

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. Our members run museums, libraries and archives in over 100 sites around the UK.

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

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## NMDC News

### Incentivising Gifts of Objects to Public Collections

NMDC has published a briefing on life-time gifts, as part of the *Promoting Philanthropy: Private Giving for the Public Good* campaign. The paper calls for "an unabashed celebration of philanthropy, public recognition of the contribution made by philanthropists, and fiscal incentives to encourage a culture of giving." It sets out proposals for incentives to encourage lifetime gifts of pre-eminent objects to public collections by offsetting income and capital (as well as inheritance) taxes. The system would require valuation of the donated objects by an independent panel and may include an annual cap on the total revenue forgone. The paper also includes a succinct summary of international tax relief schemes to encourage private cultural giving.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/lifetime\\_gifts.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/lifetime_gifts.html)

Shadow Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, referred to the aims of the *Private Giving for Public Good* campaign in a speech on Conservative arts policy last month. NMDC has welcomed his support for philanthropic giving to UK culture. Mr Hunt said, "If Ed Vaizey and I do one thing for the arts, I want it to be creating an environment that encourages and rewards philanthropy". He stressed that he did not see philanthropy as a replacement for state support, but additional to it. In his speech, he outlined his commitment to simplify and strengthen gift aid; remove the bureaucracy that prevents cultural organisations from recognising and acknowledging the generosity of their benefactors; explore how philanthropy can be rewarded through the honours system; and look at what can be done to encourage lifetime giving.

[www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/jeremy\\_hunt\\_speech.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/jeremy_hunt_speech.html)

A full report on Jeremy Hunt's speech on Conservative arts policy is on page 2.

### Related news

#### Major donation for Cutty Sark from NMM Benefactor

Sammy Ofer, the shipping magnate and philanthropist, has donated £3.3m to secure the future of the Cutty Sark, after it was damaged by fire last year. Mr Ofer recently gave £20m to the National Maritime Museum for the creation of a major new wing.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has also given more than £23 million towards the repair bill, including an exceptional £10m grant increase in January.

[www.cuttysark.org.uk/index.cfm?fa=contentNews.newsDetails&newsID=61883](http://www.cuttysark.org.uk/index.cfm?fa=contentNews.newsDetails&newsID=61883)

### Directors in the News

#### Neil MacGregor

At a press breakfast to launch the Museum's Annual Review and announce plans for future exhibitions and gallery developments, the Chairman of the British Museum, Niall FitzGerald, announced that Neil MacGregor had agreed another five year contract as Director of the Museum. (*The Guardian*, 2 July)

<http://arts.guardian.co.uk/art/design/story/0,,2288360,00.html>

### Forthcoming Meetings

#### NMDC Meeting

Friday 11 July, 11am  
Science Museum

## National Museum Jobs

NMDC's jobs website this month has details of over 40 vacancies around the UK, including:

- Public Affairs Officer, British Library
- Assistant Curator, Film, Royal Air Force Museum
- Head of Ceramics Conservation, National Museums Liverpool
- Loans Development Officer, Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery
- Finance Director, Victoria & Albert Museum
- Assistant Keeper of Social History, Tyne and Wear Museums

For details of these vacancies and many more visit [www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk](http://www.nationalmuseumjobs.org.uk)

## Current Issues

### New Chair, Structure and Role for MLA

Andrew Motion has been appointed as the new Chair of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). Professor Motion took up his new position with immediate effect, and his term will run for four years. He has been Poet Laureate for the past nine years and was previously on the Board of Arts Council England.

MLA has also set out the details of its re-defined role and new ways of working. The changes include:

- **a unified national organisation:** 8 of the 9 independent regional MLA agencies will be replaced by April 2009 with a single, integrated staff team that works nationally and regionally (the future of MLA London is yet to be decided);
- **a slimmed down staff structure:** three Directors of Engagement will join the Executive Board, each with specific geographic responsibilities. MLA will appoint a Regional Manager to each English region, and have up to 30 staff in flexible, mobile regional action teams;
- **relocation of the majority of its functions to Birmingham:** a core team will remain at the new offices in London;
- **reductions in operating costs,** including 30 staff redundancies (12 compulsory, 18 voluntary); and
- **prioritisation on key projects** that will deliver the most impact: MLA will concentrate on brokering partnerships, gathering research, highlighting best practice, setting standards and encouraging improvement. Its three chief priorities are Renaissance, accreditation and national strategies and action plans for improving libraries, museums and archive services.

MLA have agreed that the Collections Trust will lead on collections-related work, including taking over MLA digital programmes Cornucopia, the People's Network Discover Service and MICHAEL. Culture24 has been commissioned to develop a coherent online publishing strategy for MLA customer-focused digital services.

