



December 2004

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, which includes an article on NMDC's 75th anniversary, as well as news from the cultural sector. This newsletter can also be found on our website at www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

SR2004

Announcement of funding allocations for DCMS funded national museums, and for *Renaissance in the Regions* is expected in the week beginning 13th December. NMDC is working with MLA, the Museums Association and the signatories of the *Manifesto for Museums* in preparation for the announcement.

NMDC Executive Committee

Roy Clare, David Fleming and Tim Clifford have been elected to NMDC's Executive Committee. They join Robert Crawford, Mark Jones, Lindsay Sharp, Nick Serota and Gordon Rintoul. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on 4th February.

PR Group

Press Officers from across the national museums met at the British Library on 26 November. The main focus of the discussion was the Freedom of Information Act. Serena Kelly, Head of Corporate Information Management at the British Library gave a very useful presentation and press officers from MLA, DCMS and the Department for Constitutional Affairs also joined the meeting.

NMDC Staff News

Sean Bullick will be taking a sabbatical in France from 3 January 2005, and Emily Adams will be replacing him as Secretary. We have also appointed a new Research & Communication Manager and Executive Administrator, who will be joining the NMDC team in January.

Congratulations to Emily, who is getting married on 4th December! Emily will be away from the office for the whole of December, and will be changing her name to Emily Candler when she returns.

It's NMDC's 75th Birthday

NMDC is 75 years old this month. Sir Frederic Kenyon, GBE, KCB, hosted the first meeting at the British Museum on 18th December 1929. In his letter inviting Directors to the meeting, Kenyon said, "the Royal Commission on National Museums and Galleries have recommended the institution of periodical meetings of the Directors of the institutions confirmed, in order to discuss their common affairs and interchange information."

The principal business of the first meeting was to arrange future procedure, but other topic due to be discussed was the extension of evening opening as recommended by the Commission. The first formal minutes for the Conference of Directors of National Museums and Galleries are for the meeting on 5 March 1930, which discussed means of preserving exhibited water-colours and other objects from injury by light. The minutes record that "Evidence having been given of the inefficacy (according to present scientific knowledge) of any kind of protective glass or coloured curtain. It was decided to consult the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research further as to 1) the effect of electric light on colours of water colours and 2) the efficacy of curtains."

The Directors also considered references on labels and descriptions in one Museum to related objects in other museum and agreed "that the matter was one to borne in mind, but that no general procedure could be laid down" They also discussed the remuneration of female staff and "there was general agreement as to the insufficiency of the pay of typists of the class required for Museum work."

The next newsletter will be published in January 2005. If you would like to contribute contact us at: nmdc@iwm.org.uk

Members News

NMGW Keeps Arms-Length Status

The National Museums & Galleries of Wales have welcomed the Welsh Assembly Government's announcement on the future governance arrangements of the organisation. First Minister Rhodri Morgan unveiled his plans for the future of the remaining quangos in Wales on 30 November. His announcement follows an in-depth review of the role and function of quangos as part of his wider public service reforms. His statement said "no significant changes are proposed to the structure of the National Library of Wales or the National Museum and Gallery of Wales. However, their relationship with the Welsh Assembly Government will be strengthened to ensure a more coherent approach in this area."

Rhodri Morgan announced the intention to "bring together the strategy, policy and planning capability of the Arts Council for Wales with that of the Welsh Assembly Government. Furthermore, the Welsh Assembly Government will take responsibility for directly funding six major arts bodies with national remits. The Arts Council will continue to deliver grant aid and lottery funding to arts recipients." The President and Director General of the NMGW and the President and Librarian of the NLW, along with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Arts Council for Wales will be invited to become members of a new Culture Board, to be chaired by the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport.

The Ancient Monuments Board for Wales and the Historic Buildings Council for Wales are currently advisory Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies and will become advisory panels within the Welsh Assembly Government. The Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments in Wales will remain an executive body. For full details visit: www.wales.gov.uk

Roy Clare

On 1 November, the Prime Minister re-appointed Rear Admiral Roy Clare as Director of the National Maritime Museum. Roy has been Director of the National Maritime Museum since 2000.

