



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, which contains a feature on Black History Month. There's also news of staff changes and vacancies within the NMDC Secretariat. As always, the newsletter is available on our website at:

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

NMDC News

Changes and Vacancies at NMDC

Two exciting job opportunities have arisen at the NMDC secretariat. Sean Bullick, Secretary to the Conference is taking a year's sabbatical in France from January 2005 and Emily Adams will be taking over as Secretary. We are therefore looking for a new Research and Communication Manager. Alexander Baker is also leaving NMDC and the Imperial War Museum to start a new life in rural Berkshire so we will also shortly be recruiting a new Office Manager.

Research & Communication Manager

As well as supporting the Secretary in managing the working groups and committees, the Research & Communication Manager is responsible for maintaining up-to-date information on the national museums and relevant policy areas, managing NMDC's website, publications and, of course, writing the monthly NMDC newsletter. The closing date for applications for this position is Monday 1 November. For more information, please contact Sean Bullick or Emily Adams (eadams@iwm.org.uk tel: 020 7416 5208) or visit: www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Office Manager

The Office Manager is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the NMDC office, including managing the diary of meetings and ad hoc projects to support the work of the Conference. This is a full-time post, with the post holder's time split between working for NMDC and for the Director-General's office at the Imperial War Museum. Recruitment for this post is being managed by the Imperial War Museum and details will be available shortly on their website at www.iwm.org.uk

Culture, Community and Civil Renewal

Following on from the work begun by the Creative Engagement project, NMDC is working with IPPR to examine the role that heritage and cultural policy can play in developing social capital, bridging diverse cultural communities and encouraging active citizenship – especially in poor, disadvantaged communities. Lindsay Sharp, Director of the National Museum of Science and Industry is leading the project for NMDC. The other project partners are Arts & Business, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide, NMDC and Platform for Art, London Underground.

The project will aim to gather evidence of the impact of arts, heritage and cultural activity on civil renewal, identify research gaps, examine best practice and provide a road map for how cultural and heritage policy can best contribute to civil renewal.

More information on the project can be found at: www.ippr.org.uk/research/index.php?current=38&project=262

Valuing Museums

The Executive Committee has agreed that NMDC should work with Tony Travers to take forward the work begun with the Valuing Museums project to pursue a sector wide analysis of the economic impact of museums and galleries and produce a template containing information to be collected and consistently analysed. Mark Jones, Director of the V&A will be leading this work for NMDC.

Members News

Visits to National Museums

DCMS has begun publishing monthly visitor figures for the national museums and galleries they sponsor. The visit figures will be updated during the first week of each month, and will be one month in arrears to allow time for the museums and galleries to collect the data. Figures for April – August 2004 have been published and reveal that there were 16.5m visits to DCMS sponsored museums during the first five months of this financial year. The figures can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/museums_and_galleries/monthly_museum_visitor_figures/default.htm

Ceramics Stolen from V&A

Nine jade objects were stolen from a display case at the V&A on Monday 4 October. The objects consisted of three small cups, two miniature animal figures, a bowl, two small ornamental plaques and a small ritual cylinder dating from 1,000 BC. The cabinet containing the objects was smashed before the opening of the Black British Style exhibition on Monday afternoon. Mark Jones, Director of the V&A said: "this appears to have been a well organised theft and the intention may be to sell these objects quickly." A security review has been launched and Scotland Yard is investigating.

NG East Wing Opening

The National Gallery opened new public spaces in its East Wing on 26 September. Visitors are now able to enter the Gallery from two new entrances at ground level, the Sir Paul Getty Entrance from Trafalgar Square and another from St Martin's Place. In a space that was previously a little-used internal courtyard, Jeremy Dixon Edward Jones Architects have created a double-height naturally-lit atrium and spectacular staircase to the main galleries. The Central Hall has been re-instated as a picture gallery, and hung with key Renaissance paintings to provide an exhilarating starting point for visitors to the Gallery. The project also includes a new developed information system using innovative large NEC plasma screens developed by the Gallery's new media team and Tui Interactive Media, a new signage scheme for the whole gallery designed by Holmes Wood, and a new retail and café created by Din Associates.

Work on the second phase of the East Wing plan begins on 18 October. This will include opening up the present Portico Entrance Hall and creating a new Lower Hall on the Gallery's ground floor with an area for seating, multimedia, refreshments and access to galleries. For more information visit:

www.nationalgallery.org.uk

Royal Armouries Trading Division

The Royal Armouries has launched a new trading division to exploit commercially its unrivalled knowledge of weapons. Known as *Broadsword*, the new division will specialise in staging dramatic historic interpretations, such as jousts. The new venture will use the museum's vast resources of technical knowledge to provide displays and performances of a scale and quality not presently available on the market. The new division will develop the partnerships already in place between the Royal Armouries and organisations such as English Heritage. Income from *Broadsword* will be used to develop the museum's collection.