MLA also moved location at the end of June to smaller permanent offices in the Wellcome Wolfson Building, 165 Queen's Gate, South Kensington, London SW7 5HD [www.mla.gov.uk](http://www.mla.gov.uk)

### DCMS Plans to Streamline Delivery in Regions

Culture Minister, Margaret Hodge has announced results of DCMS's regional infrastructure review. The Regional Cultural Consortiums will be abolished and replaced by DCMS's four key agencies in the regions - Arts Council England, Sport England, English Heritage and MLA working together to jointly deliver a core set of shared priorities across the sport and cultural agenda. This alliance, working with local authorities and Regional Development Agencies, will agree priorities and create joint plans of action for the culture and sport agendas for their region.

[www.dcms.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5236.aspx](http://www.dcms.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5236.aspx)

### MLA Research Resources site online

The MLA's Research Resources website is now online. This site provides access to hundreds of research and evaluation publications commissioned by the MLA and the sector and to a fully searchable database of case studies on museums, libraries and archives programmes in a wide range of areas.

<http://research.mla.gov.uk/>

### Ben Cowell's Heritage Obsession

Ben Cowell, Head of Museums at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, has published a book, *The Heritage Obsession: The Battle for England's Past*, tracing the rise of heritage consciousness over the last 300 years. The book draws on Dr Cowell's personal research interests (which include 18th and 19th century landscape history, the topic of his PhD) as well as his work for the National Trust and English Heritage.

[www.thehistorypress.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=7613&ProductID=1420](http://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/Default.aspx?tabid=7613&ProductID=1420)

## Wales to Put History of a Nation Online

Welsh Assembly Government Heritage Minister Rhodri Glyn Thomas today announced the first steps in the development of an online collection of the history of Wales and its people - the first of its kind in the UK. *The All Wales People's Collection* will be a virtual space where visitors can explore the history of Wales, mapping out their own journey through time, creating their own personalised collections and joining in with discussions and debate.

The project will look to use interactive technology to bring history to life and encourage new generations to delve into photographs, documents, pieces of film, books and artefacts to discover the diverse stories of Wales' people for themselves. The Collection will be continually evolving as community groups and individuals will be able to contribute content. The Collection is also intended to encourage cultural tourism, giving visitors a sample of what is on offer and offering heritage trails online.

A range of partners will be involved in the development of the project over the next three years and the first glimpse of the Collection will be online from the end of 2009.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presreleasearchive/2333838/?lang=en>

## New Minister for Culture in Northern Ireland

Gregory Campbell, MP, MLA has been appointed Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure in the Northern Ireland Executive from 9 June 2008, replacing Edwin Poots who held the post for a year.

Representing the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) he was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in June 1998 and an MP for the East Londonderry constituency in 2001. The Minister's interests include soccer, music and reading.

[www.dcalni.gov.uk/](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/)

## Conservative Culture Policy

In a speech at Portcullis House on 24 June, Jeremy Hunt MP, reflected on culture policy after nearly a year as Shadow Culture Secretary. He recognised the Labour Government's achievements, including their willingness to highlight the wider benefits of the arts to issues like regeneration and education; increased funding from the Exchequer; and free museums; and said a future Conservative government would build on these achievements. He was critical of arts bureaucracy and cuts in lottery funding. In addition to his commitment to promoting philanthropy (see page 1), he pledged that a future Conservative government would:

- Maintain free museums;
- Return the National Lottery to its four original good causes, potentially meaning an additional £53m for the arts and £41m annually for heritage;
- Look at what can be done to encourage artistic and cultural organisations to build up endowments; and
- Accept both the intrinsic value of the arts and the social impact of arts policy.

The full speech can be found at:

[www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/JeremyHuntArtsSpeech.pdf](http://www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/JeremyHuntArtsSpeech.pdf)

## Lottery Administration

The Conservative Party has published a report on the administration costs of Lottery distributors. It shows that £204m was spent on administration across the lottery bodies in 2006/7, the equivalent to 5p from every lottery ticket sold. The data, mostly drawn from written answers to Parliamentary Questions, shows costs including staff salaries and expenses, nearly £500,000 on public affairs consultancy, and £616,800 paid to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport towards the cost of surveys and staff overheads for the National Lottery Distribution Board.

[www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/LotteryWasteReport.pdf](http://www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/LotteryWasteReport.pdf)

## Spoliation Advisory Panel Rules that Porcelain was Looted

The Spoliation Advisory Panel has ruled that two pieces of porcelain - acquired in good faith by the British Museum and the Fitzwilliam Museum - were looted during the Nazi era. A monteith or glass cooler at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge will be returned to the claimant, the sole surviving heir of Heinrich Rothberger. An ex-gratia payment of £18,000 will be made to the same claimant for a Viennese dish on display at the British Museum. The Spoliation Advisory Panel concluded that there was firm evidence showing that both pieces were seized by the Gestapo in Vienna in 1938, having formerly been part of the Rothberger collection.