Royal Armouries Academic Director

The Royal Armouries has appointed Graeme Rimer as the first Academic Director. Graeme was previously the museum's Head of Collections. As Academic Director, his role will involve stimulating and guiding the Royal Armouries' academic strategies as well as being the point of contact with other academic institutions. www.royalarmouries.org

Royal Museum Masterplan

Gordon Rintoul has unveiled an exciting 15-year vision to refurbish and revitalise the Royal Museum on Chambers Street, Edinburgh. The Masterplan will guide a programme of renewal and redevelopment which allows NMS to display 100% more objects than are currently on display. The plans provide a framework for incremental development that would allow the basement to be opened up to accommodate high quality social spaces, eating, shopping and cloakroom facilities. There will also be a new home for major travelling exhibitions. New street level entrances to the front of the Museum will provide welcoming and user-friendly access with a section of Chambers Street being pedestrianised to improve safety. The Masterplan was developed by a multi-disciplinary team, following extensive consultation with visitors, stakeholders and heritage bodies, including Gareth Hoskins Architects and the exhibition designers Ralph Appelbaum Associates. The cost of the Masterplan will be £70 million. www.nms.ac.uk

£6.7m for Royal Observatory

The Royal Observatory Greenwich, part of the National Maritime Museum, has received final approval for a £6.7M grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a £15M development. The 'Time and Space' project will take place over the next two years, creating a spectacular new environment in which more people can explore the wonders of time and space. The HLF grant brings the total raised to £11.5M, leaving £3.5M to be raised.

The National Maritime Museum has also just opened a new Gallery *Your Ocean* which highlights the key issues facing the marine environment in the 21st century and shows how human life is dependent on the health and survival of the world's oceans. For more information visit: www.nmm.ac.uk

National Waterfront Museum

Stephanos Mastoris has been appointed as the new head of the new National Waterfront Museum in Swansea. Mr Mastoris, who was previously Curator and Head of Collections at Snibston Discovery Park in Leicestershire, joined NMGW in November. Work on the new National Waterfront Museum building is now complete and installation of the exhibitions, public facilities, library and Museum offices is underway. The museum will open to the public in summer 2005.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

£10m to Save Endangered Archives

The British Library and the Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund have launched a £10 million joint initiative to help save the world's endangered archives. The programme will be administered by the Library in conjunction with a panel of international experts deciding on the allocation of the grants. Institutions and academic researchers will be able to apply for grants to help identify endangered records and re-locate them to institutional archives in their local region. A copy will be maintained in a master archive at the British Library. This will ensure no original material is removed from its cultural home and copies will be accessible on an international basis. The Programme will also provide bursaries for overseas librarians and archivists for work attachments at the British Library. For details visit: www.bl.uk/angeredarchives

Cross Domain Working in Action

London Museum Librarians and Archivists Group (LMLAG) has been set up by information professionals working within the national museums and galleries in London, to debate common issues and build expertise in the field. LMLAG are now organising a conference, *All Aboard: Cross Domain Working in Action*, as the first step in widening their discussions. The conference aims to explore integrative ways of working to help museum staff, librarians and archivists to work together, across their professional 'boundaries' to deliver better services for our users. The one-day conference will be held at the National Maritime Museum on 14 April. LMLAG's website is hosted by NMDC at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/lmlag.html

Visitor Attraction Awards

The V&A has won the Large Visitor Attraction 2004 award at this year's Visit London Awards, formerly the London Tourism Awards. The museum won the award for successfully opening up the much loved attraction to even wider audiences with events like the Friday Lates and Fashion in Motion. The Art Deco exhibition of last year drew more than 360,000 visitors, the gallery's highest ever exhibition attendance. The National Maritime Museum was also highly commended in this category.

The V&A's Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green also won the Kids Love London award. Anne Stamper, Gallery Assistant at the National Maritime Museum, won the accolade of Outstanding Customer Service. According to one of the judges of the Award: "Anne's enthusiasm is an inspiration to her fellow colleagues. Anne who is 71 years of age has completed no less than sixteen training courses in three years. The awards ceremony was held at the Natural History Museum.

Locomotion: New National Museum

Locomotion: The National Railway Museum at Shildon was officially opened by the Prime Minister at the end of October. The £11.2 million project has been made possible as a result of a partnership between Sedgefield Borough Council and the National Railway Museum (part of the family of museums which together form the National Museum of Science & Industry). Locomotion combines the historic buildings and workshops of the Timothy Hackworth Museum with a new 557square meter building which allows the NRM to get all it's reserve collection of 60 vehicles under cover and on display for the first time. There are also classrooms, conservation, workshops, cafe and shop on the site, which is over 1km in length. www.nrm.org.uk