Renaissance Masterpiece Reunited

The British Library has acquired a page from the Sforza Book of Hours, one of the Library's outstanding treasures, which has been missing for over 500 years. The illuminated manuscript was commissioned about 1490 for Bona of Savoy, widow of Galeazzo Sforza, Duke of Milan. A number of major illustrated pages were stolen from the illuminator's studio before work on the book was finished and were later replaced by, Gerard Horenbout, court painter to Bona's niece Margaret of Austria.

The Sforza Hours was presented to the British Museum in 1893 by the Scottish collector, John Malcolm of Poltalloch and transferred to the British Library in 1973. The first of three missing pages was bought in 1941, and the second was sold by New York collector Bernard Breslauer in 1984. Mr Breslauer offered the latest page to the Library earlier this year and support from the Art Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries, enabled the Library to make history and reunite the leaf to the manuscript. The Sforza Hours is on display in the British Library Exhibition Galleries in London and can be examined in detail using the Library's *Turning the Pages* interactive display system. For details visit: www.bl.uk

Britain's Brainiest Professionals

The British Library's team beat of 21 other contenders to win University Challenge – The Professionals. The Library's team scored a thrilling 220:160 win over Oxford University Press in the final broadcast on 6 September. Other teams knocked out earlier in the tournament included the Foreign Office, Member of the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly Members, Palaeontologists, and the Zoological Society. The British Library team comprised Kathryn Johnson, Curator of Theatrical Manuscripts; Ron Hogg, a Slavonic specialist; Colin Wight, editor of the Library's website and Bart Smith (Captain) a Humanities reference specialist.

Visitor Boom in Edinburgh

The National Galleries of Scotland buildings on The Mound saw 24% year on year increase in visitors in August. This is despite the fact that last summer's exhibition was the blockbuster Monet exhibition, which attracted almost twice as many visitors as the Titian exhibition this August (57,758 in August 2003 compared to 30,107 this August). The massive rise is being put down to the unveiling of the underground Weston Link between the National Gallery of Scotland and Royal Scottish Academy. The National Museums of Scotland also received a surge in visitor numbers. More than 100,000 people visited the Royal Museum and Museum of Scotland in August, around a third more than the equivalent period last year. The adverse weather this August is thought to have favoured the museums this summer, while last year's summer heat saw record numbers visiting the Royal Botanic Garden.

10m Access to Archives Searches

Access to Archives (A2A) the on-line database enabling people to search for archives across England provided its 10 millionth catalogue enquiry on 25 September. The catalogue downloaded described miscellaneous deeds and documents relating to places and people in Bristol. A2A is a partnership lead by The National Archives, including MLA, the British Library, the National Council on Archives and the Society of Archivists. The A2A database contains 82,000 catalogues and 7.5m catalogue entries. The website was launched in May 2001 and evaluation has revealed that 40% of users have not used archives before. For more information visit: www.a2a.org.uk

Mr Art at the NPG

The National Portrait Gallery has acquired *Mr Art* – an outstanding Pop Art portrait of the influential art critic, curator and writer David Sylvester. A prolific writer of some 265 publications, David Sylvester contributed to the establishment of international reputations of artists including Henry Moore and Francis Bacon. The portrait, by American artist Larry Rivers, has been acquired from a private collection in the United States with the generous support of the Art Fund and other benefactors including the estates of Francis Bacon and John Edwards. It was painted in London in 1962, as Sylvester's public profile was rising, and the year of Rivers' first exhibition in London.

British Museum Appointment

The Prime Minister has appointed Baroness Helena Kennedy QC to the Board of the British Museum with effect from 1 October 2004 for a period of four years. Baroness Kennedy is currently chair of the Human Genetics Commission and President of the School of Oriental and African Studies. In August 2004 she completed a 6-year term as chair of the British Council.

