



National
Museums
Scotland

Review 08



Family events at our Celebration Weekend, which marked a milestone in the Royal Museum Project



Benin ivory from our World Cultures collection was loaned to museums in Berlin, Paris, Vienna and Chicago



We have enjoyed an amazing year. We welcomed around 1.5 million people to our five national museums and attracted more than three million visits to our website. The National Museum of Scotland had its most successful year ever and there was a record crowd at the National Museum of Flight Airshow. Almost 186,000 people took part in learning activities at our museums and we reached many thousands more with our touring exhibitions and outreach projects across Scotland.

We inspired our visitors with exhibitions that included the most extensive collection of historic Scottish silver ever brought together. We promoted Scotland overseas, including touring objects from the St Ninian's Isle Treasure to Venice and some of our Benin collection to Vienna, Paris, Berlin and Chicago.

Wide support for our Royal Museum Project means that we are now three-quarters of the way to reaching the remaining target of £12 million. We received our biggest ever legacy and we created new high-profile corporate partnerships.

Our plans for the future are ambitious. We are creating innovative ways to inspire a growing audience at home and across the world about our collections and the stories behind them.

Ambitious future

We are beginning to realise the ambitious plans that we have been developing in recent years. Over the past 12 months we have taken a number of significant strides forward and laid the foundations for further progress.

Day to day, the work of National Museums Scotland goes from strength to strength. We are attracting new audiences with critically acclaimed exhibitions and engaging programmes. We are building on our national and international reputation through our collections. In addition, we are developing more extensive partnerships with a wider range of organisations.

Our visionary Royal Museum Project is forging ahead. We have relocated more than two million objects, completed essential structural work and are turning the ideas for the new galleries into reality. The outcome will transform the National Museum of Scotland, our largest museum, into a 'must-see' attraction and cultural hub for visitors from home and abroad.

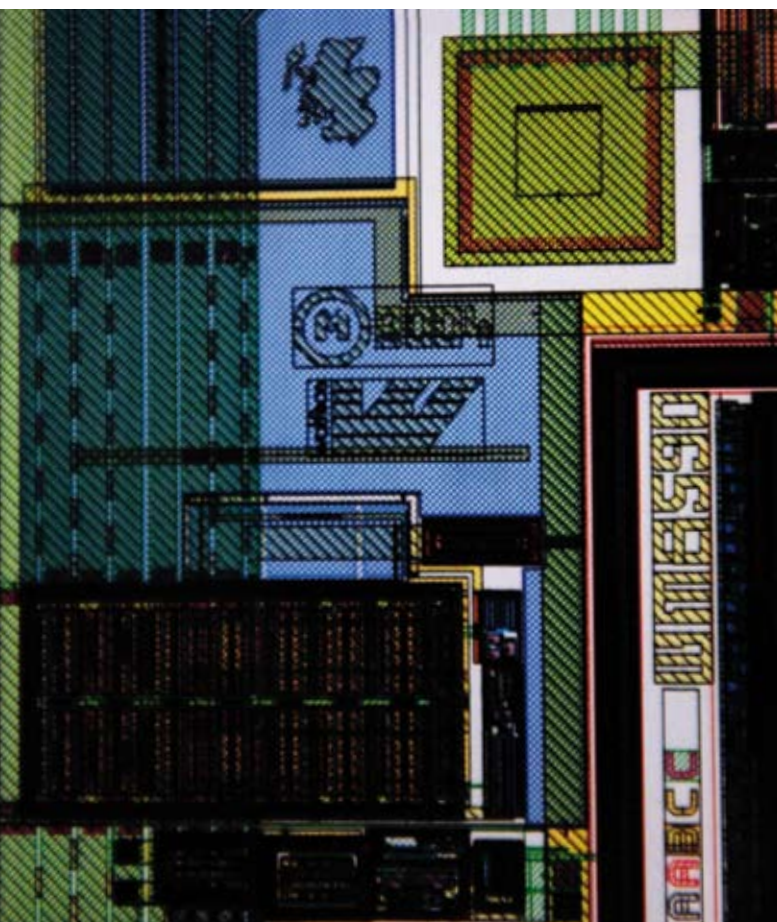
The project is already creating widespread interest and attracting generous support – we are now three quarters of the way towards meeting our final £12 million fundraising target. This year, we received our largest ever legacy, from Patron Miss Adèle Stewart. We will recognise the generosity of Miss Stewart and other donors in the new galleries. We are grateful for their commitment to the project and welcome the support of others.

