



Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter, a briefing on our activities and developments in the museum sector in the UK and beyond.

NMDC's members are the leaders of the UK's national collections and leading regional museums, operating in over 100 sites across the country.

www.nationalmuseums.org.uk

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NMDC News

Culture Secretary Andy Burnham's speech at the Museums Association Conference

NMDC attended the MA Conference in October in Liverpool, where Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport, gave the opening address. The Secretary of State identified the two key achievements of the last 10 years as free admission to national museums, noting in particular the resulting increase in the number of child visits, and the investment in regional museums made through Renaissance in the Regions. Making reference to the McMaster report, he spoke about the change in emphasis from access to excellence; that promoting access can result in an over-reliance on targets which should be avoided; and that the key to excellence for museums is the quality of the visitor experience they offer. He also stressed the importance of ensuring excellent museum provision outside London.

The Secretary of State identified the key priorities for museums in the next ten years as: strong partnerships, national, regional and international, with reference to the British Museum's World Collections project; museum education, referring to the Find Your Talent scheme to give every child 5 hours a week of cultural activity; and diversity, particularly in museum leadership, ensuring museums reflect the whole of their local communities. He set out what he believes government needs to do for the sector: local area agreements for museums; 'changing the way of doing business' with museums through the new peer review process for national museums; continuing with a strong commitment to the regions, with reference to the review of Renaissance which will feed into the forthcoming national strategy for English Museums; and keeping a 'watchful eye' on funding, acknowledging that 'creative lateral thinking' and a mixed economy of funding for museums will be vital.

Financial Reporting Exposure Draft 42: Heritage Assets

NMDC has responded to the consultation by the Accounting Standards Board on the Financial Reporting Exposure Draft 42: Heritage Assets (FRED 42). The aim of FRED 42 is *'to improve the quality of the financial reporting of heritage assets for entities such as museums holding collections of art, antiques and books and also entities that own and manage landscape or buildings for their environmental or historical qualities'* and it includes proposals for enhanced disclosures of the value of heritage assets, requiring museums to place a value on the objects in their collections.

NMDC argues that the approach set out in the revised draft seems to be a retrograde step that will not enhance either the presentation or the clarity of museum accounts. In particular, NMDC strongly disagrees with the view set out in FRED 42 that *'it is better to report some assets in the balance sheet rather than none, even if this results in only part of an entity's collection of heritage assets being capitalised'*, since this is likely to sustain the current position under which the carrying value of the collection on the balance sheet is inconsistent, meaningless and misleading.

http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/fred42_response.html

NMDC meetings update

The NMDC Executive Committee, led by Chair Mark Jones, has had introductory meetings with the **new Culture Minister Barbara Follett MP**, a welcome opportunity to set out current NMDC thinking and work plans and to discuss the Minister's priorities; and with the **new Financial Secretary to HM Treasury, Stephen Timms MP**, to discuss philanthropy and national museums' NDPB status.

Executive Committee members also met with **Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Michael Gove**, **Shadow Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt** and **Shadow Culture Minister Ed Vaizey** for a discussion on the role of museum education and supporting museums' education initiatives. The Committee also met separately with **Jeremy Hunt** to discuss philanthropy.

Directors in the News

National Museum Directors amongst London's top 1000 most influential people

Several national museum directors are included in the Evening Standard's 2008 list of London's 1000 most influential people. In the Art and Design section NMDC members Sir Nicholas Serota and Neil MacGregor take first and fourth places respectively, with Sandy Nairne and NMDC Chair Mark Jones also included as new entries to this year's list. Several national museum patrons, donors and trustees are also listed.

<http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/influentials08/article-23562655-details/Art/article.do?ICO=influentials>

Mark Jones on environmental conditions

NMDC Chair and Director of the V&A Mark Jones has written a comment piece in this month's Museum Journal, outlining the need for museums and funders to take a more flexible approach to environmental controls to enable museums to reduce their carbon footprints. <http://www.museumsassociation.org/17399>

National Museum Jobs

NMDC's jobs website has details of over 35 vacancies around the UK, including:

- Head of Conservation Technologies, National Museums Liverpool
- Corporate Events Executive, Royal Air Force Museum
- Adult Programmes Manager, National Portrait Gallery
- Maintenance Manager, National Galleries of Scotland
- Head of Chief Executive's Office, The National Archives