IWM North - Stirling Prize Shortlist

Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind is among the six buildings that have made it onto this year's shortlist for The RIBA Stirling Prize. The other buildings on the shortlist are 30 St Mary's Axe, London (the gherkin), The Spire in Dublin, Phoenix Initiative in Coventry, the Kunsthaus in Graz and the Business Academy Bexley. The prize is awarded to British architects or new architectural work in Britain. The award ceremony will be broadcast live on Channel 4 on 16 October. For more details go to www.aiplus.co.uk

Tate's Glossary

Tate's Glossary is a significant new addition to the Collection section of Tate Online. Containing 300 definitions, the Glossary is designed to help explain art terminology including definitions of artist groups and art movements, techniques and media all of which are referenced in texts about Tate's Collection. The Glossary is available both as a browsable, illustrated resource and as pop-up definitions linked from Collection based texts. British Sign Language translations of 19 key terms are also available as broadband and narrowband video clips. The Glossary can be found at: www.tate.org.uk/collections/glossary

Tate Tools

Tate has launched Module 1 of Tate Tools, a growing library of teaching resources for Key Stages 2 and 3 of the art National Curriculum for England and Wales. The Tate Tool Modules are PowerPoint presentations ready to use with an interactive white board, computer projector or standard display. They include: video conversations with curators, educators and children, teacher's notes, Investigation Sheets and questions and activities. Module 1 is *Looking at and Thinking About Art*. The Tate tools library will add three new Modules per year developed by Tate educators with the help of educational multi-media experts EBC Ltd. E-Learning credits can be used to purchase the annual subscription to Tate Tools. For details visit: www.tate.org.uk/learning

Write Your Own Label

In celebration of British Art Week, Tate Britain launched a new web-feature inviting visitors to write labels for work of art on display at Tate Britain which especially interested them. The most interesting comments were selected to be used as captions in the gallery at the start of British Art Week on 20 September. There are 43 works of art to choose from on the Write Your Own section of the website and visitors can also choose to write about any other work from the collection. Tate is particularly encouraging responses from visitors who have a special interest in the subject matter of some of Tate's paintings. For details visit: www.tate.org.uk/britain/writeyourown/

New Learning Posts at NHM

The Natural History Museum's Department has made four major new appointments. This marks the first stage in the implementation of the Museum's new Learning Strategy, which will lead to the department increasing its staff by 50 per cent in the coming months. The appointments are:

Head of Formal Learning – Justine Millard

Head of Gallery Learning – Martin Lawrence and Emma Pegram (job share)

Head of Lifelong Learning – Nick Ives and Margarita Petri (job share)

Head of New Audiences – Saira MacNicol

Senior Posts at Royal Armouries

The Royal Armouries has restructured its management with two key appointments. Peter Armstrong, previously Chief Executive of the Galleries of Justice in Nottingham, has been appointed to the new post of Museum Director and Jocelyn McConnachie, a management consultant, becomes the commercial director of the museum's restructured commercial division.

NMS Head of Development

The National Museums of Scotland has appointed Sandy Richardson as its new Head of Development. Sandy was formerly Head of Development and Alumni Relations at Heriot-Watt University and at NMS he will be responsible for such major projects as the redevelopment of the Royal Museum and the Museum of Flight.

Current Issues

Culture Minister Reshuffle

Culture Minister, Frank McAveety was the first casualty of the reshuffle of the Scottish Executive on 4 October. Patricia Ferguson MSP has been appointed as the new Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. She first joined the Cabinet in November 2001 as Minister for Parliament and was re-appointed as Minister for Parliamentary Business after the 2003 election. Before entering Parliament, Ms Ferguson was a health service administrator for 14 years in Glasgow and Lanarkshire.

Also, in a reshuffle of the Opposition front bench in Westminster, John Whittingdale OBE MP, has been appointed as Shadow Secretary of State for Culture Media & Sport, a post he held previously from July 2002-November 2003. Julie Kirkbride has resigned from the Shadow Cabinet although she was reported to have been offered a Foreign Affairs post.

Also last month, Estelle Morris, Minister of State for the Arts, announced that she would be standing down from Parliament at the next election.

The Value of Museums

DCMS has published the evaluation of the impact of the DCMS/DfES Strategic Commissioning Programme 2003-2004: National/Regional Museum Educational Partnerships. The projects involving 12 national museums, and 36 partners from non-national museums, the National Trust and related organisations, ran from August 2003 to March 2004 and were of varying size, receiving between £50,000-£350,000. The key findings of the evaluation carried out by the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries (RCMG) at the University of Leicester included that museums:

- inspire learners across all ages
- are sites of enhanced achievement, going beyond what learners think they can do
- engage both boys and girls
- stimulate vulnerable pupils and those that find learning difficult
- target and motivate disadvantage individuals and groups effectively
- provide resources for all curriculum areas, and for interdisciplinary themes
- respond effectively to primary, secondary, FE and HE curricula
- complement formal education where pupils are off curriculum (hospital schools, pupils who are refugees)

Questionnaires completed by pupils and teachers revealed that:

- 66% of teachers were using museums for the first time
- 94% teachers said museums were important or very important to their teaching
- 64% of KS3 pupils agreed a visit to a museum or gallery makes schoolwork more inspiring.