Both the British Museum and Fitzwilliam welcomed the Panel's decision. The British Museum initiated contact with Mr Rothberger's heir, and submitted a joint case to the Panel with the claimant, after the Museum's provenance research suggested the probability that the object had been in the Rothberger collection. The Fitzwilliam Museum Syndicate said they were "pleased that this fine example of Sèvres ware will be returned to its rightful owner."

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5193.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5193.aspx)

NMDC Members adopted a Statement of Principles and Proposed Actions on Spoliation of Works of Art During the Holocaust and World War II Period in 1998. [www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html](http://www.nationalmuseums.org.uk/spoliation.html)

### HLF's £3m Collecting Cultures Programme

The Heritage Lottery Fund has announced grants totalling £3million for 22 museum and gallery acquisition projects across the UK. The awards come under the HLF's Collecting Cultures scheme, a one-off programme to support acquisitions, curatorial skills, research and increased public involvement. Collecting Cultures was unique in providing curators with a sum of money for strategic collections development rather than having to wait for a painting or object to become available on the art market and then applying for HLF support.

The programme was over-subscribed - 95 applications totalling £13.3million were received. Grants awarded range from £50,000 to £200,000, with museums and galleries from every country and region in the UK having at least one successful application.

The Victoria & Albert Museum, Tyne and Wear Museums and National Museums Northern Ireland were among the successful applicants.

[www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/The+Titanic+Trainers+and+Tin+Silver.htm](http://www.hlf.org.uk/English/MediaCentre/Archive/The+Titanic+Trainers+and+Tin+Silver.htm)

### Renaissance Review Invites Evidence

Professor Sara Selwood, Chair of the independent review of the Renaissance programme, is inviting evidence from people and organisations with an interest in the future of regional museums. The Review aims to make practical recommendations that will help ensure this Renaissance funding is spent in the most effective way possible.

[www.mla.gov.uk/news/press\\_releases/consultation\\_pr](http://www.mla.gov.uk/news/press_releases/consultation_pr)

### Funding for Science and Heritage Research

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) announced the first ten 'Science and Heritage' research awards worth £600,000 on 12 June. These awards will fund ten PhD researchers to work on projects at the British Museum, National Museums Scotland, The National Archives, National Museums Liverpool, as well as York Minster, Historic Royal Palaces and English Heritage. [www.ahrc.ac.uk/news/news\\_pr/2008/sciherawards.asp](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/news/news_pr/2008/sciherawards.asp)

The AHRC and the EPSRC have now issued a call for proposals within the Science and Heritage Programme to support innovative cross-sector and interdisciplinary networking activities, falling within research 'clusters'. Proposals may be submitted for projects up to £30,000, running for 4-12 months between 1 December 2008 and 31 March 2009. The closing date for applications is 4 September.

[www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/research/sfi/ahrcsi/scienceheritage/research\\_clusters.asp](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/apply/research/sfi/ahrcsi/scienceheritage/research_clusters.asp)

The Science and Heritage Programme was established in order to take forward recommendations made by the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry on Science and Heritage.

### Culture and Young People

Culture Secretary, Andy Burnham MP, has announced a further £3m for a youth mentoring programme run in conjunction with Youth Music, Media Trust, Sport England and the Youth Sport Trust, to help young people in challenging circumstances realise their potential.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5219.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5219.aspx)

Culture Minister, Margaret Hodge MP, has announced plans to develop stronger links between schools and dance providers.

[www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/media\\_releases/5220.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/5220.aspx)

Schools Minister, Lord Adonis, has announced a new orchestral project, *In Harmony*, chaired by Julian Lloyd Webber, with £3m funding. He also announced five new partnership projects between orchestras, music venues and local authorities working with schools across the country, each with £200,000 funding. Five new music partnership projects will be set up every year

[www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn\\_id=2008\\_0121](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0121)

### Operational Efficiency Programme

The Treasury has launched the Operational Efficiency Programme, intended to build on the Gershon Review and achieve greater efficiency savings across public spending. Five initial workstrands, each led by an experienced figure from the private sector, are: back office and IT; collaborative procurement; asset management and sales; property; local incentives and empowerment. The programme will deliver its recommendations by Budget 2009. [www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom\\_and\\_speeches/press/2008/press\\_72\\_08.cfm](http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/newsroom_and_speeches/press/2008/press_72_08.cfm)

### Achieving World Class Public Services

The Prime Minister has outlined his vision for transforming England's public services. The Cabinet Office report *Excellence and fairness: Achieving world class public services* identifies three key characteristics of world-class public services:

- **empowering citizens** by extending choice, individual control and stronger local accountability and transparency;
- fostering a **new professionalism** in the public service workforce, with greater autonomy from central government; and investment in workforce skills.
- strong **strategic leadership** from central government, creating conditions for the majority of services to thrive more autonomously.