The major work at the National Museum means that part of the Victorian building is now closed until 2011. We continue to welcome visitors elsewhere in our complex where we have also opened a new £1 million permanent gallery, the most significant investment in the Scottish collections in 10 years. *Scotland: A Changing Nation* reflects the vibrancy and diversity of Scotland from the First World War to the present day.

This handloom features in *Scotland Transformed*, one of the many galleries in the National Museum of Scotland which remain open during the Royal Museum Project



A Wolfson Microelectronics audio chip featuring a map of Scotland, on display in *Scotland: A Changing Nation*, National Museum of Scotland



We also have major developments in progress at the National Museum of Flight. In Spring 2009 we will be opening two new exhibitions in newly restored historic buildings, helping establish the site as one of Scotland's most significant visitor attractions. In the longer term, we have ambitious plans to create further new facilities and restore more of the original buildings at the museum, based at the best-preserved Second World War airfield in the UK. The development of the National Museums Collection Centre at Granton continues, with the completion of two new buildings providing a major facility for our conservation team and further storage space. A key objective will be to give visitors an opportunity to access the collections in storage at this site.

We cannot achieve our goals alone. This report celebrates our achievements in the past year, many of which reflect engagement and collaboration with others. We are strengthening our bonds with partners, donors and supporters at home and abroad who contribute so much to what we do. Our international work includes new links in North America, Japan and India. These connections help reinforce Scotland's place in the world.

Our collections are a rich cultural resource for all Scots and others around the globe. Our plan is to use the potency of our treasures and to add to them, with ambitious aspirations as our standards.



Sir Angus Grossart
Chairman of the Board
of Trustees



Dr Gordon Rintoul
Director



NATIONAL



The Red Hot Chilli Pipers brought our Royal Museum Project Celebration Weekend to a successful close with a ceillidh



INTERNATIONAL



Dance Ihayami entertained our visitors as part of the Royal Museum Project Celebration Weekend

Connecting cultures

Engaging in partnerships, at home and around the globe, is helping to build our profile and enhance our role and impact in the world.

We are strengthening our strategic partnerships across Scotland. These relationships allow us to enhance the benefits of national and local museums services working together and add value to programmes for the public.

Our work with East Ayrshire Museums & Arts includes contributing to the innovative website www.futuremuseum.co.uk which offers access to museum collections from across Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. Items from our collections are on loan to the new Shetland Museum, Lerwick, and we are working with Shetland Amenity Trust to improve access to exceptional objects such as the St Ninian's Isle Treasure. The National Piping Centre, Glasgow, is showcasing our national piping collection and we are looking at ways of developing our partnership to make these displays available to a wider audience.

As part of the partnership exhibition *Fonn 's Duthchas: Land and Legacy*, a Lewis Chessman joined other treasures on tour to Inverness, Stornoway and Glasgow



Prophet of the Covenant
This mask and wig worn by the 17th century Scottish Covenanter Alexander Peden will be loaned to a new arts centre in Cumnock, East Ayrshire.



Skirl 'o the pipes
The book *Bagpipes: A National Collection of a National Instrument*, and accompanying CD, explores the history of piping represented by our internationally significant collection.



Living at the extremes
Extremes: Life in Subarctic Canada features objects from the indigenous Tlicho community, whose ancestors traded with pioneering Scottish fur traders in the 1850s and 1860s.

A selection of Shabtys from our World Cultures collection. The World Cultures team has worked with colleagues from India, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, France and Spain this year



Through working overseas we are extending Scotland's international profile and developing knowledge of our collections. We are advising the National Museums of Kenya on the development of new exhibitions and investigating the potential for developing links with museums in India. We are carrying out fieldwork and research in Australia into collections that will feature in the new galleries in the Royal Museum building, and we are working with partners in the UK and Japan on the archive of the Scottish physician and anthropologist, Neil Gordon Munro.

Our international partnership working is also extending knowledge. We are working with colleagues from China and the US on a geological survey in northern China which has uncovered a fossil of a 220 million year old plant, the first of its kind in the northern hemisphere. Twenty eight objects from our important Egyptian collection were on display at the exhibition *Egyptian Mummies – Immortality in the Land of the Pharaohs* in Stuttgart. The exhibition, under the patronage of Madame Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's first lady, and the First Minister of Württemberg, examined the practice and process of mummification.



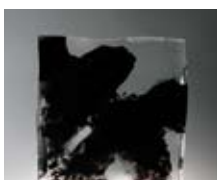
Fresh insight

Over 30 items are on loan to the National Trust for Scotland's new Culloden Visitor Centre, which gives a fresh insight into the battle's history.



Making music

International working with the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, shared knowledge of our non-European music collections, which will feature in the new Royal Museum Project galleries.

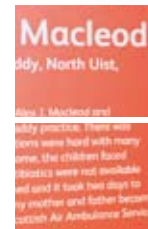
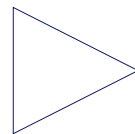


China Now

Calligraphy or Non-calligraphy, a glass sculpture by Wang Qin that captures the dynamism and creativity of Chinese calligraphy, was part of our CHINA NOW celebrations.

Reaching out

Dr John MacLeod from North Uist in *Scotland: A Changing Nation* gallery



Long and short-term loans from our collections now extend to more than 100 museums and galleries, providing access to Scotland's cultural heritage in local communities. They are essential in telling national and international stories, linking collections to local heritage and landscape.

In 2007–08, more than 1,600 objects were on loan for display in 26 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. We are reaching out to communities through touring exhibitions, such as *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts*, and access and outreach projects, including *Young Roots*. Local partnerships helped us collect people's stories for *Scotland: A Changing Nation*, our new permanent gallery at the National Museum of Scotland.

Our staff are sharing their knowledge with local museums, universities and national organisations, such as Historic Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland. Workshops, work shadowing and 'behind the scenes' visits are demonstrating the benefits of sharing knowledge and helping develop expertise.

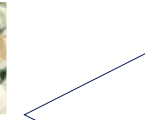
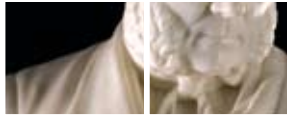
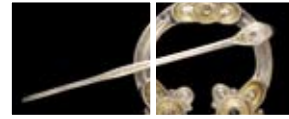
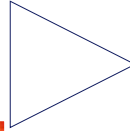
The National Fund for Acquisitions, which we administer, enables museums and galleries across Scotland to purchase items for local collections. In 2007–08, 99 payments totalling £234,470 were made to help 40 organisations make purchases for their collections. The total purchase value of the objects was £544,477.

Acquisitions made for the national collections included two large amethyst geodes from Brazil, a penicillin mould specimen signed by Sir Alexander Fleming, and two tutus designed by Jasper Conran for Scottish Ballet's 1995 production of *Swan Lake*.

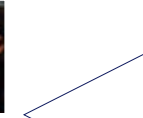
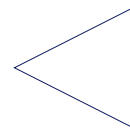
The Crown can claim as 'treasure trove' objects of historical or archaeological interest or importance unearthed in Scotland. We operate the Treasure Trove system on behalf of the Crown and assess finds for the panel that advises on their value.



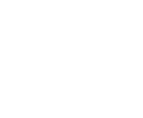
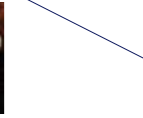
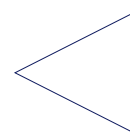
St Ninian's Isle Treasure
on loan to Shetland
Museum and Archives



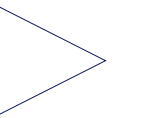
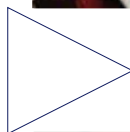
Textile loaned to *Hand,
Heart & Soul*, Aberdeen
Art Gallery



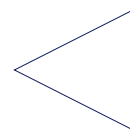
*Death of Archbishop
Sharp*, purchased through
the National Fund for
Acquisitions for
St Andrews University



Outreach partnership
working with young
people to restore
a motorcycle

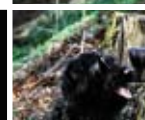
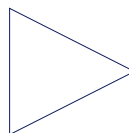


Roman Tombstone
from Carberry acquired
by Treasure Trove

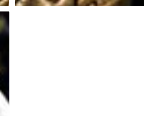
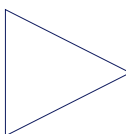


Promoting Scotland

Billy Connolly in *Silver of the Stars*, which toured internationally and joined our *Silver* exhibition



Silver from Traprain Law on loan to the Kimbell Art Museum, Texas



Our wide ranging programme of activities around the world is showcasing Scotland and enhancing international recognition for National Museums Scotland. Through working more closely with organisations such as the British Council we are extending our reach and impact.

In 2007–08, more than 130 objects from Scotland's national collections were on loan around the world. They featured in exhibitions including *Benin: Kings and Rituals*, on tour in Vienna, Paris, Berlin and Chicago; *De T'a Hoti Ts'eeda: We Live Securely by the Land* in Yellowknife and Ottawa; and *Silver of the Stars* in Beijing.

We are promoting links through a range of Scottish Diaspora projects, including work in Australasia, India and North America. Current research projects include Alexander Selkirk's stay on Robinson Crusoe Island, off Chile, and a Darwin Initiative project to map marine biodiversity off Panama. We are developing partnership opportunities in Africa, by providing curatorial advice to national museums services and through new connections with our historic collections.





FROM A



An American moose poses for the cameras at the National Museums Collection Centre



TO B

An Indian elephant is moved to the National Museums Collection Centre in preparation for the start of the Royal Museum Project

Royal Museum Project

Palaeozoic fossil fish and bubble-wrapped elephants... Egyptian mummies and a carved stone relief from an Assyrian palace... Chinese porcelain and Venetian glass... textiles from the Middle East and an iconic millennium clock...

We carefully catalogued and packed around two million objects from the Royal Museum building, part of the National Museum of Scotland, and moved them to our National Museums Collection Centre in north Edinburgh. The collections were mostly relocated to a purpose-built storage building. Decanting objects from the landmark Victorian building was the first stage in reinventing the museum to create a 21st century visitor experience for Scotland and a showcase for international visitors.

We have a world class team of in-house specialists and external partners in place, driving the £46 million Royal Museum Project forward. The intensive programme of work to conserve objects already in the national collection, to design new galleries, discovery centres and learning zones, and to acquire new treasures is on schedule. When the full National Museum of Scotland re-opens in 2011, it will be an amazing cultural complex and a centre of engagement for Scotland.

Conservation of a Chinese kingfisher headdress at the National Museums Collection Centre for display in 2011



Your views
We are consulting visitors on the new galleries and interactive displays being created as part of the Royal Museum Project.



Celebration Weekend
More than 8,000 people joined us for a free weekend of music, dancing, art and history, marking the official start of the Royal Museum Project.



Your memories
Visitors shared their memories of the Royal Museum as part of *Your Museum is Changing*. Visit www.nms.ac.uk/yourmemories

Conservation of a Sri Lankan mask at the National Museums Collections Centre as part of the Royal Museum Project



Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories, a new exhibition in the National Museum of Scotland opening in Autumn 2008, is a taste of what the future will bring. The fascinating mix of many of our most popular objects, some never before on public display, will inspire visitors during our partial closure.

The project is attracting interest from around the world and generous financial support. We are now three quarters of the way towards meeting our final £12 million fundraising target thanks to the generous support of many individual donors, companies, trusts and foundations at home and abroad.

This year, National Museums Scotland received its largest ever legacy, from Patron Miss Adèle Stewart, with £1.5 million from her bequest granted to the project. Many other generous supporters have also contributed, and over the coming months we will continue working to secure the remaining funds needed to transform the museum, making Scotland's national collections a source of excitement, inspiration and education for generations to come. If you would like to support the project, please contact the campaign team on 0131 247 4095 or email campaign@nms.ac.uk

The project's dedicated pages on our website feature exhibition visuals, gallery plans and a video fly-through. Visit www.nms.ac.uk/royalmuseumproject to sign up for the project newsletter.



Welcome support

We are grateful to everyone who has donated towards the £12 million we need to complete the Royal Museum Project and welcome support from others.



Wei to go

We moved more than two million objects, including this statue of the Buddhist deva or god Wei Tuo as part of the Royal Museum Project.



New buildings

Two new buildings, providing a reception area, state-of-the-art conservation laboratories and enhanced storage, opened in 2008 as part of the modernisation programme for the National Museums Collection Centre.



TREASURES

A pilgrim badge of St Andrew, declared as Treasure Trove – a scheme we operate on behalf of the Crown



TECHNIQUE

Malcolm Appleby shown at work in *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts*, part of our vibrant exhibition programme

Telling stories

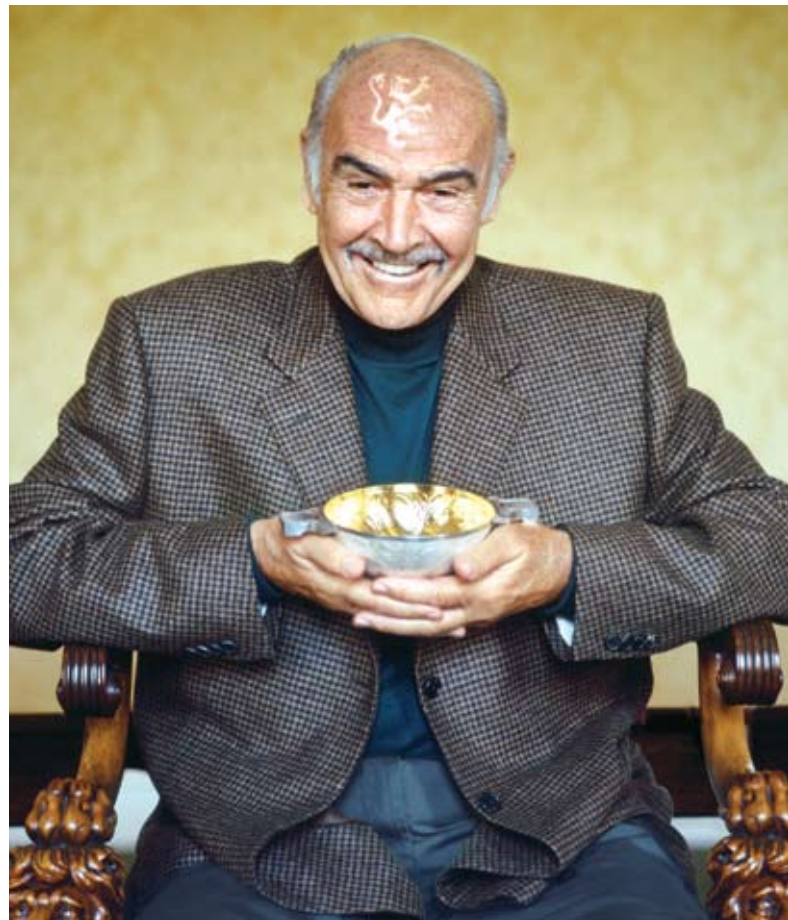
Exhibitions and displays bring our collections to life and give visitors an opportunity to experience cultural treasures from museums and galleries around the world.

Scotland: A Changing Nation opened at the National Museum of Scotland in July 2008. The gallery provides a glimpse into Scottish history from the First World War to the present day, reflecting the vibrancy and diversity of Scotland over the past century. Its exciting and contemporary feel is proving to be a major addition to the museum, and the gallery has already received critical acclaim. *Scotland's Magazine* said: "This is the museum's most thought-provoking presentation to date."