For details of all the current vacancies visit www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk

Forthcoming meetings

NMDC meeting

Fri 14 Nov, 11am-1pm,
Science Museum

Marketing Group

Weds 3 Dec, 2-4pm, Tate

HR Forum

Fri 5 Dec, 11am-1pm, V&A

UK Affairs Committee

Weds 17 Dec, 2-4pm

(venue TBC)

Current Issues

New Minister for Culture, Creative Industries & Tourism

Barbara Follett MP has been appointed as Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). She will also remain Minister for the East of England. Barbara has served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to both Tessa Jowell and Ruth Kelly as Minister for Women and to Tessa Jowell as Secretary of State at the DCMS. For the last year she has been the Parliamentary Secretary for Equality, supporting the Minister for Women and Equalities, Harriet Harman. Barbara is MP for Stevenage and lives in Knebworth with her husband, author Ken Follett. She lists her interests as photography, Scrabble and Star Trek, and says on her website that she will be writing to local schools and arts organisations to request a piece of their work to display in her Ministerial office. www.barbara-follett.org.uk/

Margaret Hodge MP, the former Minister for the Arts has temporarily left the Government on compassionate grounds of family illness and will return to Government in the spring.

Changes at DCMS, DCLG and DCSF

Andrew Vaughan has been appointed the new **Head of Museums at DCMS**, following the departure of Ben Cowell. Andrew is currently Head of Housing Market Renewal and Housing Growth Programmes at DCLG, prior to which he was Private Secretary to Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary at DCLG, and will take up post on 18 November.

Stephen Carter, the Prime Minister's former Chief of Strategy, and previous Chief Executive of OfCom, has been appointed as **Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting**, working jointly for DCMS and the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform.

Jane Cooper has been appointed **Director of Communications at DCMS**. Jane was previously leading communications at DCSF as interim Director of Communications since January 2008. She moved to DCSF from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and has previously held senior communications positions in both the private and third sectors. http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5580.aspx

In the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Margaret Beckett replaces Caroline Flint as **Minister for Housing**. She will be responsible for seeing the Heritage Protection Bill through the House of Commons. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/>

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The new **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families** at the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is Baroness Delyth Morgan, whose principal policy areas include safeguarding and child protection, drugs and alcohol, sport and healthy eating. Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP has been appointed **Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners**, with principal policy areas including admissions, 14-19 reform, the National Curriculum and SEN. Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Jim Knight and Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, Beverley Hughes have also had changes to their areas of responsibility. http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0222

Tate Chair Joins the Government

Paul Myners, Chair of Tate, has been appointed by the Prime Minister to the position of Financial Services Secretary and Minister for the City in The Treasury, and joins the House of Lords. He resigned as Chair of Tate with immediate effect following his Ministerial appointment but will continue his association with the gallery as a member of the Tate Foundation.

Sir Howard Davies, who was appointed by Tate's Board of Trustees to the position of Senior Trustee in March 2008, will act as the interim Chair until the New Year when a decision will be made on the appointment of a long-term Chair. www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/16684.htm

MLA Appoints Directors of Engagement

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) has announced the appointment of two area directors based in the regions. Jon Finch, currently chief executive of MLA West Midlands, has been appointed as Director of Engagement West, and Sam Bestwick, chief executive of MLA East Midlands, Director of Engagement East. Together with a third post, Director of Engagement North, which is currently being advertised externally, they will take responsibility for overseeing a group of regional managers and staff in their respective areas of England. They form part of MLA's new national structure, replacing the separate regional MLAs which will close by April 2009. www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/area_directors

New Museums Association President

New MA President Stuart Davies has set out his thinking on the major issues for museums and suggestions for how the MA might respond. He gave his first speech as President at the MA Conference in Liverpool, telling the annual general meeting that museums should 'prepare for battle' to make the case for future funding as the coming years will be tough. <http://www.museumsassociation.org/17328>

In an article in November's Museums Journal Stuart identifies the greatest challenge for the sector as being 'to help support and sustain small and medium sized independent and public museums'. He also describes the changes he feels are needed at the MA: addressing issues of governance, strengthening communications and participating more visibly in strategic and political spheres. http://www.museumsassociation.org/17396&IXPOS=mj_home3