Building the Tate Collection

Tate has launched an initiative to sustain and develop the collection in holds on behalf of the nation. The aim over the next ten years and beyond is to secure up to 100 gifts of works of art from collectors and artists and to build a substantial acquisitions fund. The initiative was launched with the pledge of significant gifts to the Tate Collection by 25 leading artists including Howard Hodgkin, Lucian Freud, Gilbert and George and Damien Hirst and David Hockney. In addition to gifts from artists, the initiative will focus on:

- Gifts of works of art from collectors to strengthen significant and under-represented areas of the Collection;
- Partnerships and associations with Collectors to bring long-term loans of individual works and significant groups into the displays of the collection;
- The creation of a permanent fund, through gifts and legacies, with the resulting income used to promote acquisitions, research and conservation;
- Improving the ability of Tate to respond proactively by establishing groups of patrons who have indicated a willingness to assist on the acquisition of major works when they appear at short notice or at advantageous price.

Tate Members have committed £1 million to the campaign and a number of significant individual donations have also been received. A number of private collectors, including Lord Attenborough, have also offered to bequeath important British works to Tate. www.tate.org.uk

New Gallery at Walker

The Walker has opened its new Craft & Design gallery, featuring more than 500 items, many of which have never been on public display before, including jewellery, tableware, fashion and furniture. Although many of the pieces are international in origin, the gallery also highlights Liverpool's contribution to producing a variety of decorative arts and their dissemination around the world, including porcelain made in factories on the site where the Walker now stands. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

WWI Medal Records Online

For the first time the medal records of more than 5 million men and women who served in the First World War are available online. The medal index cards, held at The National Archives, Kew, provide the closest thing there is to a 'roll-call' of all those who served in the Army and Royal Flying Corps in the Great War, as every individual who served abroad in the Army or Royal Flying Corps was entitled to one or more campaign medals. A soldier's card can often provide the only account of his service, as bombing during the Second World War later destroyed 60% of soldiers' service records.

Searching the index is free, and it costs £3.50 to download an image of a medal card. However there is no charge to download the image for those using the service on site at The National Archives in Kew, or the Family Records Centre in Islington.

www.DocumentsOnline.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Also, to mark Remembrance Sunday, The National Archives launched a new web resource for history teachers called The Great War, 1914 - 1918, available on the Learning Curve

www.learningcurve.gov.uk/greatwar. *The Great War, 1914 - 1918*, fits in with Key Stages 3 - 4 and gives teachers free access to handwritten letters from soldiers and generals, and First World War maps and photographs and sound and video recordings.

New Brand for NHM

The Natural History Museum has unveiled a new brand, which has been created with Hat-trick Design. The brand uses the letter "N" to display a selection of photographic images of nature, many of them taken by some of the world's leading wildlife photographers. The images include a highly magnified image of plankton, an extreme close up of a chameleon's eye and a view of Earth from space. The new brand replaces the 'tree of life' logo, which the museum has been using since 1989. It is intended to bring together the diverse elements of the Museum's activities, from their exciting programme of exhibitions to their world-class scientific research. www.nhm.ac.uk

Award for BL Sound Archive

The British Library's Sound Archive has won a prestigious international award for an outstanding contribution to the World of Sound. The Berliner 'Maker of the Microphone' award is given by the family of Emile Berliner who invented the microphone, disc record and gramophone. The Sound Archive's public on-line catalogue is the largest in the world, including information on over 3½ million recordings. Its collection covers a vast range of recorded material from across the world and covers the entire range of recorded sound from music, drama and literature, to oral history and wildlife sounds. www.bl.uk

Trustee Appointments

National Portrait Gallery

The Prime Minister has appointed Zeinab Badawi as a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery for a term of four years from 11 October 2004. She is currently working for the BBC in radio and television and has worked extensively abroad as a reporter in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. She is also a member of the advisory board of the Centre for Contemporary British History and of the Public Diplomacy Strategy Board (FCO committee).

National Museum of Science & Industry

The Prime Minister has reappointed Professor Ann Dowling CBE and Martin Smith as Trustees of the National Museum of Science & Industry (NMSI) with effect from 25 August 2004, for a period of four years. Ann Dowling is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Cambridge University, and has been a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge since 1979. Martin Smith is Deputy Chairman of New Star Asset Management Ltd. He has been involved in the financial services sector for more than 30 years. He is also Chairman of the English National Opera.

Imperial War Museum

The Prime Minister has reappointed Jyoti Munsiff as a Trustee of the Board of the Imperial War Museum for a period of 4 years. Jyoti Munsiff is General Counsel-Corporate with Shell International Limited. She is also a Director of and Honorary Counsel to HRH The Prince of Wales Business Leaders' Forum and a Governor of the College of Law.