The evaluation found that projects that had the most chance of success where five elements were in place:

- Limited innovation
- Strong museum-related ideas
- Appropriate management
- Project workers with appropriate skills and experience
- Participants and partners needs are met

The evaluation concludes that all five elements take time to build and critically review and that high-level leadership and management skills are essential in overseeing these complex, innovative and fast moving projects, which need to be well planned in advance.

The report can be found at:

www.culture.gov.uk/global/publications/archive_2004/valueofmuseums.htm

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Shared Vision for Scottish Museums

At the Museums Association Conference in Edinburgh, the Museums and Galleries Working Group appointed by the Cultural Commission, launched their first thoughts in shaping an emerging vision for Scotland's Museums and Galleries. The Vision is that by 2030:

- People of all ages will see museums as being central to Scotland's cultural offering. Within every community museums will be used as centres of cultural and creative activity.
- People throughout Scotland will have access to the nation's significant collections.
- People across Scotland will have access to international quality museum facilities and services.
- Museums will be fully integrated into the formal education system and object based learning will be an exciting, popular part of the curriculum.
- People of all ages will use museums extensively as centres of life long learning.
- Everyone nationally and internationally will benefit from electronic access to Scotland's collections.
- Scotland's Museums & Galleries will be the key to attracting international tourism and promoting Scotland abroad.
- Scotland's Creative talent will see museums as a source for inspiration and innovation.

For details visit: www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/2004/shared_vision.asp

New VisitBritain Chair

Culture Secretary, Tessa Jowell has announced the appointment of Lord Colin Marshall as the new Chairman of VisitBritain. Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge will succeed the current chairman, Sir Michael Lickiss, on 2 January 2005. Lord Marshall was Chief Executive of British Airways for 13 years and has extensive experience in executive and non-executive roles in tourism and other business sectors including telecommunications, manufacturing and finance. Remuneration of £45,155 is offered for the post and the time commitment is around 2 days a week on average.

Collections Consultation Extended

The Museums Association has extended the deadline for its consultation into the future of collections until 1 November 2004 due to the amount of interest shown by delegates at the MA's annual conference, held in Edinburgh last month. The Collections for the Future document can be found on the MA's website at: www.museumsassociation.org

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

ICT in Scottish Museums

The Scottish Museums Council has produced a report following the biggest ever survey of ICT infrastructure and skills in Scottish Museums. The report includes a breakdown of the software used for collections management, revealing that Microsoft Access is the most commonly used with only 40% of museums using specialist museum documentation systems. Almost half the computers in use are over three years old. 85% of respondents supplied an email address and 77% provided a website URL and 75 have internet access, although only 18% have broadband connections. 34% of respondents have at least one computer for public use, though two-thirds of these are more than three years old.

SMC are now inviting applications for the consultancy contract to research and recommend appropriate ICT technical standards for Scottish museums.

For details visit: www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/news/2004/ict_survey.asp

Diversify Evaluation

The Museums Association and MLA have published evaluation of the Diversify Project, the MA's positive action scheme to increase diversity within the museum workforce. Museums in the UK employ some 15,000 staff. Currently, only 4.4 per cent of this workforce is of Asian, African Caribbean or Chinese descent, compared with 7 per cent of the overall UK workforce. Less than 2 per cent of museum staff working with and presenting collections are from ethnic minorities.

The evaluation shows that all nine of the participants who had completed the scheme by early summer 2004 have found themselves work in museum. But the evaluation made several recommendations for future improvements, including better placed recruitment advertising, a mentoring system for trainees, and a professional development training programme specifically for trainees looking to qualify for mid- and senior-level positions in museums.

The separate evaluation, carried out simultaneously by MLA also found that the traineeships were a positive experience both for trainees and the host museums involved. MLA has funded 10 Positive Action Traineeships and two bursary students.

Maurice Davies, Deputy Director of the Museums Association met with the NMDC Human Resources Forum last month to discuss ways in which national museums could develop their involvement in the Diversify Project.

