



February 2005

Welcome to this month's NMDC newsletter containing a summary of the DCMS 2004 Spending Review for Museums and Galleries, Estelle Morris' museum consultation document and other news. It also has information about the new staff at NMDC - we look forward to working with you in 2005! This newsletter is available on our website at:

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

## NMDC News

### Staff Changes at NMDC

Emily Candler (nee Adams) has now taken up the role of Secretary following Sean Bullick's departure to France on sabbatical for a year.

Claire Henry is the new Research and Communication Manager. Claire has recently completed an MA in Museum Studies at University College London. Prior to that, she worked on the Major Grants Team at the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Rachel Francis is the new Executive Administrator. Rachel completed a BA (Hons) History of Art at the University of Essex and has been working in the finance industry until recently.

Our new contact details are as follows:

Emily Candler  
Secretary  
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Claire Henry  
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Imperial War Museum  
Lambeth Road  
London  
SE1 6HZ  
Fax: 020 7416 5485

### National Museums Marketing

Will Gompertz, Tate's Director of Communications, chaired the first meeting of the new National Museum Marketing Group, held at Tate Modern on 27 January. The group identified a number of areas where collaboration could improve the value of market research undertaken at national museums and provide more coherent, comparable and meaningful data for the sector.

The Group will meet four times a year to take forward collaborative projects and to provide a forum for sharing best practice.

### IPPR Seminar: Culture, Community & Civil Renewal

The first seminar for the ippr (Institute for Public Policy Research) project 'Culture, Community & Civil Renewal' was held on 17 January. The project, for which NMDC is a partner, is examining the role that participation in arts and heritage activities can play in developing social capital, bridging diverse cultural communities and encouraging active citizenship – especially in poor, disadvantaged communities. Other partners include Arts & Business, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide, Platform for Art and London Underground.

There will be two further seminars, the next taking place on 7 March 2005. Further information about the project is available on ippr's website at [www.ippr.org.uk/](http://www.ippr.org.uk/)

# Members News

## Tate Modern announces Expansion

The architects Herzog & de Meuron, who carried out the original conversion of the Tate Modern site, have been selected to develop a scheme to complete the gallery and its surrounding areas. Renovation of the gallery's electricity substation will provide more space and allow the currently derelict areas that the substation occupies to the south of the turbine hall to be developed. The open spaces around the gallery will also be reconfigured, providing new pedestrian routes around the galleries and enhanced garden and communal facilities. Tate envisions 'a new cultural quarter at Bankside which will transform the area into an international centre for visual culture'. Tate will now develop a scheme to be submitted for planning in summer 2005, coinciding with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tate Modern.

## SeaBritain 2005

SeaBritain 2005 is promoting, through its website [www.seabritain2005.com](http://www.seabritain2005.com), an ever-increasing number of museums UK who are hosting an impressive variety of more than 270 events, conferences and exhibitions. SeaBritain 2005 is to encouraging museums and attractions to develop a yearlong series of exhibitions, events and festivals on the theme of Britain's relationship with the sea.

## British Library Website voted runner up in poll for best of 2004

The British Library is runner up of the '2004 Yahoo! Peoples' Choice Award' voted for by internet users. The 'Turning the Pages' site at [www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation6.html](http://www.bl.uk/collections/treasures/digitisation6.html) allows visitors to virtually turn the pages of precious documents, including Leonardo's notebooks and the Lindesfarne Gospels. 'Turning the Pages' came second to 'Weebls Stuff' [www.weebls-stuff.com](http://www.weebls-stuff.com), a strikingly different site for young people.

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

## Press Department Changes at National Maritime Museum

Michael Barrett and Kirsten Canning, formally Head of Corporate Communications and Head of Press at the National Maritime Museum, have left to form a new press agency for museums: *The Press Office* [www.thepressoffice.uk.com](http://www.thepressoffice.uk.com) They are currently working as consultants for NMM on the Nelson and Napoleon exhibition campaign.

Gaby Wilson and Sheryl Twigg continue to be the contacts at the NMM Press Office. [www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

## British Museum report on Damage in Iraq

Following his visit to Babylon John Curtis, Keeper of the Ancient Near East Department at the British Museum has reported that troops have caused 'substantial damage' to 'one of the most important archaeological sites in the world'. According to the report, since April 2003 when 2000 troops set up camp on the ancient site, damage has been caused by levelling operations, trench digging and environmental pollution such as fuel seepage, although the full extent of the damage is not yet clear.