Museum of London Press & Marketing

Jo Fells has been appointed as Head of Press & Marketing at the Museum of London. Jo was previously Communications Manager at Science Museum and before that at National Museums Liverpool.

Current Issues

Museum Accreditation Scheme

MLA have launched the Museum Accreditation Scheme, a new national scheme setting out clear, basic requirements for how museums should care for and document their collections, be governed and managed, and on the information services they should offer to their visitors. It covers all museums and replaces the Registration scheme. For details visit: www.mla.gov.uk/action/accreditation/00accreditation.asp

mda have recently revised many of their support materials to coincide with the launch of the new scheme - www.mda.org.uk

Spoliation Panel Recommends Restitution

The Spoliation Advisory Panel has recommended the restitution of a painting from the Burrell Collection. The Panel has recommended that, subject to any legal impediments imposed by the donor, Glasgow City Council should return the work to the claimants, who wish to remain anonymous. They are the heirs of five former Jewish shareholders in an art gallery in Munich, which lost possession of the picture as the result of a forced sale in June 1936. It is the first time that the Panel has recommended the restitution of an object. The painting - a Still Life, formerly attributed to Chardin - acquired in good faith by the Glasgow City Council in 1944. It has been valued at £7,500.

Sir William Burrell and Lady Constance Burrell donated their collection to Glasgow City Council in 1944. The memorandum of agreement, with the Council stipulated that "the donees shall not be entitled on any pretext whatever to sell or donate or exchange any item or part of the Collection once it has formed part of the Collection; but the donees shall be entitled to lend temporarily to responsible bodies any article forming part of the Collection as they may think fit for exhibition in any public gallery in Great Britain". After consulting Scottish Lawyers regarding the contractual position, the Panel concluded that they were not persuaded that restitution falls within the scope of the prohibited transactions "sale, donation or exchange". Unlike national museums, the Burrell Collection does not have any statutory impediment to disposal of objects in their collection.

This is the second Report of the Panel, which is chaired by retired Lord Justice of Appeal, the Rt Hon Sir David Hirst. The Panel was set up in February 2000 to help resolve claims from people - or their heirs - who lost cultural objects during the Nazi era, which are now held by UK collections. In 2001, the Panel recommended that the Government make an *ex gratia* payment of £125,000 to the descendants of a Jewish family who been forced to sell a painting by Jan Griffier, which was later acquired by the Tate in 1961.

The Panel's full report can be found on the DCMS website at: www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2004/report_spa.htm

Information about research being undertaken by UK museums and galleries into provenance of items in their collections during the 1933-1945 period, can be found on our website at: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html

Scotland's Cultural Commission

The Cultural Commission in Scotland has published an Interim Report. The report is a factual account of its work to date. It contains information on individuals, groups and organisations that have taken part in the consultation process. It also reports a few of the themes that have emerged.

So far the Commission has consulted many hundreds of individuals, groups and organisations and received 215 consultation responses. It also held eight public meetings across Scotland. Chair of the Cultural Commission, James Boyle, stressed that the report is an account of the group's processes and at this stage does not include any recommendations. Any themes reported are still at a very early stage and offer no guide to the Commission's final recommendations, due in June.

Commission's final report is due in May 2005. The Interim Report can be found at: www.culturalcommission.org.uk

Meanwhile, the Scottish Museums and Galleries Working Group has responded to the Cultural Commission's Phase 1 Consultation. Key to this submission is the recommendation that a new partnership body is formed, which would see national and non-national museums working together towards a shared vision. This Scottish Museums Partnership would be supported by a strategic agency. The submission proposes that the agency would build on the expertise currently held by Scottish Museums Council, and that the Partnership as a whole would build on and reflect the expertise of the organisations in the Museums and Galleries Working Group - National Museums of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, Association of Independent Museums, Group for Scottish Local Authority Museums, University Museums in Scotland, Glasgow Museums and SMC.