Arts Council England creates new independent organisation

Creative Partnerships, Arts Council England's creativity programme for schools, is to become an independent organisation. The programme, which develops young people's creativity and is the lead for the Find Your Talent cultural offer scheme, has been developed and managed by Arts Council England since it began in 2002. Due to its success the Arts Council has decided that its future is best delivered through a new independent organisation - Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE). CCE will receive more than £75 million from Arts Council England between April 2009 and March 2011, the largest single grant in that two year period, and will be based in Newcastle. <http://press.artscouncil.org.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=386&NewsAreaID=2>

The future of Museums and Galleries Month

Following the completion of a review of Museums and Galleries month, the Trustees of the Campaign for Museums have decided to dissolve the charity which delivers Museums and Galleries Month as well as associated workshops, events and activities for the benefit of museums and galleries in the UK. The report highlights the impact and success of Museums and Galleries Month, which has taken place in May each year since 2000, but suggests that new ways to celebrate museums and galleries should now be explored. MLA has confirmed that it will not be renewing funding for the Campaign for Museums, and the charity has therefore decided 'that it is for others to take forward the recommendations in the report'.

The Campaign for Museums' assets, brands, website and other resources will be transferred to its associated charity Culture24, which will take forward the recommendations in the review working with partner organisations. Culture24 plans to promote and support the Museums at Night Weekend in May 2009, linked to the European Nuit des Musées on Saturday 16th May 2009. There will be no Museums and Galleries Month in 2009. <http://www.mgm.org.uk/site/org/press.html>

Modernisation of Libraries Review

Culture Secretary Andy Burnham MP has launched a modernisation review of England's public library service. Over the next six months the review will consider issues including the skills and investment needed to modernise; how libraries cope with the growth of the ebook; the potential for operating libraries in shared sites with other public services; and whether libraries should be silent places for reading or social places to meet and discuss, perhaps with coffee shops. www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5532.aspx

Informal Learning in Museums and Libraries

Skills Secretary John Denham MP has pledged to work with Andy Burnham to open up public buildings like libraries and museums for use by adult learning groups. The proposals form part of John Denham's response to the recent consultation, Informal Adult Learning - Shaping the Way Ahead. Responses to the consultation endorsed the suggestion that Government should facilitate and stimulate self-organised learning by securing better access to public and private spaces, such as libraries, so that groups of learners can pursue their interests, and that learners should be able to move easily from one learning experience to another - perhaps a museum visit or TV programme signposting adults to supplementary online material which could lead in turn to a local discussion group or taught course. <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=380816&NewsAreaID=2>

2007 Taking Part child survey - 57% of Children Visited a Museum

Results from the 2007 Taking Part child survey produced by DCMS were released on 2 October. The data show that 57 per cent of all children in England had visited a museum or gallery in the past 12 months. Of those children that had visited a museum or gallery, 81% had visited out of school lessons (this equates to 46% of all children). The highest proportion (60%) had visited once or twice during the past 12 months, while a third (33%) said they had visited at least three or four times but less than once a month. There were no statistically significant differences in the level of participation between 2006 and 2007. When asked to say how much they enjoyed visiting museums and galleries (on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being awful and 10 being brilliant) the mean rating was 7. Boys were less likely than girls to have visited museums (52% and 58% respectively) and children from Black or minority ethnic backgrounds were less likely than children from White ethnic backgrounds to have visited museums (50% and 56% respectively). www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5481.aspx

Cultural Leadership Programme

The Cultural Leadership Programme (CLP) is offering 'Peach' Placements in ten arts organisations for emerging and mid-career leaders. The current placement opportunities open for application include posts at Tate and arts organisations across the UK.

CLP is also seeking applications for its International Exchange Placements pilot programme for cultural organisations. The exchange will involve nominated individuals from UK and overseas organisations each working in a matched overseas organisation for a period of three months. The programme will develop both the individual and their organisations, particularly in the fields of intercultural understanding, international leadership competencies and the art of international hosting. There will be three exchanges in the pilot.