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news\\_releases/2008/080627\\_public\\_service\\_excellence.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2008/080627_public_service_excellence.aspx)

## Freedom of Information

The National Archives has been leading a review and revision of the records management code of practice, issued in November 2002 under section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. They have issued a consultation paper and the deadline for comments is 2 September.

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/code/review.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/recordsmanagement/code/review.htm)

## London 2012 Inspire Mark launched

London 2012 has launched a 'mark' to recognise outstanding non-commercial projects and events inspired by the Games. The *Inspire* mark is part of the London 2012 brand family.

Sports, culture, environment, volunteering and education projects selected by London 2012 will be granted the right to use the new *Inspire* mark on their marketing materials. The mark recognises that a project has been 'inspired by London 2012', reflects the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements, and is helping to deliver London 2012's key outcomes.

[www.london2012.com/news/archive/2008-06/inspired-by-2012.php](http://www.london2012.com/news/archive/2008-06/inspired-by-2012.php)

## The Cultural Age - Linking Policy Makers and Academics

The think-tank Demos has hosted two seminars on The Cultural Age, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which "raise a challenging agenda that will mean reconceptualising the cultural professional as an enabler as well as an authority." The seminars examined how policy-makers can link up with academics and how the understanding of complex cultural issues can be brought into different policy areas. They focused on integration, citizenship and education. Presentations and further information can be found at:

[www.demos.co.uk/projects/theculturalage/overview](http://www.demos.co.uk/projects/theculturalage/overview)

## Jodi Awards Invite Nominations

Nominations are now being sought for the Jodi Awards 2008. The awards are for museums, libraries, archives and heritage venues that use technology to provide access to collections and learning for disabled people, e.g. websites, interactive objects, audio-guides, personal digital assistants (PDA) and virtual reality shows.

This year, for the first time, museums, libraries, archives and heritage venues in Scotland, as well as England and Wales, are eligible for the Jodi Awards, thanks to the support of Museums Galleries Scotland, the Scottish Libraries and Information Council and the Scottish Archives Network.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 3 October 2008, and the awards will be announced on 5 December 2008 at the British Museum. [www.jodiawards.org.uk](http://www.jodiawards.org.uk)

## Records Management e-Learning Tool Available Online

Collections Link has announced the publication of a free records management e-learning tool. The website is designed to help museums learn how to manage their records, and to make the most effective use of the information they hold. It was developed as part of the Hub Records Project, funded by MLA's Renaissance programme for the London Museums Hub.

The tool guides users through a practical summary of basic records management concepts with museum context examples; introduces the idea of records as corporate assets to the museum; reviews records management tools commonly used; and provides an overview of related legislation such as the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts.

[www.collectionslink.org.uk/RM-Tool/](http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/RM-Tool/)

## AHRC Funds Collections Research Training Initiative

A consortium including the Collections Trust and four major UK universities has been awarded funding by the Arts & Humanities Research Council under the Collaborative Research Training programme to develop a series of training resources aimed at improving the use of collections for research. The programme, entitled the Digital Heritage Research Training Initiative, runs between July 2008 and March 2010. It will develop an innovative suite of training resources to be hosted on the Collections Link website.

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

## Leadership Development Funding

The Cultural Leadership Programme is inviting applications for the Meeting the Challenge: Development Programme, which will provide seed funds of £25-100k to partnerships of cultural organisations to support their leadership development needs. It is expected that around 30 partnerships will be supported over a three-year period. The deadline for the first cohort is 15 September 2008.

[www.culturalleadership.org.uk/meetingthechallenge/meetingthechallenge/default.aspx](http://www.culturalleadership.org.uk/meetingthechallenge/meetingthechallenge/default.aspx)

## National Skills Academy Approved

Creative & Cultural Skills has announced final Government approval of its bid to build a National Skills Academy: a £15 million project intended to address the theatre and live music backstage and off-stage skills gap for theatre and live music.

[www.ccskills.org.uk/news/press\\_releases\\_nsa.html](http://www.ccskills.org.uk/news/press_releases_nsa.html)

## Appointments

### New National Gallery Chair

Mark Getty has been selected by the Trustees of the National Gallery to serve as Chairman, for a period of 3 years, from 11 August 2008 when the present Chairman, Peter Scott, ceases to be a member of the Board, after 9 years in office. Mr Getty is co-founder and chairman of Getty Images, Inc. He has served as a Trustee of the National Gallery since September 1999. The Prime Minister has extended his appointment as a Trustee until August 2011.