SMC has followed this combined paper with its own submission that concentrates on additional detail, including member museum requirements and good practice examples throughout the sector. Both submissions can be found at: www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/2004/SMCan_dSMGWP_ccsub.asp

The National Museum of Scotland have also responded setting out the role that a centrally funded national museums service should play in a transformed cultural framework. Their document can be found at: www.nms.ac.uk/docs/home/about_us/media/november2004/NMSresponse.pdf

Macclesfield Psalter

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has awarded a grant of £860,000 to the Fitzwilliam Museum towards the purchase of the 14th-century illuminated manuscript, the Macclesfield Psalter. An earlier grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was turned down. The Psalter, which is small enough to hold in the palm of a hand, consists of a series of detailed illustrations ranging from fantastic fables to charming 'vignettes' about everyday life in the 1300s. The Art Fund has led a campaign to save the Psalter and is contributing £500,000. But £180,000 is still urgently needed by the 10 February deadline.

www.artfund.org

Paul McCartney Sponsors Awards

Sir Paul McCartney has agreed to sponsor The Conservation Awards, the UK's leading awards in the conservation field, rewarding excellence and innovation in preserving our heritage. His generous offer of support secures the future of the awards until 2009. Sir Paul agreed to fund the awards after meeting Ian Clark, the joint winner of the 2002 Conservation Award for his restoration of the Royal Navy's first submarine, *Holland 1*. The 1901 vessel was saved from rampant corrosion, and the conservation work included design of a humidity-controlled gallery to allow public display. The Awards are open to projects completed by conservators in every heritage field. The last four rounds of the Conservation Awards were sponsored by the Pilgrim Trust. www.consawards.ukic.org.uk

Popularity of Museums & Galleries

MLA has published the first major research for five years on museum visiting and satisfaction levels. The research conducted by MORI found that more than a third of adults aged fifteen or over visited a museum and/or art gallery in the past year (37%) — more than visited a theme park (23%) or attended the theatre (33%) or a live sporting event (28%). Almost everyone who has visited a museum in the past year said that they would go to the same venue again in future (92%). Eight in 10 people feel it is important that their local city or town has its own museum or art gallery.

People's reasons for not visiting have changed in the past five years, with the results reflecting today's increasingly busy lifestyles, as more people cite lack of time as the main reason for not visiting — up from just six per cent in 1999 to 32% in 2004. But whereas in 1999 41% of people questioned felt that there was nothing in museums they wanted to see, that figure has now halved to 19%. Most people who do use museums go on average 3.5 times a year, with a quarter of visitors attending five or more times. The full report can be found at

www.mla.gov.uk/information/publications

DCMS Chief Operating Officer

Nicholas Holgate has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer at DCMS. He replaces Nicholas Kroll and will be responsible for PSA target 4 on modernisation and delivery. He was previously Director of Welfare Reform, Budget and Public Finances Directorate, HM Treasury. Nicholas Holgate was also Private Secretary to Secretary of State for National Heritage 1992-3. Within DCMS, he will also have responsibility for the following Personnel and Central Services, Private Office, Finance and Planning and Internal Audit, Strategy, Policy and Delivery and Analytical Services Division, Public Appointments, Honours and Modernisation Division.

Arts Council Chief Executive

Arts Council England has announced that following Sir Christopher Frayling's appointment as Chair of Arts Council England in February 2004, Peter Hewitt's contract as Chief Executive has now been extended to January 2008.

In order to help Sir Christopher in delivering his vision for the Arts Council and for the arts in England over the coming years, it has been agreed temporarily to release Peter Hewitt from his day-to-day responsibilities as Chief Executive between January and April 2005 inclusive in order for Peter to give his undivided and uninterrupted attention to the following:

- the Arts Council of the future - as both a research and development agency and a voice of and for the arts
- current and prospective government perceptions of Arts Council England and the arts in England and opportunities to further strengthen the position of the arts
- opportunities for new strategic partnerships with government nationally
- the case for the arts to continue as a lottery good cause
- new strategic initiatives that address racial equality and opportunity

Kim Evans will be Acting Chief Executive for the period January to April 2005.

Creative Partnerships Director

Paul Collard has been appointed National Director of Creative Partnerships and will take up his new role in January. Paul Collard was Head of Programme Development for Newcastle Gateshead Initiative with responsibility for co-ordinating Newcastle Gateshead's bid for European Capital of Culture from 2001. He was Chair of Arts Council England, North East from 2002 until March 2004, when he stepped down to take up a full-time role as Creative Director of culture10, a £70 million cultural programme. He is also a member of the Culture and Education Advisory Board of London's 2012 Olympic bid.

ICOM Appointments

Alissandra Cummins from Barbados has been elected as the President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). She began her career as Research Assistant at the Museum of Mankind, and became Deputy Director of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society before taking over as Director in 1985.