For details of both schemes and CLP's other programmes visit www.culturalleadership.org.uk

Museum Placements for Trainee Teachers

The Teaching Outside the Classroom group is looking for settings across England to develop partnerships with teacher training providers to offer diverse placements for trainee teachers. Museums across the country have already been involved in placements. www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com

New third sector skills body

Government Ministers have announced that £2.5million will be made available over the next 3 years to set up a new skills body for the third sector, offering new learning and development opportunities for people working and volunteering in the third sector across the UK. The new body will have 'a major impact on third sector employers, resulting in direct support from Sector Skills Councils leading to high quality learning and development opportunities'. <http://www.sscalliance.org/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=5491&SID=11551>

New Chair for the Clore Leadership Programme

Sir John Tusa has been announced as the new Chair of the Clore Leadership Programme, taking over from current Chair Nichola Johnson in January 2009. John Tusa is Chairman of the Court of Governors for the University of the Arts London and also Chairman of the Wigmore Hall Trust, a Vice Chairman of the British Museum and a Trustee of The Turquoise Mountain Trust Foundation. The Clore Leadership Programme, founded in 2003, aims to strengthen leadership across the cultural sector, offering Fellowships and training for individual leaders, members of Boards of Directors and senior staff of cultural organisations. <http://www.cloreleadership.org/page.php?id=69>

Heritage Counts Report 2008

English Heritage has published the seventh annual survey of the state of England's historic environment, *Heritage Counts*. The report includes a special focus on the challenges facing the historic environment as a result of climate change, with six key statements on the heritage sector's response to climate change.

Other key points include:

- the change in the funding landscape with decreased funding available from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), a 43% decrease (in real terms) in funding between 2007/08 and 2012/13
- a significant increase in participation in the historic environment among the total population, lower socio-economic groups and those with a limiting disability or illness.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc/server/show/nav.10745>

UK Maritime Heritage Forum

The first UK Maritime Heritage Forum (UKMHF), a new initiative by various groups within the maritime heritage community in Britain, is to be held on 2-3 December 2008 at Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool. The purpose of the Forum is to bring existing maritime heritage groups together to share experiences and knowledge, encourage dialogue and discuss current issues affecting the maritime heritage sector. For further details contact Sally Archer at the National Maritime Museum on sarcher@nmm.ac.uk or 020 8312 6772.

The future display of visual art in Wales

A new report, commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2007 as part of the One Wales agreement, outlines proposals for a new national gallery for Wales and a new centre for contemporary art. The report recommends the building of a new North Wing on the current National Museum site in Cathays Park create a Science Museum and for the current National Museum site to be used for the display of art, creating a National Gallery. The capital cost of this project is estimated to be £85.5m. The report also recommends a 'signature' building for a National Centre for Contemporary Art, to create a 'sense of excitement and a statement about Wales' position in the international contemporary art world'. The capital cost of this project is estimated to be £38.8m. Both sites would also have substantial ongoing development and operational costs.

Neither the Welsh Assembly Government, Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales nor Arts Council of Wales have the resources available to take forward these projects in the short to medium term. However, Amgueddfa Cymru has identified the development of the West Wing as a key priority in moving towards the establishment of a National Gallery, by creating more space for the display of art, and an additional £1m capital funding from the Welsh Assembly Government over the next year will enable this project to be taken forward.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/publications/future/?lang=en>

£1.7m funding for Welsh galleries

In responding to the report, the Welsh Assembly Government Heritage Minister Alun Ffred Jones has announced £1.7m funding to help improve access to Wales' national art collections and to create more opportunities for showing contemporary arts exhibitions in Wales. Three regional galleries and the National Museum Cardiff will benefit from this additional investment. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/latest/081014fundingboost/?lang=en>

MOSI hit by Icelandic bank collapse

The Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester (MOSI) has revealed that it has £900,000 of savings invested in the failed Icelandic bank Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander (KSF). MOSI Director Steve Davies MBE said "the museum's finances are in good order but this money is an important part of our reserves, which we hope to use to develop our popular education programme. We'll be making every effort to secure our investment so we can continue with our educational plans, and look to our friends and natural partners to help us in this endeavour".

http://www.24hourmuseum.org.uk/nwh_gfx_en/ART61697.html

Museums Galleries Scotland Corporate Plan

Museums Galleries Scotland (formerly the Scottish Museums Council) has published its Corporate Plan for 2008 to 2011, following a period of restructure and rebranding. The plan details how Museums Galleries Scotland will work in partnership with the museums and galleries sector to deliver on three main priorities - to review, consolidate and build profile. The plan also outlines how the sector can help deliver on the Scottish Government's national strategic objectives for Scotland.

<http://www.museumsgalleriescotland.org.uk/pdfs/Corporate Plan 2008-11.pdf>

Objects Stolen from Museum Sold at Christie's

The Art Newspaper reports that fourteen stolen portrait miniatures were inadvertently sold in Christie's in June, because their loss from a UK public gallery had not been publicised. The works were part of a private collection on display at Abbot Hall Art Gallery in Kendal, Cumbria, two years ago. The theft had been registered with the stolen art database Trace but not with the Art Loss Register. www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16284

Public Appointments

The Prime Minister has appointed three new Trustees of the **British Museum**: Karen Armstrong, author of numerous works on comparative religion; Dame Liz Forgan, chair of Scott Trust and formerly Chair of the National Heritage Memorial Fund; and Lord Nicholas Stern, who led the Stern Review on Economics of Climate Change and was Head of the Government Economic Service 2005-7. www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notice

Three new Trustees of the **National Portrait Gallery** have also been appointed: Augustus Casely-Hayford, joint Chief Executive Officer of Zamyn and former Executive Director of Arts Strategy, Arts Council England and ex-Director of the Institute of International Visual Arts; Lord Janvrin, Deputy Chairman at HSBC and formerly Private Secretary to The Queen; and Marina Warner, a writer, a novelist, historian and critic and Professor of Literature, Film & Theatre Studies at the University of Essex. <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17186>

Broadcaster Samir Shah OBE and designer Betty Jackson CBE have both been re-appointed as Trustees of the **Victoria and Albert Museum**.

In Parliament

Government response to pre-legislative scrutiny on Heritage Protection Bill

DCMS has published its response to the Culture, Media and Sport (CMS) Select Committee's report on pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Heritage Protection Bill and the Draft Cultural Property Bill in July. The draft Heritage Protection Bill, covering England and Wales '*sets out a framework to unify heritage protection regimes, allow greater public involvement in decision-making and place heritage at the heart of the planning system, thereby making the system more transparent and making heritage protection easier to understand and manage*'.

The response sets out the Government response to both the Committee's recommendations, some of which were accepted, some not, and to the public consultation. The report states that DCMS is working closely with DCLG and English Heritage to create new guidance, with DCMS taking the lead - as opposed to a DCLG co-sponsored Bill - because heritage protection is DCMS' responsibility. The report also suggests that alarms being raised over a shortage of conservationists are premature, as statistics available are not enough to show long-term trends. It states that the majority of the consultation responses to the Committee and the Department welcomed both the draft Bills and that Government will continue with its plans to introduce a Heritage Protection Bill, 'subject to the availability of Parliamentary time'. http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/gov_responseCm7472.pdf

Culture Minister takes action to protect the wreck of HMS London

Culture Minister Barbara Follett has taken action to protect the remains of a historic 17th Century ship, HMS London, which sank in the Thames Estuary nearly 350 years ago, by 'designating' the remains under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, following a recommendation from English Heritage. The Order will protect the remains of the ship - located in two sites - from interference and intrusive activities. The London blew up on passage from Chatham in 1665 with the loss of over 300 lives, an event recorded by Samuel Pepys in his diary entry for March 8th 1665. http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5565.aspx

International Issues

Former Curator Donates Art to Harvard Art Museum

Harvard Art Museum has received a gift of 31 major works of modern and contemporary art and \$45 million from Emily Rauh Pulitzer, a former Harvard Art Museum curator and wife of the late Joseph Pulitzer Jr. Mrs. Pulitzer worked as assistant curator of drawings from 1957-64 and has served in numerous leadership roles at the Art Museum and at Harvard. The modern works include important paintings and sculptures by Brancusi, Derain, Giacometti, Lipchitz, Miró, Modigliani, Picasso, Rosso, and Vuillard. The contemporary art includes major works by di Suvero, Heizer, Judd, Lichtenstein, Nauman, Newman, Oldenburg, Serra, Shapiro, and Tuttle. The Art Museum concurrently announced previous gifts of 43 other modern and contemporary works (both outright and partial gifts) from the Pulitzer family made between 1953 and 2005. www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2008/10.23/99-gift.html

Major Donation for LACMA

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has received a gift of \$55 million from Los Angeles-based philanthropists Lynda and Stewart Resnick, including \$45 million toward LACMA's ongoing campus refurbishment and gallery expansion project, and gifts of art valued at \$10 million. In honour of their generosity, LACMA will name a new Renzo Piano-designed building, slated to open in 2010, the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Exhibition Pavilion. www.lacma.org/press/releases/2resnick_gift.pdf

American Museums Fear Lean Years Ahead

The New York Times reports on fears for museums following the turmoil in the financial markets, particularly the expected impact on income from donations and corporate sponsorship, and looks at some of the strategies museums are employing to deal with the expected shortfall in funding.

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/arts/design/20muse.html?_r=1&scp=&sq=museums&st=cse&oref=slogin

Dubai plans for 'the world's largest consolidated museum'

The Financial Times reports on the ambitious plans of the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority (DCAA), a new government department. New projects include the Messenger Mohammed Museum, dedicated to the Prophet; the Dubai Opera House, designed by Zaha Hadid; a museum of Modern Middle Eastern Art; and a "Universal Museum", an ambitious development aiming to bring together leading international museums in an expertise and collection-sharing agreement. Contracts have been signed with the German state museum associations of Berlin, Dresden and Munich, and the DCAA is also talking to the Hermitage, the John Paul Getty Museum and the National Museum of Beijing, among others.

http://us.ft.com/ftgateway/superpage.ft?news_id=fto102020080431427292

New ICOM Director General

Julien Anfruns has become the new Director General of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). He was previously Director of Financial and Legal Affairs at the Louvre Museum (2005-2008) and in charge of Economic and Financial Affairs at the French Ministry of Culture and Communication from 2002 to 2005. <http://icom.museum>

National Museums' News Round Up

The Art Fund has announced a grant of £1m to help the **National Galleries of Scotland** and **National Gallery** acquire Titian's *Diana and Actaeon*. The grant, the first to be publicly pledged to the £50m campaign, is the largest ever donation to a single work of art in The Art Fund's 105 year history. If successful in acquiring *Diana and Actaeon*, the two galleries will be granted an option, exercisable at any point up until the end of 2012, to acquire the second Titian from the Bridgewater Collection, *Diana and Callisto*, for a similar amount. The two paintings were painted as part of a cycle of works for Philip II of Spain and represent a highpoint in Italian Renaissance art. *Diana and Actaeon* is currently on special loan to the National Gallery where it is on display for four weeks before returning to the National Galleries of Scotland later this month. www.artfund.org/news/771

Paul Evans has resigned as Master of the Armouries and Chief Executive of the **Royal Armouries** with effect from 30th September 2008. The Trustees will now start the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive. In the meantime, the Armouries' Administration Director, Joan Jacobs, will continue to act as Accounting Officer. Paul Evans joined the Royal Armouries in October 2000 as Chief Operating Officer and was promoted to Chief Executive in July 2003. www.royalarmouries.org <http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=16332>

The **National Maritime Museum** has secured £5m funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Sammy Ofer Wing project. The £35m project, described as a "sea change in the Museum's public engagement" includes a new exhibitions gallery, enhanced visitor facilities and state of the art library and archive facilities. The donation of £20m from shipping magnate, Sammy Ofer, was announced earlier this year and along with the HLF grant means the museum has reached 90% of its fundraising target for the project. The new wing will open in 2012. www.nmm.ac.uk

Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales is to receive a capital investment of £1m from the Welsh Assembly Government to refurbish art galleries at the National Museum in Cardiff. The redevelopment will provide space for recent and contemporary art, providing nearly 40% more space for the display of art and the capacity to accommodate a major temporary exhibition of modern or contemporary art. http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/5/?article_id=471