For details visit: www.museumsassociation.org

£16bn for Lottery Good Causes

Figures released last month reveal that the National Lottery has raised £16bn for good causes over the last 10 years, equivalent of the whole CDP of Luxembourg. The celebrations to mark the 10th Birthday of the Lottery next month will culminate with the first National Lottery Day on 6 November. Events include a Helping Hand Awards Ceremony at Tate Modern on 6 November and a specially built maze outside Tate Modern hosting objects lent by hundreds of Lottery projects. For details visit: www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/birthday/index.cfm

Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents

DCMS is seeking comments on UNESCO's Preliminary draft Convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions. UNESCO has for some time been considering the issue of cultural diversity. With unanimous support from the Member States UNESCO issued the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001.

The consultation documents on the DCMS website include the UK government's initial observations on the convention. The Government is concerned that the scope of the convention seems to be extremely wide, and the drafting of the text is imprecise. While negotiations will determine the final convention, there would be major problems with implementing this convention into UK law in its current form. A key area of concern for the Government is the relationship between this draft instrument and other, existing international agreements, such as the WTO.

The deadline for responses is 10 December 2004. For details visit: www.culture.gov.uk/global/consultations/2004+current+consultations/UNESCO_consultation.htm

New Chairman for Art Fund

The Trustees of the National Art Collections Fund have announced that they have appointed David Verey CBE, as their Chairman. He succeeds Professor Brian Allen, who announced his intention to step down earlier this summer. David Verey, was Chairman of Tate from 1998-2004 and a Tate Gallery Trustee from 1992. He is currently chairman of the Blackstone Group – UK, having worked for 29 years at Lazard Brothers & Co, where he became Chief Executive in 1990 and Chairman in 1992.

Also last month, the Art Fund published the proceedings of their Centenary Conference: *Saving Art for the Nation: A Valid Approach to 21st Century Collecting?* The debates covered issues such as public versus private ownership, funding for acquisitions, global competition and collaboration. For details visit: www.artfund.org

NESTA £1m Fund for Museums

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) is launching Illuminate a new award for non-national museums and galleries, as well as science and discovery centres. Between Autumn 2004 and Spring 2005 NESTA's Learning Programme will make awards totalling £1m, to support new approaches to existing collections and display. Illuminate is designed for all non-national museums and galleries, as well as science and discovery centres. Eligible organisations are invited to apply for funding from £2k-£80k (or £120k if organisations are working in partnership). Illuminate is being launched at the Wallace Collection and the application pack will be available from 19 October. For details visit: <http://www.nesta.org.uk/illuminate/>

A&B Urges Business to Develop Creativity

Arts & Business, the national organisation that encourages and develops effective partnerships between business and the arts, launched a national campaign aimed at increasing UK business productivity by helping employees to develop their creativity. Research commissioned by Arts & Business in 2003 showed that nearly three quarters of UK employees want arts inspiration in the workplace. When questioned about preferences for employee perks, 41% of UK employees would take advantage of benefits such as discounted tickets and access to national or local arts establishments. This is significantly more than the 32% who wanted gym benefits and 29% that wanted a subsidised workplace canteen.

To address this demand, Arts & Business has announced that it plans to launch an access scheme of its own next year with a range of businesses. This scheme will arrange special discounted 'arts experience' packages which businesses can offer as a combined employee reward and incentive. Arts & Business have calculated that if just 1% of the UK's 28.3 million total workers benefited from a company arts access scheme worth £50 per year, then UK arts establishments could benefit to the tune of an additional £14 million in funding. For details visit: www.aandb.org.uk

MLA Public Affairs Appointment

MLA has appointed Louise de Winter as its new External Relations Director. Louise previously worked for Citigate Public Affairs and has worked extensively with MLA, including on the *Manifesto for Museums* campaign this year.

Gulbenkian Prize – Don't Forget!

The deadline for entries for the Gulbenkian Museum Prize is 1 November. For details visit: www.thegulbenkianprize.org.uk

International Issues

MOMA \$20 entrance fee

The Museum of Modern Art in New York has announced that it will charge visitors \$20 for admission when its renovated building opens on 20 November. The museum previously charged \$12 for admission. Visitors will be able to get in for free from 4pm-8pm on Fridays. Visitors under 16 and accompanied by an adult and students at certain local universities will also have free admission. The investment bank, JP Morgan Chase, is providing sponsorship to enable all visitors to enter for free on the new museum's first day.

Diamonds Stolen from Louvre

Thieves broke into a display case to steal two diamonds worth almost £8m from a dealers' show at the Louvre Museum complex. The Carrousel du Louvre, below the museum is frequently used for trade and fashion shows and the theft occurred during the Antique Dealers' Biennale last month. Police blamed lack security as preliminary investigations found there had been no surveillance cameras or alarms in use at the showroom and the stand had been left unattended for 15 minutes.