### Trustees Reappointed

In addition to Mark Getty, the Prime Minister has reappointed the following Trustees:

- **Nigel Macdonald**'s term as a Trustee of the **National Maritime Museum** has been extended for two years until March 2010. Mr Macdonald is a Director of Coca-Cola HBC and is a member of the Audit Board of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, and was a senior partner at Ernst and Young for many years.
- **Dan Clayton Jones** reappointed as Deputy Chair and Welsh Trustee of the **National Heritage Memorial Fund**. His second term of appointment will run from 12 July 2008 to 11 July 2011. He is Chair of Cord Investments (Cardiff) Ltd, and is a Director of JJ&F Property Holdings Ltd.
- **Tom Wright CBE** reappointed as a Trustee of the **Imperial War Museum** until 31 August 2012. Mr Wright is Chief Executive of VisitBritain.

[www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page2517.asp](http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page2517.asp)

Linda Fabiani, Scotland's Minister for Culture, has extended the appointment of **Neena Mahal** on the Board of Trustees of **National Museums Scotland** for a further 18 months until September 2009. Mrs Mahal is a freelance training consultant specialising in the fields of equality, personal and organisational development.

[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/29113239](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/05/29113239)

### National Trust Chair

The Council of the National Trust has appointed the journalist and author, Simon Jenkins to be the next Chair of the Trust, taking over from Sir William Proby on 1 November. Mr Jenkins, former editor of *The Times* and *The London Evening Standard*, has previously been Deputy Chair of English Heritage and a Millennium Commissioner and was a founder member of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest\\_news/w-news-new\\_chairman.htm](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest_news/w-news-new_chairman.htm)

### Arts Council of Wales Chief Executive

The Arts Council of Wales has announced that Nick Capaldi will be its new Chief Executive. He is currently Executive Director of Arts Council England, South West, and has a background in the arts stretching back over 30 years. [www.artswales.org.uk/viewnews.asp?id=898](http://www.artswales.org.uk/viewnews.asp?id=898)

### NAO Report on British Council

The National Audit Office has published its report *The British Council: Achieving Impact*. The NAO's overall conclusion is that the British Council's performance is strong and valued by its customers and stakeholders, although it is a challenge to secure consistently good performance across such a dispersed global network. The report finds that the Council is flexibly allocating its resources to align with new UK priorities, and continues to implement numerous and extensive change programmes aimed at increasing its effectiveness and efficiency. The report notes that managing so many simultaneous and inter-dependent projects has presented challenges and that there is a need for improvement in support functions, management information and tools that the British Council has in place to run its businesses. [www.nao.org.uk/pn/07-08/0708625.htm](http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/07-08/0708625.htm)

### EU Prize for Cultural Heritage in Conservation

Entries for the 2009 European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage in Conservation are now open, and must be submitted before 1 October 2008.

[www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&ask=view&id=829&Itemid=15](http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&ask=view&id=829&Itemid=15)

### EU Cultural Programme Guide and Deadlines

The European Commission has published a new Programme Guide for the Culture programme. This contains all the information needed to make an application to this programme from now until 2013. It also contains a revised set of application deadlines, including 1 October 2008 for 1-2 year and 3-5 year projects. [www.culturefund.eu/](http://www.culturefund.eu/)

## In Parliament

### Creative Scotland Bill Rejected

The Creative Scotland Bill, which proposes establishment of Creative Scotland as a successor organisation to the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen, was voted down in the Scottish Parliament on 18 June. The Bill failed on a financial resolution, amid claims of lack of clarity about the funding and responsibility for creative industries, and confusion about the Culture Minister's announcement during the debate of additional money to establish a Creative Scotland Innovation Fund and transfer of funds from Scottish Enterprises.

Creative Scotland could go ahead without legislation: during the debate on 18 June, Culture Minister, Linda Fabiani confirmed that the legislation was not essential for the establishment of the new body, as the Scottish Arts Council could be dissolved through the Privy Council. However, the Bill is expected to be re-introduced to Holyrood in the autumn.

The full debate can be found at [www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0618-02.htm#Col9842](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0618-02.htm#Col9842)

### Free Entry to Welsh Heritage Sites from 1 September

In a Welsh Assembly debate on heritage interpretation and access, Heritage Minister, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, outlined plans to introduce free access for Welsh children and Welsh pensioners to all Cadw charging sites from 1 September. Cadw is the Assembly Government's historic advisory service. The Minister said recent research commissioned by Cadw showed that the entrance fee was the greatest factor in deterring potential visitors.