In his report, that can be viewed on the British Museum's website at: [www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/iraqcrisis](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/iraqcrisis) Curtis, outlines the damage he observed and makes recommendations for further assessment.

## Lost Portrait of Mary Seacole Discovered

A lost painted portrait of Mary Seacole, the famous black nurse who worked in the Crimea, has recently come to light. This, the only known painted portrait of Seacole, has been lent to the National Portrait Gallery by its owner and is currently on display. Seacole was voted Greatest Black Briton in an online poll in February 2004 and this year, the bicentenary of her birth, is marked with a series of events and exhibitions in London. The NPG website has further information at [www.npg.org.uk/live/woseacole.asp](http://www.npg.org.uk/live/woseacole.asp)

## UKIC Metals Section Conference

The Science Museum is hosting a UK Institute of Conservation, Metals conference on *Developing Technical Tendering Specifications for Large Technology and Cultural Objects* on Wednesday 16 March. The topic will be of particular interest to commissioners and contractors who are involved in developing or responding to technical specifications. Interested parties include conservators, architects, quantity surveyors, museums managers and project funders. The speakers are experienced professionals from across the sector. The programme has been developed in response to demand from the sector and is an opportunity for interested parties to consider how this often difficult but important issue can be moved forward.

For further details contact Suzanne Kitto the Senior Conservator at the Royal Armouries on Tel: 01132201936 or email:

[suzanne.kitto@armouries.org.uk](mailto:suzanne.kitto@armouries.org.uk)

## Attempted theft at British Museum

On Wednesday 26 January a man was spotted by a gallery attendant at the British Museum acting suspiciously in the Greek and Roman Gallery. When the attendant approached the man, who appeared to have wire and pliers in his hands, he ran away. A security guard apprehended the man and part of the museum was closed until the police arrived and arrested him. Nothing appears to have been taken. The attempted theft follows a spate of museum thefts in London in recent months.

## Royal Air Force Museum Nominated for Museum of the Year Award

The European Museum Forum has nominated the Royal Air Force Museum site at Hendon, London for this year's European Museum of the Year award. The official announcement of the winner will be made in Brussels in May.

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

## Current Issues

### Scottish Museum Charity Bill

The Scottish Executive's Charities and Trustee Investment Bill is currently before Parliament at Holyrood. The terms of the bill would mean that no third party could direct or otherwise control a charity's activities. This would mean that Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs) including the National Museums of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland, would not be able to keep their charitable status. An alternative to losing charitable status may be to relinquish NDPB status and become fully independent charities. However, that would lose them government indemnity for commercially uninsurable items. Information on the progress of the bill can be found on the Scottish Parliament's website at:

[www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/charities.htm](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/billsInProgress/charities.htm)

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month

The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is supporting the first ever Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Month in February. The DfES have funded a website at [www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk) to raise awareness and encourage participation.

### DCMS Vision for Museums

DCMS has released a consultation paper entitled 'Understanding the Future: Museums and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life' that sets out the Government vision for the museums in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The paper encourages debate on issues including:

- Encouraging museums to make better use of collections, including sharing them with other institutions
- Modernising the museums workforce, developing staff and strengthening progression and diversity
- Persuading the sector to speak with one voice, including the consideration of a unitary funding council.

Further information and a copy of the paper is available on the DCMS website at

[www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk) Consultation is open until June 2005

**If you have any comments on the NMDC Newsletter or would like to contribute to a future edition, please contact Claire Henry – [chenry@iwm.org.uk](mailto:chenry@iwm.org.uk)**

## DCMS 2004 Spending Review for Museums and Galleries

The 2004 Spending Review for Museums and Galleries was announced on 13 December 2004. According to a statement on the DCMS website the settlement will provide:

- Above inflation rises for the national museums' running costs, guaranteeing free admission for the next three years, and a 200 per cent increase in capital funding for the nationals to help ensure that museum buildings are in good shape to welcome the increase in visits
- A 50 per cent increase in DCMS funding for regional museums, to continue the roll out of the Renaissance in the Regions programme
- An increase in spending power for the arts across the period, focusing more money on front line art – including £5m for Liverpool to help the city realise its European Capital of Culture plans in 2008
- Additional £12m funding for English Heritage capital work