Munch Museum Remains Closed

The Munch Museum is still closed following the theft of two paintings in August. The closure is partly due to work connected with the installation of a new security monitoring system. *Aftenposten* reports that instead of reopening at the end of September after three weeks of renovation, the museum is now planning to be shut for another four weeks as a report is prepared on the building's structural safety.

Police are reported to have raided several Oslo addresses in the search to recover the stolen, using drug charges to gain warrants. However, *Aftenposten* reports that despite receiving tips from home and abroad, and consulting experienced international experts, the police have no suspects.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

Norway's National Museums Merger

The Art Newspaper reports that the four national museums in Norway are to be merged into one "supermuseum", with an emphasis on contemporary collecting. The changes are part of a modernisation of the museums to celebrate the centenary of Norway's independence from Sweden in 2005. The new National Museum for Art, Architecture and Design will unite The National Gallery, The Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Craft and Design and the Museum of Architecture. The changes are being overseen by Sune Nordgren, who was previously director of *The Baltic* in Gateshead.

Smithsonian Plans \$60m Ocean Hall

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History has announced plans for the largest renovation in its 95-year history, creating Ocean Hall, a hybrid of public display and research. *The Washington Post* reports that Ocean Hall will cost \$60m and cover 28,000 square feet. The project will bring together for the first time all fifty of the Museum's marine scientists and government specialists in what is being called the Smithsonian Ocean Science Initiative. Plans also include establishing a Center for Ocean Science, a clearing-house for marine research with a website that will serve as a portal to all internet material about oceans. Ocean Hall is due to open in 2008

National Museum of the American Indian

The Smithsonian has announced that more than 92,300 people visited the new National Museum of the American Indian its first five days (Tuesday 21 September to Sunday 26 September). The Opening day alone brought more than 80,000 people to the Mall, which included about 25,000 in the Native Nations Procession. The National Museum of the American Indian remained open all night long on opening day, and as a result, more than 27,000 people visited. The museum set a Smithsonian record with more than \$1 million in sales at the two museum stores. The museum is now operating a timed entry system. For further information visit: www.AmericanIndian.si.edu

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Parliamentary Report

Education Outside the Classroom

The Education and Skills Committee has announced an inquiry into Education Outside the Classroom. The terms of reference are: To examine pupils' access to experiences outside the classroom, including outdoor play, academic fieldwork, work experience, out-of-school activities and using the environment as a tool to enrich the curriculum. To determine what barriers exist to the expansion and development of out-of-classroom learning, exploring specifically:

- Costs and funding of outdoor activities;
- The place of outdoor learning within the curriculum;
- External assessment of provision;
- Organisation and integration within existing school structures;
- Qualification and motivation of teachers and the effect on teacher workload;
- The fear of accidents and the possibility of litigation;
- How provision in the UK compares with that of other countries.

The Committee will begin taking formal evidence for this inquiry in October and written are invited by Monday 25 October. For details visit:

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/education_and_skills_committee/education_and_skills_press_notice_2003_4_46.cfm

Renaissance Funding

Dr Brian Iddon, MP for Bolton South East, and Dr Ian Gibson, MP for Norwich North, asked the Secretary of State for Culture, whether it was her intention to fund phase two regional hubs to the same level as pathfinder hubs in the current spending period. Replying for the Government, Estelle Morris said "spending plans for 2005–08, we have to deliver during the period." which will be announced later in the year, will strike a balance between that objective and the other spending priorities

Conditional Exemption

Boris Johnson asked for figures of the number of objects of museum quality and pre-eminent objects were granted conditional exemption in each year since 1994. Dawn Primarolo's reply revealed that that 35,115 museum quality objects or groups of objects had been granted Conditional Exemption in the last 10 years and 910 pre-eminent objects or groups of objects had been granted Conditional Exemption since 2000.

Also last month...

Julie Kirkbride asked a series of questions about the number of people employed, pensions arrangements, and expenditure of a various public bodies sponsored by DCMS, including Regional Cultural Consortium and MLA.

In the House of Lords, a debate was held to celebrate the publication of the Dictionary of National Biography, including praise for the work of National Portrait Gallery, which has made it possible for one in five of the 55,000 biographies to have an image of the subject.

The Grand Committee of the House of Lords has been considering the Human Tissue Bill. The final Committee session is on Monday 11 October.