Tate has been successful in its campaign to acquire Sir Peter Paul Rubens' sketch for the ceiling paintings in the Banqueting House, Whitehall, thanks to the last-minute intervention of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Tate Members and The Art Fund, all of whom increased their original pledges on the day of the final deadline. The vendor of *The Apotheosis of James I and other studies: sketch for the ceiling of the Banqueting House, Whitehall* (1628-30), whose family has owned the work for over two centuries, also generously agreed to waive £300,000 from the asking price of £6million and accept £5.7million net of tax. The work was valued at £11.5million. www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/16693.htm

Virgin Trains are commemorating **Tate Liverpool's** twentieth anniversary by naming a train after the gallery. www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/16686.htm

In recognition of its ten-year collaboration with the Sudan Archaeological Research Society (SARS) the **British Museum** received a donation of 20 blocks of an early Kushite (c.8th-5th century BC) granite pyramid and two rock gongs, which they hope to put on permanent display sometime next year along with other material from the region of the Fourth Cataract, which is currently being flooded to provide hydroelectricity for Sudan. The British Museum/SARS team is one of nine international missions under the banner of the 'Merowe Dam Archaeological Salvage Project' which have uncovered thousands of sites dating from the Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 years ago) to the very recent past. The project has revolutionized knowledge of ancient Sudan.

http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2008/sudan.aspx

In November a new gallery opens at the **British Museum** to display its collections of Clocks and Watches. The British Museum holds the national collection of horology, with over 900 clocks and 4,500 watches in its collection, and key examples will go on display in a central new gallery space at the top of the main stairs.

http://www.britishmuseum.org/the_museum/news_and_press_releases/press_releases/2008/clocks_and_watches.aspx

The **Royal Marines Museum** acquired a rare medal awarded to a Royal Marine who lay wounded alongside Nelson at Trafalgar, thanks to a contribution of £28,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Carole Souter, Chief Executive of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, said, 'This medal is a rare reminder of the role played by a Royal Marines Officer, only one of four on board Victory, alongside Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar.'

<http://www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk/>

The **Museum of London** has rebranded to bring together its venues with new names and a new logo. The different parts of the Museum will now be known as Museum of London, Museum of London Docklands and Museum of London Archaeology. The new logo takes the conceptual form of London's thumbprint with coloured layers mapping the shape of London over time. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

The **Imperial War Museum** has produced a new resource which will be sent free to every school in the UK (except infant schools) before 11 November to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of World War One. *People of the Great War* has been produced in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and funded by the Veterans Policy Unit of the Minister of Defence. It includes two short films and a CD Rom of learning resources.

www.iwm.org.uk/peopleofthegreatwar

Awards

The **Victoria & Albert Museum** has won the Guardian/Observer 2008 Travel Award for Favourite UK Tourist Attraction. NMDC members dominated the top five, with the **National Gallery, British Museum** and **Tate Britain** in 2nd, 3rd and 5th places. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2008/oct/12/travel-awards2008?page=all>

The **National Maritime Museum Cornwall** was named Large Visitor Attraction of the Year at the Cornwall Tourist Awards for the second consecutive year, the first time a visitor attraction has won gold two years in a row.

http://www.nmmc.co.uk/index.php?page=News_Centre&newsid=131

The **Royal Marines Museum** has won the award for best Small Visitor Attraction at the Tourism South East 'ExSEllence' 2008 Awards. The judges noted that there was 'evidence of significant new investment...with some innovative visual and interactive techniques' and were particularly impressed by the 'very good customer care and high standards of maintenance' as well as the 'good activities programme to attract young visitors'.

http://www.getdiscovered2008.co.uk/downloads/PR_final_Hantslow_8_08.pdf

The **National Library of Scotland's** Scottish Screen Archive site has won a Standard of Excellence WebAward in the Web Marketing Association's 2008 competition, coming third in the General Interest category. The judges awarded the site the Design Standard of Excellence, based on overall excellence and quality. Criteria included design, content, writing, ease of use, and technology. <http://www.nls.uk/news/index.html>

The **British Library** has won the CBI's 'Excellence in the Public Sector' and 'People's Organisation' awards. The Library was commended for its success in engaging its 2,100-strong workforce in a bid to embrace the digital age.

<http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20081023.html>

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This newsletter was co-edited by Emily Candler and Suzie Tucker. Emily Candler is now on maternity leave following the birth of her daughter - mother and baby are both doing well! If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please email news@nationalmuseums.org.uk