Details of the settlement can be found on the DCMS website at

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press\\_notices/archive\\_2004/dcms164\\_04.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2004/dcms164_04.htm)

## Renaissance in the Regions

Following the allocation of additional funding from DCMS for the Renaissance in the Regions programme, which brings the long-term investment up to £45 million by 2008, MLA's Board has agreed that this new funding should be used to raise consistently levels of investment in services in the remaining six English regions. MLA Chairman, Mark Wood said: "Although we have only limited additional funding for the next three years, we believe it should be shared across all six regions that have been waiting to join the full Renaissance programme. We will continue to press the Government to honour its own commitment to provide full funding for the whole Renaissance programme and will back our case with tangible evidence of its success." Further information about Renaissance in the Regions and the six regions set to benefit from the new funding can be found on the MLA website at:

[www.mla.gov/news](http://www.mla.gov/news)

## Two National Museums on the shortlist for Gulbenkian Prize

Big Pit, National Mining Museum of Wales, Blaenafon and Locomotion: the National Railway Museum at Shildon, Co Durham have been shortlisted for this year's Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year. The UK's industrial and working class heritage has been celebrated in the shortlist, which also includes (in alphabetical order by city/town):

- Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon for Shapland & Petter of Barnstaple: 150 years
- National Trust West Midlands for Back to Backs, Birmingham
- The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge for its Courtyard Development
- Compton Verney, Warwickshire
- Coventry Transport Museum
- Time and Tide, Museum of Great Yarmouth Life, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
- Taigh Chearsabhaigh Museum & Art Gallery, Lochmaddy, North Uist for its *Carn Chearsabhaigh* Project
- The Foundling Museum, London

The ten candidates will now go forward to be considered for the list of four finalists to be announced in March 2005.

The winner of the £100,000, the largest arts prize in the United Kingdom, will be announced on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May in London during Museum and Galleries Month 2005. Eminent scientist, academic and Rector of Imperial College London, Sir Richard Sykes, is chairing the panel of judges who are drawn from the museums, heritage and arts sector and the media.

For further information about the Prize and the shortlisted museums go to:

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

## Clore Leadership Programme

Applications for the second round of Fellowships under the Clore Leadership Programme are now being invited. The programme is designed to help develop potential leaders across a cultural sector. Each Fellow will follow an individually tailored programme lasting a year or longer, starting in September 2005. For further information and guidance in using the online application form, see the Clore Foundation [www.cloreleadership.org](http://www.cloreleadership.org). The closing date is 25 February 2005.



## Launch of ALM London

ALM London, the new strategic development agency for London's archives, libraries and museums was launched officially at London Guildhall on 18 January by the Lord Mayor of London, Michael Savory, The Rt. Hon. Lord Macintosh of Haringey, Minister for Media and Heritage, and Mark Wood, Chair of the MLA.

Since its inception in April 2004 ALM London has funded £63,000 worth of preservation work to secure the future of London's invaluable historical objects and works of art. It has enabled 1,000 children in 27 boroughs to take part in creative education programmes. ALM is also encouraging communities to 'Back the Bid' at London's archives, libraries and museums during the International Olympic Committee's forthcoming visit. ALM London will ensure that the city's cultural, knowledge and learning resources are made accessible for the benefit of all Londoners and contribute to London's status as a world-class city. They will develop coherent strategic direction, offer training and fund schemes in areas including; communities and cultural diversity; creativity and collections; learning and skills; regeneration and social inclusion.

ALM London is core funded by MLA. For more information about the agency and its work see [www.almlondon.org.uk](http://www.almlondon.org.uk)

## Export Bar on Reynolds' Masterpiece 'The Archers'

Acting on the expert recommendation of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, Arts Minister Estelle Morris has placed a temporary bar on the export of Reynolds' 'The Archers'.

The double full-length portrait of Colonel Acland and Lord Sydney has been deferred at the recommended price of £3,200,000 (excluding VAT) until 26 March 2005. This deadline could be extended until after 26 July 2005 if there is serious intention to raise funds with a view to making an offer to purchase. Interested parties should contact the owner's agent through the Secretary of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art.