As always, a full parliamentary report is available from the NMDC Secretariat. Please contact Alex Baker (abaker@iwm.org.uk)

Forthcoming Meetings

Learning & Access Committee

11.00am, Fri 29 Oct, National Portrait Gallery

NMDC Executive Committee

11.00am, Fri 5 Nov, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Managers Consortium

11.00am, Fri 12 November, Science Museum

Leadership Working Group

11.00am, Tues 30 Nov, venue tbc

Board Secretaries Group

11.30am, Thurs 2 Dec, Imperial War Museum

National Museum Director's Conference

11.00am, Fri 3 Dec, Imperial War Museum

HR Forum

1.00pm, Fri 9 Dec, The National Archives

NMDC Meetings 2005

National Museum Directors' Conference

Friday 8 April 2005

Friday 8 July 2005

Friday 9 December 2005

NMDC Executive Committee

Friday 4 February 2005

Thursday 26 May 2005

Friday 16 September 2005

These meetings will all begin at 11am and take place at the Imperial War Museum.

Black History Month

Black History Month (BHM) is held every October in Britain and aims to promote knowledge of Black History and experience; disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people in their cultural heritage. For more details visit: www.black-history-month.co.uk. Here are examples of just some of the events taking place during Black History Month at the national museums. For many of the national museums BHM provides an opportunity to highlight events that are just part of a year-round programme representing the diversity of their collections and audiences.

Tate

A variety of events and displays are taking place across Tate to coincide with BHM. There is a display of Donald Rodney's work until the end of December at Tate Britain, marking Tate Archive's acquisition of Rodney's papers, an extraordinarily diverse collection of sketchbooks, correspondence, audio-visual material, and printed ephemera documenting the artist's work from the early 1980s. On 30 October, Tate Britain is holding study day reviewing the origins, history and relevancy of post-colonial theory, considering some contemporary artists and their work that tackles these issues. Tate Modern has a free week-long course *Ghetto Superstar?*, which questions why some artists are seen as 'ethnic' or 'authentic' or 'urban', while other artists are just artists. Participants will work towards curating their own virtual exhibition.. At Tate Liverpool, *Grub for Sharks: A Concession to the Negro Populace*, work specially commissioned for Tate Liverpool from one of the most successful African-American artists, Kara Walker as part of Project Space, continues until 31 October. www.tate.org.uk/bhm

The British Museum

The British Museum has a programme of events in partnership with the African Europe Forum including gallery talks, cinema afternoons and the *Celebrating Africa Weekend* 22-24 October. Professor Stuart Hall and HE Pallo Jordan, Minister for Arts and Culture, South Africa will be speaking at a lecture and discussion on the legacy of the slave trade in Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas and Europe on Friday 22 October. Also, during the *Celebrating Africa Weekend*, there will be a free programme of performances by London-based African performers and stands in the Great Court representing the cultural heritage of African countries. www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/celebratingafrica/index.html

National Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum is staging a series of free events to celebrate BHM including entertainment by local groups, talks, presentations and previews including a discussion by Paul Crooks, author of *Ancestors* about his 13-year personal journey tracing family history to Slave roots. Roy Clare, Director of NMM, commented that BHM "is one element of a wide programme in the Museum that aims to stimulate awareness of contemporary issues from a maritime perspective. We are deeply involved with research into the origins, conduct and abolition of the slave trade; with reminiscence work with those who came to Britain by sea; and with young people in all ethnic groups helping them to know more about the influence of the sea and ships on the lives of so many people who now make Britain their home." www.nmm.ac.uk

Museum of London

The Museum of London celebrates BHM with a landmark exhibition of the international painter and print maker Uzo Egonu, a British artist of Nigerian origin. Offering a glimpse into his bold vision of London, it is the first major exhibition Egonu's work since his death in 1996. The exhibition, which runs until 9 January is accompanied by a programme of events including gallery tours, lectures and family workshops. The Museum in Docklands is hosting *Black People in Britain Today – A History*, a 10-week course offered by Middlesex University. The course will explore black presence in Britain since Roman times and examine the relationship between the history of black people and British history in general. Opportunities will be available to attain academic credit through attendance and completion of an assignment. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

National Gallery

To celebrate BHM, the National Gallery has launched *Black Presence*, a new trail exploring the representation of black people in Western European painting. The 45 works included on the trail range from *Christ presented to the People* by the Master of Delft to Degas' *Miss La La at the Cirque Fernando*. The trail is available to visitors from the Information Desk and a virtual tour can be found on the Gallery's website at: www.nationalgallery.org.uk/collection/features/black_presence

