employment, revenues and value added in creative industries including film, music, visual and performing arts, architecture, publishing, software, radio and TV, advertising, designer fashion and the art and antiques trade from Australia, Canada, France, the UK and the US. It is hoped to include the contribution made by heritage, archives, libraries and museums in future reports.

Creative Industries in the US generate £341 billion in revenue - ten times more than in any of the other countries - but expressed as a percentage of the total economy, the UK earns most from cultural enterprise: 5.8% of GDP (£42 billion), compared with 3.5% in Canada, 3.3% in the US, 3.1% in Australia and 2.8% in France. www.oecd.org/dataoecd/26/51/37257281.pdf

Culture 2007 Timetable

The timetable has now been confirmed as follows:

- conditional call out in October, application forms available at end of October
 - 31 Dec 06 deadline for applications for European networks and agencies
 - 28 Feb 07 deadline for applications for all Culture 2007 projects (1-2 year and multi-annual projects)
 - results available May-July 2007
 - 1-2 year co-operation projects to begin in summer 2007
 - multi-annual projects to begin in autumn 2007
- www.culture2007.info

Boston Museum Returns Ancient Works to Italy

The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston has transferred 13 antiquities to Italy and signed an agreement with the Italian Ministry of Culture. The agreement includes the creation of a partnership in which the Italian government will loan significant works from Italy to the MFA and establishes a process by which the MFA and Italy will exchange information about future MFA acquisitions of Italian antiquities. The partnership also envisages collaboration in scholarship, conservation, archaeological investigation and exhibition planning. www.mfa.org/collections/index.asp?key=2656

Smithsonian Attendance Down; Galleries Draw More

Attendance at the Smithsonian Institution has dropped, with 17.4 million people visiting in the first 8 months of 2006, down almost a million from the same period in 2005. However, the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum attracted more than 200,000 visitors to the Reynolds Center in the two months since it reopened, compared to the previous annual record of 450,000.

The Smithsonian's most popular museums -- Air and Space, Natural History, and American History -- have seen flat, or slightly reduced growth in attendance. The decline has been attributed in part to bad weather, during which the museums were closed for several days, and shootings and muggings on the National Mall. newsdesk.si.edu/visits/default.htm

The Scream on Display

Two paintings by Edvard Munch, *The Scream* and *Madonna*, that were stolen and recently recovered, have been on display at the Munch Museum in Oslo to allow visitors to see the condition in which they were recovered. The 5 day display, which attracted a record number of visitors, exhibited the paintings lying horizontal in acclimatized glass showcases. The paintings have been removed for restoration. www.munch.museum.no/default.aspx?lang=en

German Regional Audit Office Recommends Dispersal of Works

The Art Newspaper reports that the audit office of Baden-Württemberg has called for the "partial deaccessioning of the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart's collection" in its latest annual report. The audit office has suggested that the dispersal "of objects which nobody is interested in...and objects outside the focus of the collection could lead to a modest profit and free up staff time".

The Staatsgalerie houses over 5,000 paintings and 400,000 works on paper. A spokeswoman said that the Gallery disagrees with the audit office's recommendations.

Plans by the city council of Krefeld to make the Krefeld Museum sell a Monet, the *British Houses of Parliament*, for an estimated \$25m to fund the renovation of the museum have also been criticised. A final decision on this has not been taken. www.theartnewspaper.com

euromuse Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

euromuse, the public access portal for Europe's museums of art and cultural history, was set up five years ago to give up-to-date information about European museums and their major exhibitions. The website was developed by the National Gallery, London; the Musée du Louvre and the Réunion des musées nationaux in Paris; the Kunsthistorische Museum, Vienna; the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; the Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen; and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. It represents more than 150 museums in 16 countries and more than 100 exhibitions are currently highlighted. www.euromuse.net

US Nazi-Era Provenance Website Logs Over 24,000 Objects

The number of objects listed on the Nazi-Era Provenance Internet Portal, an online, searchable registry of objects in US museum collections that may have changed hands in Continental Europe between 1932 and 1946, has recently exceeded 24,000. 24,142 objects from 151 participating museums are listed on the website. 27 other museums have certified through the Portal that they have no relevant objects in their collections.

The number of entries has increased following a survey of US museums that showed that many had not completed provenance research into works in their collections (see August Newsletter). At that point there were over 18,000 items on the website.

www.nepip.org www.aam-us.org/pressreleases.cfm?mode=list&id=112

Free Admission at Baltimore Museums

The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) and the Walters Art Museum have stopped charging admission fees, following the announcement of \$800,000 additional revenue from Baltimore City and County and \$30,000 each from Anne Arundel County. Baltimore Museum of Art has also received a \$1 million gift from a former chairwoman of the BMA board, to support free admission.

The new policy is intended to boost attendance, attract more diverse audiences and raise the city's profile as a tourist destination. It coincides with *Free Fall Baltimore*, a programme of free events and exhibitions throughout Baltimore in October and November sponsored by the Mayor to encourage people to experience Baltimore's arts scene. www.freefallbaltimore.com/welcome.cfm

Forthcoming Meetings

Operations Committee

Monday 2 October, 2pm, Science Museum

Learning & Access Committee

Wednesday 11 October, 3.30pm, National Portrait Gallery

Marketing Group

Friday 27 October, 2.30pm, National Gallery

Leadership Working Group

Thursday 9 November, 10am, National Maritime Museum

PR Group

Thursday 9 November, 11am, British Library

NMDC meeting

Friday 1 December, 11am, Imperial War Museum

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

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

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