Contact details and further information can be found on the DCMS website at [www.culture.gov.uk/cultural\\_property.htm](http://www.culture.gov.uk/cultural_property.htm)

## Waterways Trust Campaign for Government Funding

An adjournment debate on the future of the Waterways Museums was held at Westminster Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

The Waterways Trust launched a campaign last August to win new government funding of £1.1 million per annum for the next ten years to safeguard the waterways museums and the inland waterways collection.

At the debate Arts Minister Estelle Morris acknowledged the importance of the issue and said that although the government has insufficient funds at present she invited MPs supporting the Trust's case to work with DCMS and continue to make requests that the museums should be added to the list of nationally funded museums. The full debate can be viewed at [www.publications.parliament.uk](http://www.publications.parliament.uk)

## Museums and Galleries Month 2005

The theme for this year's Museums and Galleries Month is 'Objects of Desire: The Art of Collecting. Over 1,200 museums and galleries across the UK will be holding special events and exhibitions to celebrate existing collections, nominate favourite objects and inspire a new generation to think about the sort of things they would include in museum and gallery collections of the future.

This year the French Government is leading a Europe-wide celebration *Museums at Night* [www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr](http://www.nuitdesmusees.culture.fr) taking place on Saturday 14 May. Museums and galleries across Europe are invited to host special late night openings from sunset until 1.00am. MGM 2005 is inviting museums and galleries in the UK to join in the celebrations by holding their own nocturnal events on the same day.

The national launch of Museums and Galleries Month 2005 will take place at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace on Wednesday 27 April from 5-7pm. MGM Coordinators are being invited to join the celebration, but as spaces are limited are asked to email [ylva@campaignformuseums.org.uk](mailto:ylva@campaignformuseums.org.uk) with details of their event, to request an invitation.

Further information about MGM can be found on their website at [www.mgm.org.uk](http://www.mgm.org.uk)

## **DCMS/ Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund**

The deadline for applications to the DCMS/Wolfson Fund is Friday 11 February 2005. The Fund makes £4m available each year to improve the quality of displays, public spaces, environmental controls and access for disabled visitors in museums and galleries all over the UK. A bid proforma, guidance notes to the process and list of eligible organisations can be found on the DCMS website at [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)

## **New Year's Honours**

Congratulations to recipients of honours for services to museums or heritage in this year's New Year's Honours. Margaret Richardson, Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum, Robert Scott, Acting Director at the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester and Professor Mark Hayworth-Booth, Senior Curator of Photographs at the V&A all received an OBE.

MBEs were awarded to Gerry McQuillan, Capital Taxes Manager and Secretary of the Acceptance in Lieu Panel at the MLA, Reginald John Saville, for services to Museums and to the community in Langton Matravers, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset and Dr John Edward Stuart Walker, Founder of Hornsea Museum.

## **Tutankhamun Treasures to go on display in Dome**

BBC News has reported that artefacts excavated from the tomb of Tutankhamun are to go on display in the Millennium Dome in 2007 as part of a 27 month touring exhibition beginning in the United States this year. Exhibits, which have not left Egypt in 30 years, will include the Pharaoh's gold crown and canoptic coffinettes that contained his mummified organs.

When finds from Tutankhamun's tomb were displayed at the British museum in 1972 the exhibition attracted a record 1.7 million visitors, some of whom had to queue for 8 hours. The tour entitled 'Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs' is being organised by the National Geographic, AEG Live, Exhibitions and Arts and Exhibitions International, with cooperation from the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Further information is available on the exhibition website at [www.kingtut.org](http://www.kingtut.org)

## **Moving Here**

The National Archives have received a grant of £772,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to expand the Moving Here project and help more people from ethnic communities find out how their families came to this country. Moving Here currently helps members of the Caribbean, Jewish, Irish and South Asian communities to trace their roots, going back over two hundred years. The new funding will enable information to be added from Turkish, Yemeni, Chinese, Eastern European, Ugandan, Asian and Portuguese migrants, collated by museums and communities from around the country. The project website at [www.movinghere.org.uk](http://www.movinghere.org.uk) was launched in 2003 and was originally funded by the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) which has now merged with the community fund to create the Big Lottery Fund.