[www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=88041&ds=6/2008#rhif6](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=88041&ds=6/2008#rhif6)

### Northern Ireland Museums Policy Inquiry

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Culture, Arts and Leisure has announced that it will carry out an inquiry into developing a museums policy for Northern Ireland. The inquiry will: consider the impact on museums in Northern Ireland resulting from a lack of a formal Departmental policy on museums over a number of years; examine levels of public interest and private sector investment in museums in Northern Ireland; draw on research and evidence on best practice on policy for museums; and establish views on a way forward for museums in Northern Ireland. Chris Bailey, the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Museums Council gave evidence to the Committee on 29 May. The Committee also held a meeting in Cultra Manor, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum on 26 June. [www.niassembly.gov.uk/culture/2007mandate/culturehome\\_07.htm](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/culture/2007mandate/culturehome_07.htm)

### Early Day Motions Praise British Library and Imperial War Museum

74 Members of Parliament have signed an Early Day Motion proposed by Liberal Democrat Culture Spokesperson, Don Foster, marking the 10th anniversary of the opening of the British Library's building at St Pancras, London and acknowledging the "value of this world-class institution as a critical resource for UK research, underpinning business, enterprise and the economy."

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=36128&SESSION=891>

23 Members of Parliament have signed an Early Day Motion laid by Bob Spink MP welcoming the current exhibition by Kurdish artist Mr Osman Amed on the Anfal genocide at the Imperial War Museum.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=36111&SESSION=891>

## International Issues

### Louvre Abu Dhabi Contract Details Published

*The Art Newspaper* has published details of the agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France for the creation of a Louvre Abu Dhabi. *The Art Newspaper* reports that a relatively small number of works will be lent, with 300 works at the launch of the new museum in 2012, with less in subsequent years, and the loans will cease after 10 years. Abu Dhabi is reported to be paying €1bn over 30 years to a new body, the Agence France-Muséum, which will administer the funds for the consortium of participating French museums. Agence France-Muséum will also receive €165m for its services on top of the capital fund. The Louvre Abu Dhabi will have an annual budget of €13m for exhibitions. The Louvre will receive €400m for the use of its name, and an additional €25m to develop part of the Paris building. [www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7995](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7995)

## American Art Museums Recognise 1970 UNESCO Convention

The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) has agreed standards of practice on the acquisition of archaeological materials and ancient art, including recognising the 1970 UNESCO Convention as providing the most pertinent threshold date for the application of more rigorous standards to the acquisition of archaeological material and ancient art. The report states that AAMD members normally should not acquire a work unless research substantiates that the work was outside its country of probable modern discovery before 1970 or was legally exported from its probable country of modern discovery after 1970.

The code does not prohibit acquisition of artefacts which lack complete provenance back to 1970, but provides a framework for members to evaluate circumstances in which such works are considered for acquisition, and establishes an online database of details of acquisitions of ancient works.

AAMD is a membership organization representing 184 directors of major art museums in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

[www.aamd.org/newsroom/documents/2008ReportAndRelease.pdf](http://www.aamd.org/newsroom/documents/2008ReportAndRelease.pdf)

## Iraqi Cultural Heritage

An international expedition in Iraq, organised by the **British Museum** and the British Army, has found less evidence of recent looting at archaeological sites than had been expected. *The Art Newspaper* has a full report.

[www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=8066](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=8066)

Jordanian authorities have returned nearly 2,500 artefacts to the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad. The artefacts included cuneiform tablets, bronze jewellery, gold coins and an ivory carving from the Assyrian city of Nimrod. Jordan's Tourism Minister, Maha Khatib, said the Kingdom's antiquity authorities had done extensive work with detailed documentation and preservation of the pieces, which had been seized over the past five years either while they were being smuggled out of the country or being sold.

[www.jordantimes.com/?news=8792](http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=8792)

[www.baghdadmuseum.org/news/](http://www.baghdadmuseum.org/news/)

## MFA Raises \$500m

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA) has announced that it has reached its \$500 million campaign goal. The MFA's campaign was launched in 2001 to support substantial building and renovation enhancements to the Museum, as well as the endowment fund. More than 50 percent of the \$500 million for the campaign was raised from MFA Trustees.

[www.mfa.org/dynamic/sub/ctr\\_link\\_url\\_6896.pdf](http://www.mfa.org/dynamic/sub/ctr_link_url_6896.pdf)

## Smithsonian Chair of Regents Donates \$15m

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History has received a \$15 million gift from the Roger and Victoria Sant Founders' Fund of the Summit Fund of Washington to support the new Ocean Hall and related programmes and outreach activities. Roger Sant is chairman of the Smithsonian Board of Regents. Victoria Sant is President of the National Gallery of Art, Washington. The exhibition hall, scheduled to open Sept. 27, will be named the Sant Ocean Hall in honour of the donor.

