

NMIS

National
Museums
of Scotland



REVIEW 05

**OPENING UP
OUR COLLECTIONS**

NMS is Scotland's national museum service. We care for museum collections of national and international importance, and present these to the public at our six museums:

- Royal Museum and Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh
- National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle
- Museum of Flight, East Lothian
- Museum of Scottish Country Life, near East Kilbride
- Shambellie House Museum of Costume, near Dumfries

We also have a major Collections Centre at Granton, Edinburgh, which is a focal point for collections storage and conservation.

NMS holds a wealth of treasures collected over more than two centuries. Our collections encompass Scottish and international archaeology, decorative and applied arts, world cultures, social history, science, technology and the natural world. We also provide advice, expertise and support to the museums community across Scotland and undertake fieldwork, research and partnerships at local, national and international levels.

NMS preserves, interprets, and makes accessible for all, the past and present of Scotland, of other nations and cultures, and of the natural world.

1.



2.



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Scenes from our six museums:

1. Royal Museum
2. Museum of Scotland
3. National War Museum of Scotland
4. Museum of Flight
5. Shambellie House Museum of Costume
6. Museum of Scottish Country Life

NMS

A world class museums service that informs, educates and inspires.



Above:
Lord Wilson of Tillyorn and Dr Gordon Rintoul in the
Museum of Scotland.

Below:
Discover the story of Scotland's Concorde at its new
home at the Museum of Flight.

A SUPERSONIC YEAR

Over the past few years we have made significant progress in changing our focus to place visitors and other users at the heart of everything we do.

The results of this strategy are clear, with a record 1.4 million visits to our six museums in 2004-05. Against a background of overall visitor trends showing a two per cent rise in Scotland, visits to our sites are up 12 per cent and our flagship site, the Royal Museum/Museum of Scotland, is recognised as one of the country's top visitor attractions.

Opening up the national collections is at the heart of our plans for the Royal Museum. This is an ambitious project to improve access to the building, significantly increase the number of objects on display, create many new exhibitions and enhance learning opportunities. The project reached a significant milestone in 2005 with a pledge of almost £17 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over the coming years we will be working hard to secure the matching funds to enable this £44.5 million project to proceed, transforming the museum for the twenty-first century.

Another outstanding achievement during 2005 was the launch of *The Concorde Experience* at the

Museum of Flight. Securing one of the seven decommissioned Concorde aircraft, against international competition, was a significant coup for Scotland. It has resulted in visitor numbers more than trebling at the museum. Since then, we have secured two further additions to the collections: a Royal Air Force Tornado F3 aircraft and a Britten-Norman Islander in the livery of the Scottish Air Ambulance Service. Further improvements are planned at the Museum of Flight to build on this success.

Over the past few years we have taken major steps to enhance our services. We now have a more active programme of partnerships with other museums, galleries and visitor attractions around Scotland, and a growing programme of loans at home and abroad.

In this review, we cover highlights from the financial year 2004-05 through to the summer of 2005.

We intend to continue investing in our staff and buildings, developing enhanced experiences for visitors, maintaining a high standard of research, and making connections across Scotland and the world. We believe that the National Museums of Scotland's expertise and active public programmes can make a central contribution to a new cultural vision for Scotland.

Lord Wilson of Tillyorn
Chairman of the
Board of Trustees

Dr Gordon Rintoul
Director



Visitors enjoyed our museums in record numbers during 2004 and 2005 – many drawn by diverse exhibitions designed to appeal to people of all ages and interests. From roaring dinosaurs to contemporary design, the desire to enthral, educate, entertain and inspire remains at the heart of our exhibition programme.

Dinosaurs Alive! at the Royal Museum attracted our largest ever audience for a temporary exhibition. Almost 90,000 people took the chance to get close to moving, roaring dinosaurs. A third of these visitors were making their first visit to a Scottish museum.

Treasures from Tuscany: The Etruscan Legacy received critical acclaim from visitors and the media, bringing to Scotland for the first time material from one of the major civilisations of the classical world from the collections of the Museo Nazionale in Florence. It was complemented by *Contemporary Italian*, the first in a series of new exhibitions in the Crafts Gallery.

The second half of a stunning French silver gilt tea service was a centrepiece for *Claret to Concorde: 100 years of Entente Cordiale*. The service was made to commemorate the Emperor Napoleon's second marriage, and was loaned from the Louvre, Paris, to be reunited with the rest of the set in the NMS collection. Another significant international collaboration was established with The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, resulting in the sumptuous 2005 summer exhibition *Nicholas and Alexandra: The Last Tsar and Tsarina*. This exhibition brought together paintings, costumes, furniture, 'objets d'art' and many personal items to tell the moving story of Russia's last Imperial family to a large and appreciative audience.

Costumes from the worlds of contemporary fame and fashion were the star attractions at Shambellie House Museum of Costume's popular exhibitions *Cloth from the Catwalk*, *Behind the Scenes* and *JM Barrie – Peter Pan*.

Inspiring images from the natural world were enjoyed by over 12,000 visitors at the Museum of Scottish Country Life, a UK venue for the prestigious *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition.



Above:
Dress worn by Kate Winslet in the film *Finding Neverland*, part of *JM Barrie – Peter Pan* at Shambellie House Museum of Costume.
Right:
Younger visitors were particularly captivated by our blockbuster exhibition *Dinosaurs Alive!* at the Royal Museum.

1.4 MILLION

people visited our museums in 2004-05, an increase of 12%. They enjoyed new attractions, special exhibitions and a broad-ranging events programme.



Special events and tailored learning programmes are two of the most successful ways of introducing new audiences to our museums.

Nearly 7,000 teenagers took part in *Go Play Games* at the Royal Museum, part of the Edinburgh International Games Festival, and we broadened the audience further through a series of computer games workshops in partnership with Wester Hailes Arts and Leisure.

A programme of major events, such as Airshow 04 and the Kittinghside Country Fair, continued to attract new visitors to the Museum of Flight and Museum of Scottish Country Life, and we participated in a number of national events across our sites. These included the Big Draw, National Insect Week, the BBC's *Natural History of Britain*, and daily performances of music, dance and drama in the Royal Museum as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Innovative learning programmes were introduced at the Museum of Flight, Museum of Scottish Country Life, National War Museum of Scotland and Shambellie House Museum of Costume, complementing the active educational programme in place at the Royal Museum and Museum of Scotland. As a result, 112,000 people participated in lifelong learning events, an increase of 13 per cent, while over 51,000 school pupils enjoyed our museums. Geology was introduced to the schools programme, with curators delivering Rock Detective workshops and the development of a school resource pack. New research into schools visits and adult learners which we carried out during the year will help to develop our services for formal and informal learning still further.

Visitors to www.nms.ac.uk experienced better navigation and improved content with an upgrade to the website structure and the introduction of a series

of popular micro-sites. The development of a new Online Museum in 2006 will deliver significant improvements in the experience we offer to our 'virtual visitors'.



Above:
In the Rock Detective workshop, pupils studied fossils such as this ammonite as a means of exploring Scotland's fascinating geological history.

Right:
At the Museum of Scottish Country Life visitors can see what life is like on a working farm.

4.5 MILLION

visits were made to our website pages, an increase of 60%.



Handwritten text on a sign, partially obscured and illegible.

Our ambitious Masterplan for the Royal Museum will create an exciting new experience for twenty-first century visitors, and a fitting home for our invaluable collections.

The £44.5 million Royal Museum Project is key to the implementation of the long-term Masterplan vision, and is due for completion in 2011. It will reinvent our landmark Victorian building, providing welcoming and accessible street level entrances, and lifts and escalators to encourage visitors to explore the full range of galleries. New displays will double the number of objects on display, and the museum will have the ability to host larger international quality travelling exhibitions. Inspiring learning zones will engage people of all ages and backgrounds and social spaces will be improved with new restaurants, shopping and cloakroom facilities.

The pledge by the Heritage Lottery Fund of almost £17 million to The Royal Museum

Project represents a significant step towards the transformation of one of Scotland's best-loved museums. Announced in July 2005, the HLF award is the largest commitment ever made for a capital project in Scotland.

Essential preparatory stages now in progress include the transfer of 1.5 million objects from the Royal Museum to better storage at our Granton Collections Centre in north Edinburgh. The Granton Collections Centre houses our reserve collections, and is being developed to increase its capacity, improve accommodation for our objects and staff, and provide more public access. We are also beginning a significant programme of vital remedial work and refurbishment in the east wing of the Royal Museum, grant-aided by the Scottish Executive.

An imaginative approach to exhibitions is central to the Masterplan and visitors will experience a taste of this in February 2006 with the opening of *Connect*, an innovative science and technology gallery.

The gallery is being realised with generous support from the Wolfson Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and other funders.



Above:
Mammals go under wraps for The Royal Museum Project.

Right:
Inspiring new galleries are the focus for our visionary redevelopment programme at the Royal Museum. This artist's impression shows how the natural world galleries might look.

£17 MILLION

pledged by the Heritage Lottery Fund for The Royal Museum Project, the largest award of HLF funds to a capital project in Scotland.



The Concorde Experience opened to the public at the Museum of Flight in March 2005. The aircraft's epic journey by land and sea, and the complex process of its re-assembly at the museum, attracted a huge public following. The 'Concorde effect', a successful marketing campaign, and an enhanced events programme has attracted significant new audiences to the museum. Displays across the whole site were re-organised, with a learning centre, extended café and new shop all contributing to a more enjoyable and informative visit. We will build on this with a Masterplan to chart the future of the historic airfield, enabling us to display and interpret our collections in new ways, engage our visitors in the fascinating story of flight, and support the museum's growing success as a national visitor attraction.

At the Museum of Scotland, a new exhibition gallery was created to host a programme of changing exhibitions about

Scotland and contemporary culture. Exhibitions on furniture design and the Scottish influence on international fashion opened the series. Specially commissioned seating was gifted by the Friends of NMS for the Museum of Scotland roof terrace, marking the Friends' fortieth anniversary, and a magnificent red Scottish-built Argyll motor car was installed in Hawthornden Court. New signage and information inside and outside the building is helping visitors both to find the building and make their way around it. Preparations are now underway to develop a new Sports Gallery, children's discovery areas and a new Modern Scotland exhibition.

At the National War Museum of Scotland, we created a new gallery for changing exhibitions, which opened in May 2005 with *No Easy End in Sight*, examining World War II in the Far East. We achieved this by re-positioning the shop, which also enabled us to increase revenue.



Left:
Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson and Concorde pilot Andy Baillie at the launch of *The Concorde Experience* in March 2005.
Right:
The Argyll Car, currently on display in the Museum of Scotland.

200%

increase in annual visitor numbers at the Museum of Flight since the arrival of Concorde.



Our collections are stored, conserved, researched, displayed and interpreted to increase public understanding of human history and the natural environment. More people enjoyed access to these collections in 2004-05 through displays at NMS museums, partnership initiatives, loans, talks and scholarly research.

Significant progress has been made in developing science learning linked to our collections. A science communications programme is being developed to build partnerships across this field. We hosted the Nuffield Bursary Awards Scheme in 2004-05 which supports placements for secondary school pupils studying science and technology and participated in a three-year programme to help practising scientists develop public communication skills.

Science Zone at the Royal Museum continued to attract new audiences with 20,000 visitors to *Medieval Machines* and nearly 27,000 visitors to *The Science of Colour and Optics*. The successful partnership with The University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh International Science Festival brought almost 16,000 visitors to this museum, the Festival's most popular venue.

In order to create a focal point for research into our Scottish collections, the Scottish Material Culture Research Centre was established and work started to enhance links with the Further and Higher Education sectors. We also prepared a distance learning course using Scottish museum collections, in partnership with The University of the Highlands and Islands, entitled *Cultur Duthchasach agus an Arainneachd* (Material Culture and the Environment).

Objects from the national collections and other museums across Scotland will feature in a touring exhibition which has received funding from the Scottish Executive in 2004-05. Work is now underway to develop *Fonn 's Duthchas (Land and Heritage)*, a collaborative project between NMS, the National Library of Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland. *Fonn 's Duthchas* is a key component of *Highland 2007*, the year-long celebration of Highlands culture supported by the Scottish Executive, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The Highland Council.



Above:
NMS lent this Electroplated Teapot by Christopher Dresser to a touring exhibition held at the Copper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, and the V&A, London.
Right:
1913 planetarium, known as a 'Grand Orrery', shows the motions of the satellites of the solar system as well as those of the major planets.

OVER 500,000

people across Scotland accessed our collection through our national loans programme.



We made almost 1,300 loans to over 50 venues in Scotland, the UK and overseas during 2004-05. One example of a significant long-term loan during the year is a large collection of fossils lent to The National Trust for Scotland – these are the centrepiece of an exhibition in a new museum in Ross-shire dedicated to eighteenth-century geologist and writer Hugh Miller. Many of these items had not been seen by the public before.

New audiences have engaged with our collections through a range of innovative projects in the NMS national outreach programme. Initiatives included exploring Scotland's *Heroes and Villains* with school children in Craigmillar, developing a *Museum of the Prison* with prisoners and staff at the Scottish Prison Service, and producing artwork and an animated film based on our transport collections with adults who have learning disabilities.

Visitors and schoolchildren in Morayshire learnt about our archaeology collection through a partnership initiative focused on the summer excavation of a prehistoric settlement at Birnie, near Elgin, where two hoards of Roman silver coins have been unearthed in recent years. The excavation team, led by NMS, hosted a programme of school visits, an open day and a hands-on event at Elgin Museum where the coins are now on loan.

Two significant books drawing heavily on NMS's collections: *Weights and Measures of Scotland: A European Perspective* charts the influence of Scotland's unique system of weights and measures on European trade, and *The Thin Red Line: War, Empire and Visions of Scotland* explores the themes of war, empire and the Scots. Both have been very well-received. A new series of accessible guidebooks was launched, with the first featuring the Museum of Scotland and its collections.

During 2004-05, over 120 research papers were published, 20 per cent more than the previous year. We also created a research framework to help us to develop as a centre of excellence and to communicate our research to as wide an audience as possible.



Above:
The Thin Red Line – War, Empire and Visions of Scotland focuses on the impact of war on Scots.

Right:
Roman silver coin (denarius) of the emperor Septimius Severus, from two hoards of coins found during the NMS excavations and now on display in Elgin. These coins were used as a bribe from the Romans to a powerful local chief.

OVER 1 MILLION

people around the world enjoyed highlights from NMS collections through our international loans programme.



Our collections are a legacy which we look after on behalf of all Scots. In managing this legacy, we continue to acquire items which improve our understanding of history and cultural traditions, bringing to Scotland new objects which will inspire visitors and tell untold stories in our museum displays.



Concorde pilot Jock Reid presents First Minister Jack McConnell with the saltire which was carried on Concorde during the flypast for the new devolved Scottish Parliament.

Right:

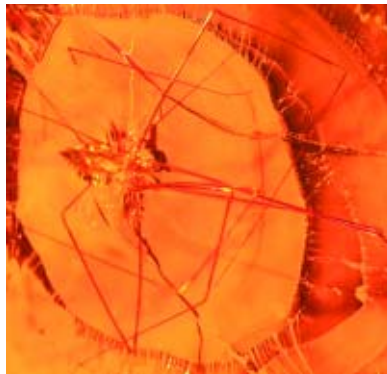
Nymph and Faun by Charles Hodge Mackie was discovered by Capability Scotland in their garden. Following conservation, it is now displayed at the Museum of Scotland.



Made in 1820, this two-handled cup was produced by Jean-Baptiste-Claude Odiot, the rival of Napoleon's official goldsmith.



An example of the first slide rule, the 'Circles of Proportion', designed by the eminent mathematician William Oughtred in the 1630s and made by Elias Allen in 1648.



A suite of thirteen polished nuggets of Mexican amber – the preserved spiders offer Natural Sciences research potential.



'Mountains with Gold', a decorated porcelain plate made in 1972 by the outstanding Japanese potter Kondo Yozo.



Eighteen contemporary acquisitions went on display in the Crafts Gallery, at the Royal Museum, including Candy Wear by US jeweller Daniel Jocz.



Collaboration with partners at home and abroad allows us to share our knowledge, learn from others, and increase access to the collections.

A National Partnerships Manager was appointed in April 2005 to give more focus to our connections with museums, galleries and other cultural venues across Scotland. The National Galleries of Scotland's exhibition *The Age of Titian, Venetian Renaissance Art from Scottish Collections* featured 50 items of decorative art from NMS collections, including ceramics, glass, textiles, sculpture and furniture.

International collaborations help us 'bring the world to Scotland'. *Treasures from Tuscany* provided a cultural dimension to the developing links between the Scottish Executive and the Regional Government of Tuscany, while *Claret to Concorde* provided a centrepiece for Scotland's national celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the Entente Cordial. The unique

partnership NMS established with The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg resulted in the spectacular exhibition, *Nicholas and Alexandra: The Last Tsar and Tsarina* in summer 2005.

Worldwide audiences continued to experience NMS's collections through a range of channels. Documentary producers from the Discovery Channel worked with us to produce a 30-minute programme on NMS's Egyptian collections from the Qurneh burial, which was broadcast in the US and across Europe. In the same year, we conserved and researched an Egyptian gold necklace from Qurneh, before loaning it to the Metropolitan Museum to go on public display in New York.

In partnership with 17 museums from Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, NMS is currently helping to create the *Museum with No Frontiers*, a virtual museum of Islamic art which will be launched in 2006, *The Year of Muslim Cultures*.



Above:
This single earring, from the second quarter of the 6th century BC, formed part of the Royal Museum's exhibition *Treasures from Tuscany: The Etruscan Legacy*.

Right:
The remarkable objects from the Royal Museum's Egyptian collections are loved by people of all ages.



NMS achieved record visitor numbers of 1.4 million people in the financial year 2004-05, and over 4.5 million visits to pages on our website. We maintained our excellent record of communicating our research, through over 120 academic publications.

Increased grant-in aid from the Scottish Executive enabled us to support priority operational areas and to implement pay progression. Staff costs reflect the implementation of new organisational structures, and the introduction of a new reward system.

Other income also increased, mainly due to successful exhibitions and an excellent return from NMS Enterprises Limited, where all divisions (retail, hospitality, publishing and picture library) reported a profit. Their annual contribution to NMS's funds increased by almost 24 per cent.

Fundraising enjoyed significant success, including the award of a £692,000 grant from the ReDiscover Fund for the *Connect* science and technology gallery at the Royal Museum; a \$374,000 grant from NMS's charitable foundation in the

United States to support future exhibition developments at the Museum of Flight, and generous sponsorship from Scottish & Newcastle for *Nicholas and Alexandra*. New staff have been appointed to develop an increasingly active fundraising programme in support of The Royal Museum Project and other key NMS objectives.

	2004-05 TARGETS	2004-05 ACHIEVED	2005-06 TARGET
Visits to NMS Museums			
• general visits (million)	1.32	1.4	1.43
• age under 16	275,000	280,000	285,000
• age 16-24	158,000	170,000	164,000
• age over 65	93,000	100,000	96,000
Web page visits (million)	2.5	4.5	6.0
Participants in schools programme	52,000	51,109	55,000
Participants in informal and lifelong learning events	101,000	112,067	105,000
RM/MoS overall satisfaction rating of visit on annual visitor surveys (out of a possible 10)	8.5	8.6	8.5
Non-Government income as % of total operating cost	6.1%	6.1%	6.3%
Permanent salary cost as a % Grant in Aid	63%	61%	64%
Objects on loan for display during the year; new and long term loans	2,100	1,271	2,250
Academic publications	80	121	80

TARGETS

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2004-05 £M	2003-04 £M
REVENUE		
INCOME	17.4	16.5
<i>Other Income:</i>		
NMS Enterprises	1.8	1.4
Entrance Charges	0.5	0.2
Grants/Sponsorship	0.2	0.5
Interest	0.1	0.1
Misc. Income	0.4	0.4
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	3.0	2.6
Release from capital, donated assets and revaluation reserve	4.4	4.0
TOTAL INCOME	24.8	23.1
EXPENDITURE		
Staff Costs	11.5	10.6
<i>Other Operational Charges:</i>		
Repairs & Revenue	3.3	3.3
Other External Charges	2.4	1.9
Consultancy	0.9	0.7
Admin Expenses	0.7	0.6
Fuel and Utilities	0.6	0.7
Other Expenses	1.1	1.1
TOTAL OTHER OPERATIONAL CHARGES	9.0	8.3
Depreciation	4.4	4.0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Revenue)	24.9	22.9
Revenue transfer (from)/to reserves	(0.1)	0.2
	2004-05 £M	2003-04 £M
CAPITAL		
GRANTS/DONATIONS RECEIVED		
Scottish Executive Capital Grants	3.1	1.1
Building Sale Proceeds	-	0.6
Other Grants	0.5	-
Purchase Grant/Other Contributions	0.5	0.6
TOTAL	4.1	2.3
EXPENDITURE		
<i>Fixed Asset Additions</i>		
Buildings	3.0	0.4
Galleries	1.1	0.7
Equipment	0.3	0.1
TOTAL FIXED ASSET ADDITIONS	4.4	1.2
Collections	0.5	0.6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Capital)	4.9	1.8
Capital transfer (from)/to reserves	(0.8)	0.5

Copies of the full NMS Annual Report and Accounts are available online at www.nms.ac.uk and on request from Marketing and Development on 0131 247 4095.

Donors and supporters at home and abroad play a vital role in the continuing success of NMS. The benefits of these contributions are immense in helping us deliver our goal – to be a world class museums service for Scotland.

With major projects at the Royal Museum and the Museum of Flight now underway and a range of exciting new gallery and exhibition spaces planned, continuing help from our supporters is more important than ever.

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NMS also acknowledges the invaluable time and commitment given by our many volunteers, ranging from informative guided tours through to documenting our collections.

During 2004-05, a wide range of projects contributing to the development of our museums, research and outreach work received support from donations, grants sponsorship, legacies and membership subscriptions. NMS would particularly like to thank the following for their financial support:

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Shambellie House Museum of Costume,
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Collections Centre, Granton

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