John Zvereff, a U.S citizen, has been appointed Secretary General of the ICOM. He succeeds Manus Brinkman, who occupied this post from 1998 to 2004. John Zvereff was previously Chief Executive Officer of the Museu d'Art Contemporani in Barcelona, and then an independent consultant. He took office in Paris on November 2nd, 2004. For more details visit: www.icom.museum

Collections on the Move

More than hundred museum experts and officials from various ministries of culture were present. The conference was jointly organized by the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN) and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) to coincide with the Netherlands's presidency of the European Union. More information, including the text of some of the presentations can be found at www.museumcollectionsonthemove.org

Getty Director Resigns

Deborah Gribbon has resigned as director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, citing "critical differences" with her boss, Barry Munitz, the president and chief executive of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The resignation was reported in The Los Angeles Times. William Griswold, the museum's associate director for collections, has been named acting director and chief curator.

City Heritage Guides

The 24 Hour Museum has launched City Heritage Guides, a series of websites celebrating and exploring the rich diversity of cultural heritage on offer in ten English cities. The project was commissioned by Culture Online and follows analysis of how users search the 24 Hour Museum which showed users look for city-based content. The cities featured are: Birmingham, Brighton & Hove, Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle & Gateshead and Norwich. Each guide contains news, reviews, trails and features put together by the 24 Hour Museum editorial team, working in partnership with cultural groups, museum professionals and journalism students. The 24 Hour Museum has also developed an easy-to-use online authoring system called Storymaker, which will enable groups and individuals to write about the heritage, culture and history of their city. For details visit: www.24hourmuseum.org.uk

Parliamentary Report

Human Tissue Act 2004

The Human Tissue Act 2004 received Royal Assent on 15 November giving certain national museums the power to de-accession human remains.

The Act enables the institutions listed below to transfer human remains from their collections if it appears to them appropriate to do so for any reason whether or not it relates to their other functions. Following an amendment in made in the House of Lords, the power only applies to human remains which are reasonably believed to be of a person who died less than 1,000 years before this section comes into force.

The bodies listed in the Act are:

- The Board of Trustees of the Armouries
- The Trustees of the British Museum
- The Trustees of the Imperial War Museum
- The Board of Governors of the Museum of London
- The Trustees of the National Maritime Museum
- The Board of Trustees of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside
- The Trustees of the Natural History Museum
- The Board of Trustees of the Science Museum
- The Board of Trustees of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The Act also provides that if it appears to a listed institution that human remains are mixed or bound up with non-human material and it is undesirable or impracticable to separate them, the power to de-accession the human remains extends also to the associated non-human material. This has the effect of enabling artefacts such as mummies (where non-human material is integral to the human remains) to be de-accessioned intact. The provision does not extend to grave chattels that are buried with but are separate from human remains found in a grave.

The Act also establishes the Human Tissue Authority however, its remit does not include activities done in relation to material from bodies, where the person died before the Act comes into force and has been dead for at least 100 years.

The substantive provisions of the Act will come into force on days appointed by the Secretary of State by order. Full implementation is not expected to be before April 2006.

The Act can be found at:

www.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2004/20040030.htm

The discussion relating to the Lords Amendment can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld199900/ldhansrd/pdvn/lds04/text/41025-22.htm

National Lottery Bill

National Lottery Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 25th November 2004. The Bill merges New Opportunities Fund, Millennium Commission and the Community Fund into the Big Lottery Fund, which will be responsible for distributing 50% of all national lottery funding. It also gives the Secretary of State and the devolved administrations a power to give directions to the Big Lottery Fund as to the exercise of its functions. Other changes include enabling the Big Lottery Fund to provide advice on all distribution matters, and to handle non-Lottery funds. Lottery distributors will also be able to consult and to take into account of the views of members of the public in making distribution decisions.

The Bill also makes changes to the current provisions for the allocation of interest arising from the investment of undistributed funds held in the National Lottery Distribution Fund and to confer on the Secretary of State the power by order to reallocate amounts held for particular distributors in the National Lottery Distribution Fund.

The Bill also includes reforms relating to the licensing and regulation of the National Lottery. The Bill can be found at:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmbills/007/2005007.htm

Forthcoming Meetings

Board Secretaries

11am, Thurs 2 Dec, Imperial War Museum

NMDC Meeting

11am, Fri 3 Dec, Imperial War Museum

Human Resources Forum

1pm, Fri 10 Dec, National Archives

Museum Marketing Group

11am, Thurs 27 January

Museum Copyright Group – Wider Group

Friday 28 Jan 2005, Sheffield

NMDC Executive Committee

11am, Fri 4 Feb 2005, IWM.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk