



National
Museums
Scotland



Be part of the story

By joining as a Patron today

Our Museums were founded by people whose vision was to inspire us all using remarkable collections to share Scotland's stories with the world and bring the world's stories to Scotland.

These medieval chess pieces from the Scottish island of Lewis are among our most iconic and popular collections. They give us fascinating insights into the early international connections of western Scotland and the growing popularity of chess in medieval Europe.

Our Patrons are vital to realising that founding vision. Their support helps us care for and conserve our collections, enrich our understanding of each item and its importance, and share our objects and discoveries with more people than ever before.

Each object in our collection has a story to tell: a story that can inspire us to make connections between ourselves and the world around us.

Collected over centuries, they enable us to explore, to debate and to celebrate our past, present and future.

With our Patrons' support we can deepen our understanding. By bringing each object's story to light, on display in our museums, on loan and online, together we can ensure our collections continue to spark curiosity and inspire people and communities far and wide.

Join as a Patron today and help us care for the remarkable objects in our collections and share their stories with the world.



“The work done by National Museums Scotland is life enhancing. So many children benefit from school visits, and adults too encounter something new and fascinating each time they come through the doors. As Patrons we have derived a great deal of pleasure from the special events and from our not infrequent visits to Chambers Street. We look forward to many more years of discovery.”

– Colin and Hilary Ross
Patrons of National Museums Scotland

Our Patrons enjoy free access to our major exhibitions, invitations to talks, lectures and special events throughout the year, as well as behind the scenes access through four exclusive Patrons’ events a year.



**Our Patrons are at the heart of our museums.
Join as a Patron today and be part of the story.**

Patronage starts at £1,000* per annum.

George Wilson Circle Patronage starts at £5,000** per annum.

Patronage can also be paid in monthly Direct Debit instalments, and can be made as a gift on behalf of someone else.

* Benefits value £100, suggested annual donation £900+

** Benefits value £300, suggested annual donation £4,700+

Careful conservation of a 19th-century hair ornament made of blue kingfisher feathers from Fuzhou, China.



One of our curators preparing an Earl of Inverness tartan plaid for display.



Detail of our Willowwood grand piano, painted by Phoebe Anna Traquair, 1910. Phoebe Anna Traquair was a leading figure within the Scottish Arts and Crafts movement, and in 1920 she became the first female member of the Scottish Royal Academy.

George Wilson Circle

The first director of our Chambers Street museum, George Wilson, recognised the huge potential for museums to inspire people of all ages and all backgrounds. He believed that the stories told by our collections had the power to connect Scotland to the world and the world to Scotland. These principles still guide our work today.

The George Wilson Circle is a group of like-minded Patrons whose enhanced support enables us to honour these founding principles across all our sites. By making a more substantial annual donation they have the opportunity to choose priority areas of our work to support. These include conservation and collections care; education and outreach; and our curatorial programme.

George Wilson Circle Patrons are invited to get to know the areas of our work that interest them through a more bespoke relationship with the people who are delivering the programmes they support.

“The Museum which I have been commending to you is not a museum of Scottish industry, but a museum of the world in relation to Scotland. It cannot be less than this.”

– George Wilson



This piece of chemical glassware, once owned by the Scottish leading chemist Professor Joseph Black, was among the first objects acquired for the museum during George Wilson's tenure. Professor Black is renowned for his discoveries of latent heat and carbon dioxide.

“We have both gained so much through our involvement with the Museums and their collections. In supporting them we are happy to be making a small contribution towards the protection of this wonderful resource for future generations.”

– Kenneth and Julia Greig,
Founding members of the George Wilson Circle



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To join today or find out
more, please contact us
on the details below:

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