

Review 07
Touching Lives





It's been a busy year. 1.4 million visitors were inspired by a packed programme of exhibitions and events at our five national museums. Our website attracted 4.1 million visits and 219,000 people took part in our learning activities.

New exhibitions brought animated film, Islamic art, Commandos, contemporary craft and Highland culture to new and appreciative audiences. Our Airshow at the National Museum of Flight drew its biggest ever crowds and the home of the National Museum of Costume celebrated 150 years. We invested in *Discovery Zones* for children and a new exhibition on sport at the National Museum of Scotland, as well as fresh exhibits at the National Museum of Rural Life.

Generous funding awards contributed significantly to the progress of our Royal Museum Project. This major initiative to transform the National Museum of Scotland into a 21st century attraction continues...

New partnerships were established at home and abroad, and old connections further strengthened. We showed some of our best collections internationally and brought exhibits to Scotland for the first time.

This is the story so far. Exciting new chapters are being written, as we seek new ways to connect our collections with the lives of those who come to see them.

Cover image Dressed for action – young visitors become palaeontologists for the day at our Dino-Dig workshops.



Progress

This is a time of opportunity for National Museums Scotland, with significant new challenges, clear aspirations, and ambitious developments to report. The next few years are crucial as we move forward with a far-reaching programme of development across our museums and services, which will take us to a new level.

The Royal Museum Project will be our highest priority for the next few years. It will transform our largest site, the National Museum of Scotland, into a 'must-see' destination for visitors from Scotland and the rest of the world. It will reveal the strengths and treasures of our collections and transform the quality of experience for all those who visit us.

We could not undertake projects of this scale without significant support. The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government have awarded £34 million in funding to the Royal Museum Project, demonstrating a powerful commitment to our vision. We have made excellent progress on fundraising for the further £12 million which we need to complete the work. We are appreciative and very grateful to all those who have already offered their generous commitment and we continue to welcome the support of others.

While this work progresses, we will maintain a dynamic programme of learning activities, exhibitions and events at all our museums. While much of the Royal Museum building closes for redevelopment at the end of April 2008, the other half of the National Museum remains open, with the opening of two new displays. *Scotland: A Changing Nation* is a new permanent gallery opening in summer 2008 which will take over the whole of the top floor of the building. In autumn, we will celebrate the Royal Museum collections with a new exhibition, enabling us to focus on some of our highlights and most treasured objects while galleries are closed for renewal. This will also be a trailer for what we are striving to achieve when we reopen.

At the National Museums Collection Centre in north Edinburgh we will unveil one of the largest purpose-built museum conservation facilities in the UK and open new storage facilities. We will also enhance our online presence, with better access to our collections and more interactive learning.

In this review, we celebrate our diverse achievements this year. We seek to find common ground with others to deliver high quality experiences to new audiences. We created *Sporting Scotland* with SportScotland, established the first of our formal National Partnerships, and reached twenty-nine of Scotland's thirty-two local authority areas with projects including two touring exhibitions – *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts* and *Fonn's Duthchas: Land and Legacy*.

Internationally, we continued to build our global connections, such as the collaborations with the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg and with Pixar Animation Studios. This enabled us to show material never seen in Scotland before, in the critically acclaimed exhibitions *Beyond the Palace Walls* and *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation*.

As the national museums service for Scotland, we touch the lives and thoughts of millions of people at home and abroad. We are going to be busy and self challenging in raising our ambitions and in seeking achievements of which we can all be proud.



Sir Angus Grossart
Chairman of the
Board of Trustees



Dr Gordon Rintoul
Director

Visitors to the National Museum of Rural Life can travel in style between the museum building and the 1950s farm.

Building success



Fleming medal
The Royal Museum Project will celebrate Scotland's contribution to the world. Objects on display will include the Nobel Prize medal awarded to Sir Alexander Fleming in 1945 for his discovery of penicillin.



Tibetan armour
Many fascinating objects are currently in storage but the Royal Museum Project allows us to display them for everyone to enjoy. Rare 16th century Tibetan armour shown here was painstakingly conserved and will be displayed for the first time in the new galleries.



Thunderbird
This Thunderbird mask and costume was used in traditional dance by the Kwakiutl people of Canada's Northwest Coast. This will also be displayed for the first time.



One of our conservators works on ammonites which are 160 million years old (Middle Jurassic), at the National Museums Collection Centre.

With key funding awards in place the Royal Museum Project has now begun to transform our much-loved museum.

In January 2007, we celebrated the announcement of two major capital awards for the £46.4 million Royal Museum Project. Total grants of £17.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £16 million from the Scottish Government allowed us to start implementing our plans to create a world-class flagship museum.

It has been a year of intense activity as we develop exhibitions, refine building specifications, move hundreds of thousands of objects, create new storage areas, test our ideas with audiences and progress fundraising.

The Project will create a national museum fit for the 21st century, reinventing facilities within the Royal Museum building to complement the modern part of our Chambers Street site. We will celebrate the discoveries of our past and ensure that Scotland's national collections are a source of excitement, inspiration and education for generations to come.

Sixteen new galleries will double the number of objects on display – many never seen before – and inspiring new learning zones will put education at the heart of the Museum.

Access to the building will be improved with welcoming street-level entrances, lifts and escalators to enable all visitors to explore the full range of galleries. Visitors will also enjoy improved social spaces with updated cafés, shops and cloakroom facilities.

The Project will significantly improve storage and conservation facilities at the National Museums Collection Centre. Work continues to prepare collections for relocation from the Royal Museum building and elsewhere to the Collection Centre. We have already moved 1.2 million objects and this year continue to catalogue, conserve where necessary, pack and re-store another 900,000 items.

Two new buildings are nearing completion as part of the modernisation programme for the Collection Centre, situated at the heart of Edinburgh's waterfront development. Increased public access will be provided 'behind the scenes' in 2009, once the new reception area, state-of-the-art conservation laboratories and storage building have opened.

With the revitalised museum opening in 2011, we need to secure a further £12 million from a wide range of sources. Good progress is being made towards this goal. If you would like to support the Project and help us make a world of difference, talk to the Campaign Team on 0131 247 4095 or email campaign@nms.ac.uk





Animating stories



A major exhibition on the art of Pixar Animation Studios helped us attract new audiences and interact with them in innovative ways.

Our reputation for presenting high quality exhibitions across a wide-range of subjects was further enhanced this year with *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation*. The National Museum of Scotland was the only UK venue outside London for this fascinating glimpse into the world of contemporary animation.

The exhibition, first seen at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, revealed all the stages of development required to create such well-known characters as *Toy Story*'s Buzz Lightyear and Sulley from *Monsters, Inc.* Character drawings, concept paintings, and over fifty 3-D resin figures revealed the artistry involved in the films, alongside two popular installations created especially for the exhibition: an eight-foot zoetrope and an audio-visual work entitled *Artscape*. Pixar films are among the most popular of all time, and the exhibition revealed pioneering new techniques which set the standard for the future.

52,000 people, from art students to families, visited the exhibition and our series of related events proved highly popular. Over 4,600 visitors attended special events from film screenings to animation workshops run by local animation studio *Red Kite*. Highlights included an After Hours event attracting over 600 people and a student animation competition with Edinburgh College of Art.

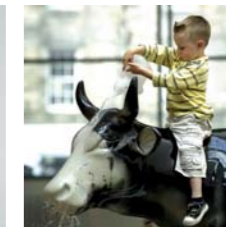
Our dedicated Pixar website included our first-ever podcasts. The site drew over 120,000 visits and included an *Animate Me* page, allowing visitors to the site to create their own animation using National Museum figures and backgrounds.

The media's interest in *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation*, both locally and nationally, was extensive. Coverage included magazine covers, multi-page spreads, television and radio news and inclusion in critics' choice lists in UK national newspapers. This was backed up by a wide-ranging marketing campaign which included SMS messaging and podcasts for student visitors.

The exhibition was generously sponsored by Wolfson Microelectronics plc and managed by the Barbican Art Gallery, which is owned and funded by the Corporation of London.



Glass reflections
Reflections: A Decade of North Lands Creative Glass marked the tenth anniversary of the leading contemporary glass centre in Lybster, Caithness. The exhibition featured works by internationally-acclaimed glass makers who have held residencies or led masterclasses at the centre.



Cow Parade
We became the National 'Mooseum' of Scotland to mark the arrival of our interactive cow, *Cowpat!*, as part of the Edinburgh-wide Cow Parade. The heat-sensitive bovine sculpture was covered in thermodynamic paint, which transformed from black to white when patted by visitors.



Hospitality assured
Our enterprise company NMS Enterprises Ltd achieved Hospitality Assured accreditation in March 2007 for standard of service and business excellence. We are the first organisation in the UK heritage sector to attain such a level.

Fans of animation uncovered the artistic secrets behind their favourite characters at our popular *Pixar* exhibition.

Linking legacies



Working in partnership allowed us to take the national collections to audiences across Scotland.

As a key contribution to *Highland 2007*, we formed a partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland to develop a collaborative exhibition, *Fonn 's Duthchas: Land and Legacy*. The exhibition was funded by the Scottish Government and celebrated aspects of Highland cultural life, both past and present.

This special touring exhibition took its title from the Gaelic phrase 'Fonn 's Duthchas', whose range of meanings includes 'land and legacy'. Our aim was to collectively bring a fresh, modern showcase for Highland culture to as wide a national and international audience as possible.

Iconic art, objects and manuscripts from each of the three national partner collections were brought together in new and imaginative ways with interpretation in both Gaelic and English. From pistol-packed sporrans to Gaelic text messaging, the creativity, tenacity and adaptability of Highland people was explored.

The exhibition explored a range of themes, including language, arts, science, sport and the environment. Visitors were able to see, for example, how the romanticised Victorian view of the Highlands developed, and how modern communications methods have opened up new business opportunities.

The exhibition started its tour of Scotland at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery and helped launch *Highland 2007*. It went on to visit the National Museum of Scotland, Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow, and Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway, reaching an estimated 30,000 visitors.

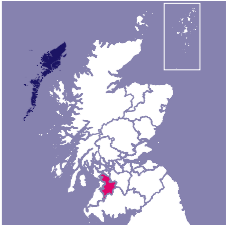
A satellite exhibition suitable for smaller venues extended its reach, as did a fully-illustrated book by Highland historian and commentator James Hunter. A web resource (www.nms.ac.uk/fonnsduthchas) includes a range of interactive and downloadable resources for use by schools and others. All this creates a legacy for future audiences and has helped foster a continuing partnership with the Highland Council.



New species
The appearance of a new species of fly in a book by Scottish Natural Heritage attracted widespread coverage. The fly was discovered and named by National Museums Scotland entomologist Dr Graham Rotheray.



National Fund
Local museums around Scotland were able to add 42 objects to their collections with the support of the National Fund for Acquisitions, which is administered by National Museums Scotland. The fund can make a great deal of difference for local museums trying to add to their collections. It now often works with other funds, such as The Art Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund to maximise the support available.



Strategic partnerships
In line with our strategic objective to develop national partnerships, we sign a formal partnership agreement with East Ayrshire Council. This is the first of three planned for the year, and we go on to sign another with the Western Isles Council.



The Cutting Edge
The National Museum of Scotland was the first to host the touring exhibition *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts*. Fourteen specially-commissioned works join Scottish crafts by thirty makers. The exhibition, supported by the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund, tours to three partner venues.



Traction engine
Our newly restored Marshall steam traction engine appeared at the Royal Highland Show, to great public interest. Our research suggested that the engine had been exhibited at the Show when brand new a hundred years before, in 1907.



Rock on
We are a lead partner in the 'Rock On' Scottish Geology Festival which was takes place annually in September. The programme of events helps engage the public in Scotland's geology in fun and inspiring ways.

A fully illustrated book in Gaelic and English helped take the Fonn 's Duthchas exhibition to wider audiences.

Connecting cultures



Our collaborative exhibition in Canada of indigenous artefacts allowed source communities direct contact with their heritage.

We have one of the oldest and most extensive collections of 19th century Dene material held in any museum. The Dene are an indigenous people inhabiting the Canadian subarctic, and the items in our care were collected by Scottish fur traders in the area between 1858 and 1862. We have built an excellent working relationship with the descendants of those who traded with the Scots, in particular the Dogrib Dene (or Tlicho in their own language) following a visit to Scotland in 2002. From this the idea of an exhibition in the Northwestern Territories was born.

In collaboration, we were able to take 40 objects from over 280 in the collection back to their place of origin to form the exhibition *Dè T'a Hoti Ts'eeda: We Live Securely by the Land*.

The exhibition opened at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife, Canada in October 2006 and ran until August 2007. During this time it attracted 27,400 visits in a community of only 18,700. The exhibition outlined how the Dene collection came to the Museum via the Hudson Bay Company, and each object label included comments from the community.

The exhibition with its tri-language catalogue and website is an excellent example of 'knowledge repatriation'. Visitor surveys showed viewers appreciated the beauty, skill and careful workmanship of the artefacts, while those from the Dene community expressed feelings of pride in their culture, respect for the skills of their ancestors and appreciated the opportunity to see such rare items in a local museum. The comments book featured regular entries of 'Mahsi Cho' – the Dene expression for 'thank you', and new contemporary material has been gifted to our collections.

The exhibition moved on to a showing in Ottawa and returns to Scotland for display at the National Museum in 2008.



Treasure

Five star reviews heralded the arrival of *Beyond the Palace Walls: Islamic Art from The State Hermitage Museum* at the National Museum of Scotland. This exhibition and its accompanying publication brought to Scotland one of the world's finest collections of Islamic art, some of it never before seen outside Russia. It was timed to coincide with the 2006 UK Festival of Muslim Cultures.



Sacred Words

The Ivy Wu Gallery at the National Museum of Scotland hosts *Sacred Words*. The exhibition focuses on how early and contemporary calligraphy conveys the sacred words of Buddhism and Islam. Items on display include scrolls by contemporary Chinese Muslim artist, Haji Noor Deen Mi Guangjiang.



Global access

Museums With No Frontiers enables international museums to jointly improve access to collections through digital means. We are one of 17 museums from 14 countries establishing a pilot database of 1,235 objects titled *Discover Islamic Art* in the Mediterranean. www.discoverislamicart.org



Costumes, moccasins and hunting bags feature in the Dogrib exhibition which will open in April 2008 in the National Museum of Scotland.

Aiming high



Royal crown?
Acquired at auction, a copper pattern crown of 'The Old Pretender,' who would have been James VIII of Scotland and James III of Great Britain. This pattern anticipated his return to Scotland and accession as King of Great Britain. It is likely to have been made in France in preparation for James' 1715 invasion of Britain.



Go forth
An eye-catching railway advertising poster featuring an image of the Forth Rail Bridge by Sir Frank Brangwyn (1867–1956) was purchased. The poster, published in the 1930s, was designed to promote travel on the LNER East Coast route over the rival LMS West Coast route.



Gallantry
The gallantry and service medals and flying logbooks of Air Commodore Donald MacDonell of Glengarry were recently added to the collections. They include a Distinguished Flying Cross gallantry award for his operational command of a Spitfire Squadron during the Battle of Britain.



New donations and an ambitious programme of acquisitions help enhance access to our collections and research knowledge.

The arrival of Concorde at the National Museum of Flight and the associated development of *The Concorde Experience* enabled us to tell the story of supersonic passenger flight and saw visitor numbers rise by 116%. The Museum already housed a Comet, the world's first jet-powered passenger aircraft, but there were gaps in the story of civil aviation; 2006 brought four further important donations by British Airways to help address this.

One of the donated aircraft was a 1969 BAC1-11, a very successful British design which remained in production until 1984. Our example, *Lothian Region*, operated for 24 years on domestic and European flights. Visitors can step on board and experience what it was like to travel on aircraft of this age. We also received the nose and cockpit of a Hawker Siddeley Trident 1c, where visitors can step into the door of the cockpit and view the complex array of dials, switches and levers.

Two further aircraft will be conserved over the coming years for future display: a 1953 Vickers Viscount, the world's first turbo prop-engined airliner, and the front half of a Boeing 707, the first jet transport aircraft designed and built in the USA. These developments are part of a ten year plan which guides short and long term investment at the East Lothian site.

New acquisitions are also key to the Royal Museum Project. As well as allowing us to display more objects of the highest quality which are currently in store, it provides the opportunity to seek out new material to interpret themes and intrigue our visitors. Two exceptionally large amethyst geodes from Rio Grande du Sol, Brazil, have been acquired for display in the new galleries. Standing over six feet tall, their sheer visual impact will be impressive, and these are objects which can't be seen in any other museum in the UK.

Planned acquisitions and loans also support our programme of special exhibitions. An important pair of 17th century silver wall sconces (above), designed to hold candles at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, were acquired in 2006 with support from The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Art Fund and the National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust. These beautifully ornate items were made by one of Scotland's finest silver craftsmen and are the only ones of their kind to survive. The sconces are currently on display in the National Museum of Scotland and will take pride of place in the exhibition *Silver: Made in Scotland*, opening in January 2008.



The team at the National Museum of Flight keep the aircraft, including the BAC1-11 shown here, in top condition.

Sharing experiences



Our learning programmes open up access to our collections and reach audiences beyond our museums.

Learning is at the heart of everything we do at National Museums Scotland. Our learning programme alone reached 219,000 people in the past year, more than ever before. These took place both within our museums and in schools and communities across Scotland.

New learning programmes were created for the National Museum of Rural Life and the National Museum of Costume during 2006, which helped attract over 62,000 school visits to our museums. The National Museum of Flight offered a new programme for secondary schools in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh, and the refurbished education room at the National War Museum now gives pupils and teachers the chance to step back in time to the 1940s for a vivid taste of life on the Home Front.

Science remains a key learning theme and we created a wide ranging programme of events for the Edinburgh International Science Festival, drawing 20,000 visitors to dramatic shows, workshops and hands-on activities. Two new science shows were introduced to the *Connect* gallery, as part of a series of entertaining science events for new and repeat visitors.

In communities, we worked with members of the Sahara Asian Women's Group and their children from West Dunbartonshire to create an Islamic Garden for the roof of the National Museum of Scotland. This was their response to our summer exhibition, *Beyond the Palace Walls* and formed part of the Festival of Muslim Cultures 2006.

Award-winning author Zoë Strachan was appointed as our first writer-in-residence at the National Museum of Scotland. She worked with adult learners to develop writing skills, taking inspiration from the museum's collections. The project was a partnership with UNESCO City of Literature and CLAN (Community Literacy and Numeracy).

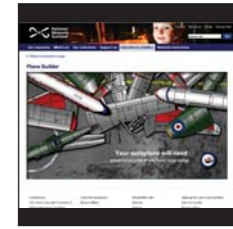
Reaching audiences across Scotland, we have built touring learning resources for use in classrooms, local museums or community facilities. Each *Museum on the Move* resource includes real or replica objects, dressing up materials and a range of activities linked to key curriculum themes of Egyptians, Romans and Picts. The resource has already been rolled out in Angus with Dumfries and Galloway, Renfrewshire and Shetland to follow. You can view these and others on www.nms.ac.uk/outreach

These are just some of the highlights of our learning projects; many more are featured throughout this review.



Discovery Zones

We have created four new *Discovery Zones* within the National Museum of Scotland. The new zones, in four galleries across the Museum, feature over twenty free games, costumes and interactives to help children and families bring the past more vividly to life.



Online Museum

Three new e-learning features have been developed for our website. A schools resource on the Egyptians, a child-friendly plane-building feature for the National Museum of Flight and a community learning element are now available at www.nms.ac.uk/kidsonly



Hat Day

A new event at the National Museum of Costume offered visitors the opportunity to learn from milliner Felicity Faichney how hats are made and trimmed. Victorian Hat Day included personal hat designs, games, songs and picnics.

School pupils get first hand experience of life in 1940s Scotland in our new Home Front themed education room at the National War Museum.

National Museums Scotland



National Museum of Scotland
Edinburgh
(incorporating the Royal Museum and Museum of Scotland)



National War Museum
Edinburgh Castle



National Museum of Flight
East Lothian



National Museum of Rural Life
near East Kilbride



National Museum of Costume
near Dumfries



National Museums Collection Centre
Edinburgh

We care for museum collections of national and international importance, and present these to the public at our six centres.

Our wealth of treasures represents more than two centuries of collecting. Collections take in everything from Scottish and international archaeology to decorative and applied arts; from world cultures and social history to science, technology and the natural world. We also provide advice, expertise and support to the museum community across Scotland.

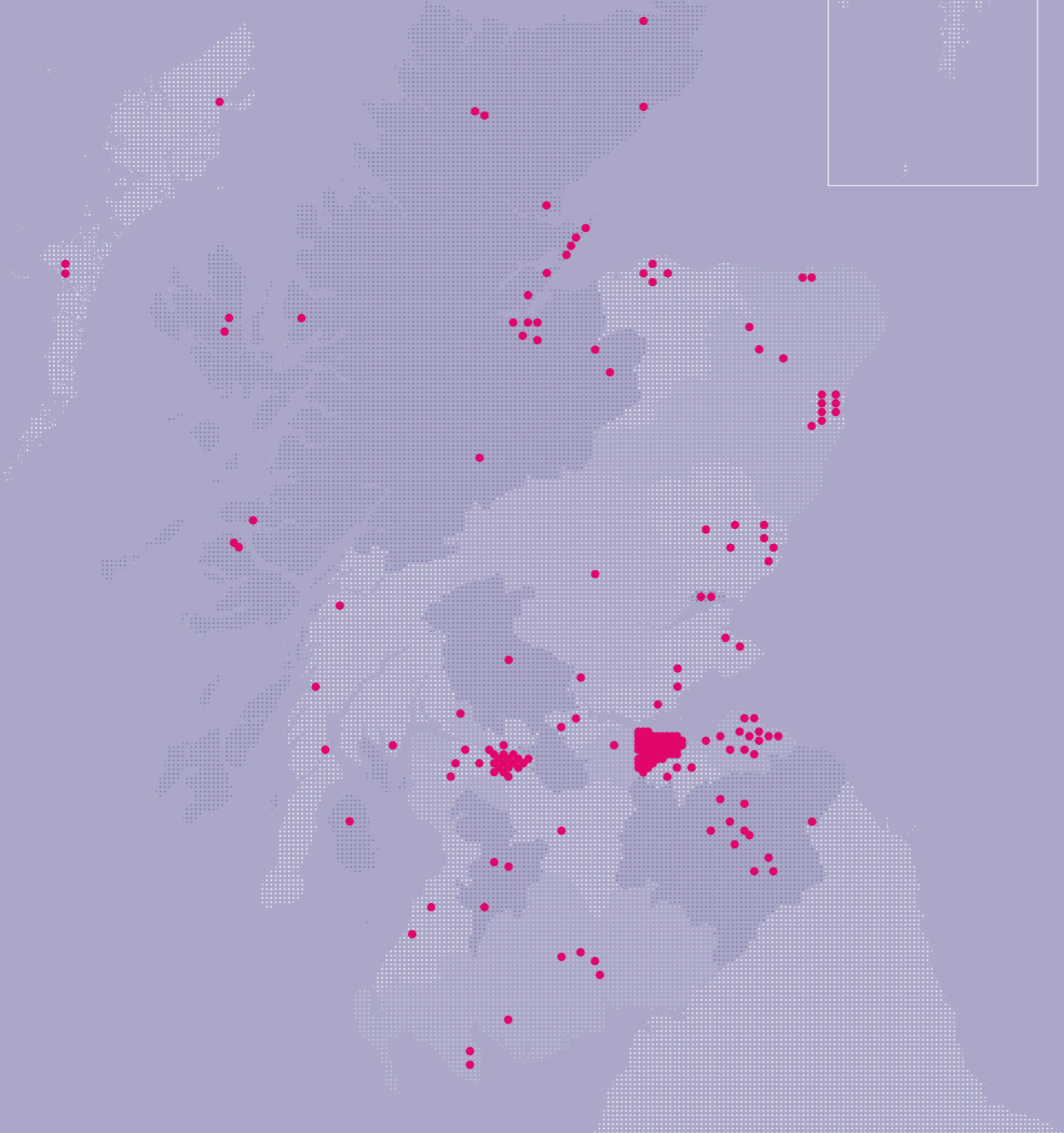
Our work includes fieldwork and research and often involves collaboration at local, national and international levels.

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

The Glovebirds sculpture, installed at the National Museum of Costume, aimed to develop Scotland's storytelling heritage.



National Programme



National Museums across Scotland

Our national programme reaches communities across Scotland helping improve access to the museum's collections for all Scots.

We worked in 29 out of 32 Scottish local authority regions in 2006–07, delivering outreach projects, fieldwork, loans to museums and visitor attractions, touring exhibitions, talks and lectures, and contributing to national events. We have also worked with council, university and independent museums across Scotland to provide better collections care and increased access. This support takes many forms, from advising local museums on Scotland's new Significance Scheme to providing training workshops.



National programme activity

Loan locations	87
Talks and lectures	73
Outreach	33
Fieldwork	6
National events	5
Exhibitions	3
Total	207



Kilmartin, Argyll
A pot from the Glebe Cairn is on display at Kilmartin House Museum, one of a number of objects on long-term loan to this award-winning local museum.



Benbecula, Western Isles
Our Choice was an exhibition at Museum nan Eilean supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Young Roots' scheme. Created by young people aged 16 to 20, it included objects on loan from the national collections.



Angus
Museum on the Move: Picts is a mobile learning resource which was developed and launched in Angus. Similar resources are being developed to tour Scotland covering the Egyptians and Romans.



Whithorn, Dumfries and Galloway
The 12th century Whithorn Crozier and other items were loaned for a temporary display on early Christian history at the Whithorn Story Visitor Centre.



Birnie, Moray
Excavations since 1998 have produced two hoards of Roman coins and show this was a high status Iron Age site. Excavation open days, activities and an exhibition at Elgin Museum have attracted local schools and families.



Knowledge exchange
Workshops in collections management and exhibition development were piloted across Scotland. Positive feedback from the 40 sessions offered means this programme has been developed as an annual feature.



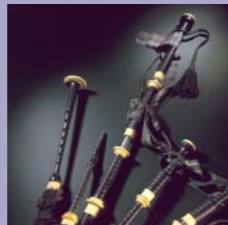
International connections
During 2006, we hosted two museum curator exchanges with visits from the National Museum Lusaka in Zambia and the National Department of Antiquities in Baghdad. Placements and internships with North America and Europe helped spread our knowledge, especially in conservation.



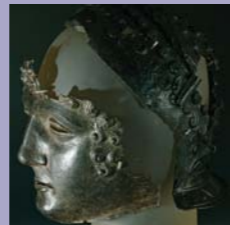
Panama
We worked with marine biologists from Heriot Watt University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute to map the marine environment of Las Perlas Archipelago in Panama Bay. Part of the Darwin Initiative on Biodiversity, the project will help Panama develop eco-tourism and disseminate new research findings.



Crusoe's island
We participated in a joint excavation and research project with partners in Japan and Chile into Alexander Selkirk's stay on Robinson Crusoe's island (1704–1709), part of a tiny archipelago off the coast of Chile. Fife-born Selkirk was the inspiration for Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe. The project was funded by the National Geographic Society.



Scots at war
We loaned bagpipes and items from Scots regiments to Historial de la Grande Guerre, Peronne in France for an exhibition which took place in the year of the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme: *The Somme: A Worldwide Region 1916–2006*.



Roman fort
The Roman fort of Trimontium near Newstead in the Scottish Borders was one of the most important centres of the northern frontier in Britain and it has produced an outstanding collection of artefacts. Collaborating with scholars in the Netherlands and Wales, we are leading two projects to catalogue and publish iron and leather artefacts from Newstead.



Islamic art
Discover Islamic Art is the first virtual exhibition created by Museums With No Frontiers. We worked with 17 museums and 14 partner countries in this European-funded project to improve access to collections through digital means. Visit the site at www.discoverislamicart.org



Masterplan advice
We provided curatorial advice to National Museums of Kenya, through an EU Support Programme, in developing a Masterplan for Nairobi Museum including galleries on human origins and mammals. A new museum building is due to open to the public at the end of 2007.



Russian partner
We have collaborated with the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg to mount two major exhibitions in Edinburgh including *Beyond the Palace Walls* in 2006. The partnership has brought new material to Scottish audiences but has also been a rich knowledge exchange.



Egyptian treasure
Key items from our Qurneh burial collection toured the USA as part of the major exhibition *Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh*. Venues included the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Kimbell Art Museum in Texas.



Doctor's vision
We are collaborating with six partners in the UK and Japan to gather together and digitise the disparate collections of Scottish doctor Neil Gordon Munro, 1863–1942. Munro travelled to Japan in 1891 and was Medical Director of Yokohama Hospital for 30 years. He retired to live in an Ainu village, where he researched local culture and treated many Ainu patients. The aim of the project is to create a rich research resource for anthropologists, historians and folklorists.



Vikings down under
Lewis chessmen, jewellery and a gaming board from Jarlslof were all loaned for a major exhibition on Vikings which took place in Australia in 2006. Venues included the Auckland Museum and the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.



Projet JADE
We are participating in a Europe-wide collaborative research project, funded by the French Government, examining the production, circulation and use of Neolithic artefacts made from jadeite and other semi-precious stones from the Italian Alps. National Museums is co-ordinating input from UK and Ireland in this three-year project.

Across the world

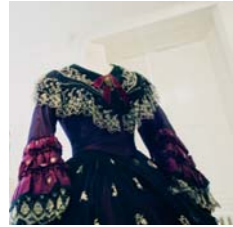
Collaboration with partners internationally allows National Museums to share knowledge, learn from others, and promote Scotland abroad.

Worldwide audiences continue to experience our collections through an international loans programme. We loaned 109 objects to nine countries across five continents from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York to the World Art Museum in Beijing, China.

Curators, conservators, archaeologists and scientists gave around 30 papers at international conferences and we published 102 books and research papers.

At a glance

April **06**



Shambellie 150
An exhibition charting a century of fashion in films marks the 150th anniversary of Shambellie House, home to the National Museum of Costume. The exhibition features costumes worn by stars including Nicole Kidman and Dame Maggie Smith in films like *The Others* and *Gosford Park*.

May



54,200
The Monster Creepy Crawlies exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland attracts 54,200 visitors, 10% above our target and one of the Museum's top three most popular exhibitions.

June



Sporting Scotland
In partnership with SportScotland, we open our new *Sporting Scotland* gallery in the National Museum of Scotland. It celebrates our country's sports and sporting greats, past and present. From Formula One crash helmets to tennis racquets, all objects come with the personal stories behind them. The Scottish Sports Hall of Fame is available online at www.nms.ac.uk/sports

July



Airshow '06
Our Airshow returns to the National Museum of Flight on 29 July with record attendance. The day sees the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight display, amongst others, thrill the large crowds. Family activities on the ground ensure an action-packed day.

August



Summer celebration
Over 700 supporters enjoy a glitzy summer party at the National Museum of Scotland celebrating the critically acclaimed festival exhibition *Beyond the Palace Walls, Islamic Art from The State Hermitage Museum*. The exhibition was born from a rich partnership with the St Petersburg museum and showcases the cream of Islamic art.

September



Behind the scenes
A Heritage Lottery Funded 'Young Roots' project brings ten young people together to create a fantasy live action film. *The Secret Life of the Museum* looks at what might happen to someone trapped in the National Museum of Scotland after hours... The twenty-minute film gets public screenings and is made available on disc and at www.nms.ac.uk/outreach

October



New look
We launch a new brand and new names for some of our museums, to improve understanding of our group, increase the effectiveness of our communications and engage new audiences. We also initiate the first phase of improvements to our new website, giving digital access to more of our collections and learning resources.

November



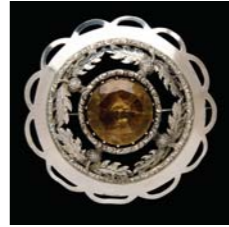
Antiques Roadshow
The special junior version of BBC One's *Antiques Roadshow* is filmed at the National Museum of Scotland. Presenter Michael Aspel is joined by twenty experts for *Antiques Roadshow: The Next Generation*, aimed at young people interested in knowing more about their collections or family heirlooms. The Museum is packed and the show is aired at prime time over Christmas.

December



Hogmanay
Our first programme of Hogmanay events in the National Museum of Scotland proves highly successful. A ceilidh in the Main Hall attracts nearly 400 people.

January **07**



Highland 2007
We launch the national touring exhibition *Fonn 's Duthchas* with partners the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland. The exhibition begins its tour in Inverness before continuing to Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stornoway.

February



Dolly Day
Valentine's Day becomes Dolly Day as we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the announcement of Dolly the sheep to the world's media. We host a packed day of events, such as DNA workshops and talks by curators and vets, engaging a range of audiences in contemporary science.

March



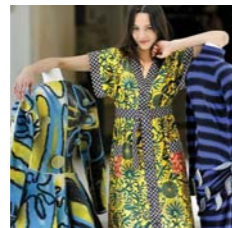
All new
The National Museum of Rural Life is given a new look for the coming season with new exhibits, audio-visual films and the launch of the *Farm Explorer*, a family-focused tractor ride taking visitors from the Museum to the 1950s farm.



20,000+
More than 20,000 visitors attend the Edinburgh International Science Festival events at the National Museum of Scotland. The 2007 programme also extends science activities and workshops to other museum sites.



Lifelong learning
We support Adult Learners' Week with a host of free events at the National Museum of Scotland and the National Museum of Rural Life. Lifelong learners joined curators to explore our collections with a different theme every day, from Egyptian queens to green design.



Jean Muir
We acquire the work of top British designer Jean Muir from her widower, Harry Leuckert. The priceless collection of over 18,000 items is believed to be the largest museum archive of a fashion designer in the world. A special exhibition will unveil the Jean Muir collection in 2008.



Inside Story
We help create a multi-media exhibition about Edinburgh's Saughton Prison, working with inmates and staff. Prisoners carry out their own research to tell the story of the prison from the 19th to early 21st century.



Scottish music
Our series of free lunchtime shows at the National Museum of Scotland attracts new audiences. Renowned Scottish musicians showcase traditional Scottish music as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and to celebrate *Highland 2007*.



Archaeology Month
We host a series of free events at the National Museum of Scotland to support Scottish Archaeology Month. Our events link with the Iron Age site at Birnie, near Elgin, as family workshops, exhibitions and talks explore mud maps, Birnie warriors and Vikings.



Commando Country
Broadcaster Kate Adie opens a new exhibition at the National War Museum exploring Scotland's key role in forming Britain's famous Commando forces. *Commando Country* looks at how remote Scottish properties were transformed into special training centres during the Second World War to teach new skills of sabotage, close combat and outdoor survival.



Teahouse culture
An inter-cultural event linked to our *Sacred Words* exhibition takes its inspiration from calligraphy and the Chinese teahouse culture of the 1920s and 1930s. Tai Chi, mahjong playing, the scent of Chinese tea, music and dance combine to create *Cathay House Blend*.



Picasso
Intense preparation gets underway as we announce that we will bring a major exhibition on Picasso to the National Museum of Scotland. *Picasso: Fired with Passion*, created by the National Museums and only appearing in Edinburgh, draws on the artist's work from 1947 to 1961 and captures the joie-de-vivre of post-war Europe.



Funding secured
We celebrate the announcement of two major capital awards for the Royal Museum Project. The Heritage Lottery Fund confirms a £17.8 million grant while the Scottish Government backs the project with £16 million.



Online shop
A new online shop is developed and launched featuring the most popular gifts and books from our retail collections. Visit it at www.nms.ac.uk/shop



Sporting Greats
A further eight Scottish sporting heroes, among them three Commonwealth Games greats and footballer Ally McCoist, are inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in a joint announcement with SportScotland. The interactive Sports Hall is available online at www.nms.ac.uk/sports

Achieved 06/07

People

1.42 million visits to our museums

4.1 million web page visits

219,888 learning participants

62,328 schools visits

Collections

1,373 loans

102 academic publications

150 active research projects

Partners

3 national strategic partnerships

307 activities supporting Scottish museums

207 activities across Scotland

Building our future

60,409 kg of waste recycled by staff

Financial summary



Income £m

Grant in aid from the Scottish Government	19.9
Capital grants	4.9
Grants and donations	0.3
NMS Enterprises Ltd	0.4
Admissions	0.6
Other income	0.6
Total	26.7

Expenditure £m

Staff costs	12.6
Operational costs	8.3
Capital expenditure	6.0
Transfer to (from) reserves for capital expenditure	(0.2)
Total	26.7

Copies of the full Annual Report and Accounts for National Museums Scotland and our Strategic Plan are available online at www.nms.ac.uk and on request from the Marketing & Development team on 0131 247 4352.

With thanks

We would not be able to achieve all we do without our donors and supporters, both at home and abroad. They play a vital role in our success through their encouragement, assistance and generous contributions. The benefit is enormous in helping us deliver a world-class museums service for Scotland.

The project to transform the Royal Museum building in Edinburgh is the main focus of our capital fundraising, and we are making very good progress towards our £12 million goal. If you would like to find out more about the Project, or discuss ways of supporting this exciting initiative, please contact the Campaign Team on 0131 247 4095 or email campaign@nms.ac.uk. You could help us make a world of difference.

This year we launched a new Patrons scheme, which complements our membership scheme and offers opportunities for exclusive connections to museum life. We have also re-launched our Corporate Membership scheme, giving companies a flexible choice of benefits in return for their support.

With further capital developments planned at the National Museum of Flight, and a range of exciting new galleries and exhibitions planned at our five museums, continuing help from our supporters is more important than ever.

We also acknowledge the invaluable time and commitment given by our many volunteers, from those who provide informative guided tours to those who assist in documenting our collections.

During 2006–07, many aspects of our work, from museum development and research to outreach work, received support from donations, grants, sponsorship, legacies and membership subscriptions. We would like to thank the following for their support:

Children at education workshops learn what they could buy with a penny in 1939.

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Mr and Mrs George Stewart

and many other anonymous donors

We are fortunate to have the ongoing commitment of our members, more than 7,000 individuals, who are an important part of the National Museums community. To the members who give their time to the Membership Advisory Group and organise other popular activities such as lectures and the Christmas Art Competition and to those who support our work annually with their subscriptions and donations, we extend our grateful appreciation.

Finding out more

Do you want to get involved in what we do?

As you can see in this review, we like to engage as many people as possible in the work of National Museums Scotland. You can get involved by visiting our museums, taking part in our events and activities, joining our membership schemes, applying for a job, visiting our website, hiring our spectacular venues, seeing our collections on loan elsewhere, sponsoring our activities, participating in our outreach programmes, and more...

To see what National Museums Scotland can offer you, visit www.nms.ac.uk or contact the Marketing & Development team on 0131 247 4352 or email info@nms.ac.uk

What are we planning next?

The National Museums Scotland Strategic Plan sets out our major objectives over five years and how resources are used to achieve them. The plan can be viewed at www.nms.ac.uk and hard copies are available on request.

Do you need extra copies of this review?

Contact the Marketing & Development team for copies of this review or the full Annual Report and Accounts. Read them online at www.nms.ac.uk

This review is available in large print, Braille or on CD.

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National Museums of Scotland changed its operating name to National Museums Scotland in 2006 as part of a wider programme of strategic change. We retain the name National Museums of Scotland for statutory purposes.

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