National Portrait Gallery

The NPG has a display of recently acquired photographs by Trinidad-born filmmaker and photographer Horace Ove an *In Dahomey* platinum print portraits made in 1903 of the first musical in London to be performed entirely by black African Americans. There are also talks and events. www.npg.org.uk

Science Museum

Events taking place during BHM at the Science Museum this year include story trails on unsung heroes including *Creature Comforts*, which encourages visitors to discover and investigate inventors and scientists from diverse backgrounds, their achievements and how they have helped to improve the technology we rely on today; and *Medical Marvels*, featuring the fascinating and inspirational tales of black doctors, nurses and surgeons who have made their mark in the field of medicine. <http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/learning/bhmevents.asp>
At the Dana Centre, Dr Elizabeth Rasekoala from the African-Caribbean Network for Science and Technology will be leading a debate on 21 October looking at why Western science is excluding black scientists. www.danacentre.org.uk

Imperial War Museum

At the Imperial War Museum London *Black Poppies* is a season of films devoted to the involvement of African, Asian and Caribbean peoples in the two world wars. Films include *West Indies Calling* (1943), showing the contribution of West Indians who travelled to Britain during WW2 to help the war effort; *West Africa Was There* (1946), recording the part played by African troops in the Burma campaign; and more recent documentaries such as *Mutiny* (1999) on the history of the British West Indian Regiment during WW1; and *The Forgotten Volunteers* (1999), a BBC Timewatch documentary about the Indian Army, which during the WW2 was the largest volunteer army serving with the British. www.iwm.org.uk Meanwhile events at Imperial War Museum North include Black History Month *Sound Revolution* in the main exhibition space, including a selection of images and popular black rooted music that comments on conflict from the Cold War to the present day. <http://north.iwm.org.uk/>

Victoria & Albert Museum

The V&A's *Black British Style* exhibition opened on 7 October to great critical acclaim. The exhibition is the first in the UK to explore the style and fashion of black people in Britain and their impact on British culture over the past 50 years. It looks at black dress from the 1950s, everyday clothes, traditional clothing, Sunday dressing for church, contemporary street style and fashion from black music and dance. The exhibition runs until 16 January 2005. Events include *Soundscapes: Conversations in Sound and Style* on 23 October when Ras Kwame will chair a conversation with Mis-Teeq's Sabrina Washington and rising star of UK Garage MC Shystie; and an international conference dedicated to an exploration of black style across the African diaspora on 29-30 October. There is also *40 Years of Carnival*, a display of carnival costumes and photographs documenting four decades of the Notting Hill Carnival. www.vam.ac.uk

Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is celebrating BHM with a series of free Darwin Centre Live events exploring race and gender in the sciences. There will be a session on *Roots and Herbs*, a new project aiming to use the Natural History Museum historic specimen, collected by Sir Hans Sloane in Jamaica nearly 320 years ago, to aid the Caribbean community in discovering more about its cultural history. Live sessions on *The Botany of Brixton Market*, will explore take a look at the history of Afro-Caribbean and world cuisine and shed light on the natural history of breadfruits, yams and plantain. www.nhm.ac.uk/darwincentre/live

National Museums Liverpool

Events at National Museums Liverpool include an adult workshop at the Merseyside Maritime Museum exploring the connections to slavery around the city and an introduction in how participants can trace their own family history. At the Liverpool Museum there is a display of textiles from West African as well as an opportunity to try on clothes or design a contemporary print to take away. www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

The National Archives

The National Archives is holding a series of events this Black History Month to highlight the wealth of information available on Black and Caribbean History. There will be workshop on "Researching the Caribbean – a work in progress" giving visitors the opportunity to find out about the history of Bermuda, Jamaica, Granada and St Lucia through the Colonial records. *From Strangers to Citizens* will provide an introduction to the immigration sources at the National Archives, including citizenship records, passenger lists and certificates of arrival. TNA is also supporting exhibitions at Willlesden Green Library in North West London and Rugby Library, Warwickshire. The *Routes to Routes* theme of the Archives Awareness Campaign is encouraging events at archives all over the country which also celebrate BHM. One example is *Tracing Your West Indian Ancestors: An Introduction* at Bristol Record Office on 26 October. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Wallace Collection

To celebrate Black History Month the Wallace Collection is featuring *A Young Archer* c 1640 by Govaert Flinck (1615-1660) as Treasure of the Month. The painting, once attributed to Rembrandt, shows a young black boy richly attired in hunting garb, a bow clenched in his right hand, a bag of arrow slung over his shoulder. Research suggest that the picture may allude to the Nubian bowmen of classical times. www.wallacecollection.org