## **Canadian Museums Association looking for host museum for recent Museum Studies Graduate**

The Canadian Museums Association would like to hear from museums interested in hosting a recent graduate in museum studies for a period of 6 months beginning September 2005. The CMA, with funding from Foreign Affairs Canada will provide the graduate with a monthly stipend, medical insurance and travel to the host institution's country. In return the CMA require the host to provide the Canadian participant with a full-time career development opportunity in the museum field for a period of 6 months. Host organisations are also asked to assist the Canadian participant in finding accommodation, provide introductory orientation and ensure that the participant is adequately supervised throughout. If you have a project in mind that you would like to discuss, please contact Dawn Roach, Director of Professional Programmes at the CMA at [droach@museums.ca](mailto:droach@museums.ca).

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

## Europe: Challenges, Examples and Opportunities.

EUCLID, the UK cultural contact point for EU funding, are hosting a series of seminars at the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), focusing on key European issues and challenges:

- The new Structural Funds 2007-2013: 7 February
- Citizenship and the new Europe: 15 February
- The European Union Approach to Culture: 7 March

For further information, or to book on line go to [www.euclid.info/uk/seminars](http://www.euclid.info/uk/seminars) or contact the EUCLID office for a Booking Form: [Christine@euclid.info](mailto:Christine@euclid.info) / 0151 709 2564

## Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Luxembourg Presidency of the Council, covering the first half of 2005, has announced its programme of activities. These include the following seminars relating to cultural issues in Europe:

- Living with cultural diversity: rediscovering Europe - 15-17 April 2005
- A European policy in favour of the culture industries - 20-22 April 2005
- Tourism and culture - the challenge of European integration - 20-22 April 2005
- Architectural quality - 27-28 June 2005.

For more information on Luxembourg Presidency of the Council go to [www.eu2005.lu/en/index.html](http://www.eu2005.lu/en/index.html)

## International Issues

### ICOM. Disaster Relief for Museums Website

[http://icom.museum/disaster\\_relief/](http://icom.museum/disaster_relief/)

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has created a website in response to the Tsunami in Asia and the Indian Ocean. The site contains constantly updated information collated from visitors to the site, information about ICOM publications on museum security and catastrophe management. There is also information about ICOM's disaster relief fund, set up to 'contribute to the restoration of damaged moveable and immovable cultural heritage – a vital factor in the reconstruction of fractured communities and in providing comfort and a sense of purpose to the stricken populations, as well as a service to humanity'.

### FBI team to target art thieves

*The Philadelphia Enquirer* reported last month (14/01/05) that the FBI plans to assemble a dedicated team to track down art thieves, responding to a recent upsurge in art theft. The eight agents, who will be deployed around the country, are learning not just about art theft, but about art itself, including art history and how to distinguish artists, periods and styles. On this issue, the United States has trailed other countries such as Italy, France and Britain, which already have special teams to investigate art theft.

### Guggenheim Chairman Resigns

*The New York Times* reported the resignation of Peter B. Lewis, chairman of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and its biggest donor, last month (20/01/05).

The resignation reportedly comes as the result of a rift between Lewis and the Guggenheim Director Thomas Krens. According to the article Krens is keen to see the expansion of the Museum and supports the creation of Guggenheim satellites throughout the world, like those in Las Vegas, Berlin, Bilbao and Venice, whereas Lewis wanted to concentrate resources on the New York site, seeking to open another branch elsewhere in the city. Lewis has donated a reported total of \$77million to the Museum, more than four times any previous donation by a board member.

### The Louvre

*The Art Newspaper* has reported plans by the Louvre to open an outpost in the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia. Hundreds of works will be lent to the museum for an undisclosed sum. French legislation prevents works from state collections going on loan abroad for more than ten months so works will be circulated on an ongoing basis.

## Parliamentary Report

### **New Inquiry : The Market for Art**

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee has announced a new inquiry into 'The Market for Art'. The Inquiry will focus in particular on ways of supporting and encouraging living artists and the production of new work.

The Committee is also interested in establishing what scope exists to promote best practice in the conduct of financial relationships between artists and art market professionals. Views are also sought on the future operation and likely impact of European Directive 2001/84/EC on artists' resale right (droit de suite).

The Committee is inviting written submissions from any interested organisation or individual by Thursday 10 February 2005. Contact details for the Committee are available at

[www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/culture\\_media\\_and\\_sport/cms\\_050118.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/culture_media_and_sport/cms_050118.cfm)

## Forthcoming Meetings

### **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

All the above meetings begin at 11am and take place at the Imperial War Museum

### **Learning & Access Committee**

Tuesday 8 Feb 2005, National Portrait Gallery

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