[http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/nmnh\\_ocean\\_hall\\_donation.htm](http://newsdesk.si.edu/releases/nmnh_ocean_hall_donation.htm)

## Met Sculpture Damaged in Fall

A 15th-century glazed terracotta relief sculpture by Andrea della Robbia was damaged when it fell from the wall at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York on 30 June. The Museum's statement said the sculpture came loose from the metal mounts that have held the framed lunette to the wall above a doorway since 1996. The sculpture fell at night when the gallery was closed. The Museum has initiated a reinvigorated examination of structural integrity of all its pedestals and wall mounts. The sculpture will be repaired by the conservation department. [www.metmuseum.org/press\\_room/full\\_release.asp?prid={FD506AA4-561A-4C54-94E1-098529C54BC8}](http://www.metmuseum.org/press_room/full_release.asp?prid={FD506AA4-561A-4C54-94E1-098529C54BC8})

## New Identity for Harvard Art Museums

The Harvard University Art Museums, which incorporates the Fogg Museum, the Busch-Reisinger Museum, and the Arthur M. Sackler Museum, and four research centres, has announced that it is changing its name to the Harvard Art Museum. The new name is part of an initiative to unify and integrate the museum's collections and programmes. The Harvard Art Museum has previously announced that it will be integrating its collections, which are currently divided among three buildings, into a single facility. A major renovation programme will begin in 2009 and is due to be completed in 2013. The Fogg Museum and the Busch-Reisinger Museum will close at the end of this month in preparation for the renovation. [www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/home/index.html](http://www.artmuseums.harvard.edu/home/index.html)

## Kolkata Museum of Modern Art

*The Art Newspaper* reports that Herzog and de Meuron, the architects of Tate Modern, have been selected to design the new Kolkata Museum of Modern Art (KMoMA). The new 300,000 sq ft museum is due to open in 2013. *The Art Newspaper* reports that the Rs2.1bn (\$50m) budget of the new museum will be funded by a tripartite public-private partnership between the Indian government, the government of West Bengal and the private sector. [www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7991](http://www.theartnewspaper.com/article.asp?id=7991)



# National Museums' News Round Up

## Government Funding for Commercial Development of National Museums' Research

National museums were among 33 successful bidders who will receive support from the Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund, to support the initial stages of commercialising research. Science and Innovation Minister, Ian Pearson, announced the successful bids at the Natural History Museum on 23 June. National museums competed with government laboratories and Research Council Institutes to win support to develop their research projects. They PSRE grants include:

- **Natural History Museum's** forensic entomology consultancy service has been awarded £278,733 to support expertise gained from the study of insects being used to develop new crime scene investigation services, helping to identify when a crime occurred ([www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news\\_14833.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news_14833.html))
- **National Museums Liverpool** and the **Royal Air Force Museum** will receive £182,305 for development of an online museum game.
- **Tate** will receive £582,865 to continue the anoxic framing project to develop a system for the display and storage of works of art; allowing works of art and museum objects to be shown in brighter conditions or for longer periods.

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=371507&NewsAreaID=28>

## Awards

**AirSpace, Imperial War Museum Duxford** is in the semi-finals of the National Lottery Awards in the Best Education Project category. The semi-final gives the public the chance to choose between 70 projects in 7 categories. The most popular projects will go through to the final round to compete for the chance to win £2,000 to spend on their project and the opportunity to star in a special prime-time BBC1 TV programme.

[www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/mediacentre/pressitem.cfm?id=181](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/mediacentre/pressitem.cfm?id=181)

The *Lives in Motion* exhibition at **Glasgow Museums'** Museum of Transport has won the Audience Insight Award at the annual conference. The exhibition is part of a nationwide initiative co-ordinated by the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, University of Leicester looking at issues of disability through museum collections.

[www.glasgowmuseums.com/venue/showNews.cfm?venueid=7&itemid=700](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com/venue/showNews.cfm?venueid=7&itemid=700)

The **National Maritime Museum's** Royal Observatory has won a prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) award. The award was given *Glasgow Grows Audiences* to the new Peter Harrison Planetarium and renovated South Building designed by architects Allies and Morrison.

[www.nmm.ac.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.22632](http://www.nmm.ac.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.22632)

**Tyne & Wear Museums'** Monkwearmouth Station Museum in Sunderland has won the National Gold Award in the International Green Apple Awards 2008 for the Built Environment and Architectural Heritage.

Monkwearmouth Station Museum reopened in August 2007 following a £1 million redevelopment project.

[www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/article.php?id=859](http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/news/article.php?id=859)

**The British Museum** has published its Annual Report highlighting record visitor figures - 6.049m in 2007-8. *The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army* was the Museum's most popular exhibition for 35 years, with double the expected number of visitors. [www.britishmuseum.org/pdf/annualreview0708.pdf](http://www.britishmuseum.org/pdf/annualreview0708.pdf)

**The National Archives** has officially launched its new open plan reading rooms following a £4 million transformation to accommodate its family records service. The developments also include a re-designed museum showcasing some of the treasures held by the Archives and new rooms for talks from experts. The National Archives has also issued a new online strategy. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/202.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/news/stories/202.htm)

The **Victoria & Albert Museum** has opened the William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery, displaying 3,500 jewels from the V&A's collection, one of the finest and most comprehensive in the world. Historic highlights include jewelled pendants given by Queen Elizabeth I to her courtiers, and diamonds worn by Catherine the Great of Russia. Over 140 living goldsmiths and jewellers are also represented in the gallery.

[www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/features/jewellery/](http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/features/jewellery/)

The **Royal Navy Submarine Museum** is one of the first organisations to receive funding from *Setting the Pace* - MLA's vision for how museums, libraries and archives can support the cultural Olympiad. The museum's *Young Cultural Creators* project will explore themes of living and working together under stressful circumstances.

[www.mlasoutheast.org.uk/newsandevents/news/index.asp?id=4273,955,2,940](http://www.mlasoutheast.org.uk/newsandevents/news/index.asp?id=4273,955,2,940)

H.R.H. Prince William has become patron of the **Royal Navy Submarine Museum's** HMS Alliance Conservation Appeal. The Prince visited the Museum on 10 June to open the *Area of Remembrance*.

[www.rnsubmus.co.uk/local/news.htm](http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk/local/news.htm)

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh visited the **Royal Marines Museum** on 9 July to open the new permanent exhibition, *The Making of the Royal Marines Commando*. [www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk](http://www.royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk)

The **National Army Museum** has succeeded in saving the J S C Schaak painting of General Wolfe from export to a private collection overseas. The museum raised £300,000 including a £80,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and £15,000 from The Art Fund. [www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/pages/wolfe.shtml](http://www.national-army-museum.ac.uk/pages/wolfe.shtml)

The **National Portrait Gallery** and the Harris Museum & Art Gallery in Preston are trying to raise £420,000 by September to jointly acquire a newly-discovered portrait of cotton manufacturer Sir Richard Arkwright, by Joseph Wright of Derby. The Art Fund has given £100,000 towards the purchase. The painting has not been exhibited since 1883. [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

The historian David Starkey has lent his support to **Tate Britain's** campaign, backed by The Art Fund, to raise £6m to acquire Rubens's oil sketch *The Apotheosis of James I: Multiple Sketch* for the Banqueting House Ceiling (1628-30). [www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/15619.htm](http://www.tate.org.uk/about/pressoffice/pressreleases/2008/15619.htm)

The **National Gallery** and Hewlett-Packard, in collaboration with York Art Gallery, have unveiled the Grand Tour in York, with 49 full life-size recreations of paintings from the National Gallery and York Art Gallery hung around the city. [www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/grandtouryork.htm](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about/press/2008/grandtouryork.htm)

The **Museum of London** has launched podcast gallery tours for visually impaired visitors, created by adults from a variety of backgrounds as part of the Museum's Social Inclusion Programme. <http://myuseumoflondon.org.uk/blogs/community/>

The **British Library** is leading *Digital Lives*, a research project with University College London and Bristol University to understand how we use computers in our daily lives to capture personal moments and memories, and whether this material can be made available in the future. [www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080702.html](http://www.bl.uk/news/2008/pressrelease20080702.html)

DCMS and the Department for Communities and Local Government are funding a national touring programme based the **British Library's** *Sacred* exhibition. *Sacred on Location*, provided in partnership with museums, libraries and heritage organisations around England, is bringing activities inspired by *Sacred* and based around the theme of faith, to wider audiences. [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

**Tate** has published the latest edition of *Tate Papers*, a journal of scholarly articles published twice a year, which aims to reflect new research into the many aspects of the museum's activities and interests. [www.tate.org.uk/research/tateresearch/tatepapers/08spring/](http://www.tate.org.uk/research/tateresearch/tatepapers/08spring/)

The **Natural History Museum** has attained the prestigious Investors in People (IIP) standard. The strengths highlighted in the IIP report included people being able to clearly identify their contribution to the Museum's success and feel appreciated for their efforts. [www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news\\_14577.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news_14577.html)

The judging panel for the Darwin's Canopy project at the **Natural History Museum** has selected artist, Tania Kovats' TREE, as the permanent new installation on the ceiling of a gallery in the Museum's Grade I listed Waterhouse building. [www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news\\_14724.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/news/2008/june/news_14724.html)

The **National Galleries of Scotland's** Education Visual Impairment Programme has been awarded funding for a further two years by the Miss Agnes H Hunter's Trust. The programme provides specially designed tours and workshops free of charge for visitors with all levels of visual impairment. [www.nationalgalleries.org/aboutus/news/1:171/](http://www.nationalgalleries.org/aboutus/news/1:171/)

The **Imperial War Museum** has launched a new online exhibition, *Through My Eyes: Stories of Conflict, Belonging and Identity*, as part of the *Their Past Your Future* programme. [www.throughmyeyes.org.uk/](http://www.throughmyeyes.org.uk/)

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