More than 15,000 visitors experienced *Silver: Made in Scotland*, celebrating the tradition of silversmithing in Scotland over seven centuries and the 550th anniversary of hallmarking in Scotland. The exhibition featured a dazzling display of Scottish-made silverware, exploring the stories behind the people who made the pieces on display and those who used them. The lavishly illustrated exhibition catalogue was reprinted to meet demand.

Our exhibition, *Picasso: Fired with Passion*, attracted more than 28,000 visitors who enjoyed the display of objects from 13 European collections, many on public display for the first time. The exhibition focused on Picasso's life 1947–61 when, as well as painting and drawing, the artist was also experimenting with decorative ceramics and other applied arts.

Sean Connery in *Silver of the Stars*, put together by the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh and part of our *Silver: Made in Scotland* exhibition



Jet setters
Children discovered the thrill of travel and long haul destinations through fun and imaginative games at *Jet Set, Go* at the National Museum of Flight.



Learning about animation
Almost 52,000 visitors learned about the art behind films created by Disney Pixar Animation Studios at *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation* at the National Museum.



Kilts to catwalks
More than 8,000 visitors explored the history of tartan and its use in fashion at *Fabric of a Nation* at the National Museum of Costume.

Robbie Coltrane, another of the celebrities featured in *Silver of the Stars*



We are working with partners to present touring exhibitions across Scotland that allow us to reach out to a wider audience.

More than 30,000 visitors experienced *Fonn 's Duthchas: Land & Legacy* to celebrate the Year of Highland Culture. The exhibition, created in partnership with the National Galleries of Scotland and the National Library of Scotland with funding from the Scottish Government, toured during 2007 to Inverness, Stornoway, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The shared commitment of four of Scotland's museums services – National Museums Scotland and Aberdeen City, East Ayrshire and Glasgow City Councils – to promoting Scotland's contemporary crafts saw the work of 30 leading craftsmen and women in a 12 month touring exhibition. *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts* received support from the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Fund. The exhibition, featuring silverwork, ceramics, jewellery, glass, textiles, basketry, furniture and metalwork, went on display at the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; Dick Institute, Kilmarnock; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow; and Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum.



Weaving stories

Scotland's landscapes, history and culture were woven into the fabric of *Weaving Words: The Art of Anna S King*, at the National Museum of Scotland.



Through a lens

Stunning and original wildlife photography from around the world featured in the *Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year* at the National Museum of Rural Life.



Commando Country

Visitors to the National War Museum learned how the Scottish Highlands became the first training ground for elite forces during the Second World War.



HORSES



HANDS-ON

Family activities at the National Museum of Scotland are part of a diverse learning programme for all ages

Inspiring people

Our national museums are inspiring people to learn more about Scotland and the world around us through engaging programmes, events and displays.

More people than ever are enjoying our museums. Visitor numbers across our sites were up 3% and the National Museum of Scotland had its most successful year ever, welcoming more than 830,000 people.

We are widening access to our collections by reaching out to communities across Scotland through our learning programmes. Almost 186,000 people joined in programmes developed around our treasures or popular historical themes, such as the Second World War, Romans and Egyptians.

Our increasingly popular programme of free school visits is a rich source of learning and teaching. Primary and secondary pupils took part in more than 51,000 school visits, with programmes linked to key elements of the Curriculum for Excellence. Pupils' favourites included Second World War-themed workshops at the National Museum of Flight and National Museum of Rural Life.

We are also working to attract people who might never normally visit a museum. One group of young people excluded from formal school education used our collections to research the British motorcycle industry from the mid-19th century to the present day. They helped restore a 1920s 225cc Triumph Junior motorcycle, later displayed at Glasgow's Museum of Transport.

Second World War Day at the National Museum of Flight, part of our annual Big Days Out programme



Opening up access
Our popular outreach programme *Museums on the Move* tells stories of Pictish stones, Roman legions and Egyptian mummies. Find out more at www.nms.ac.uk/mom



Countryside champions
Our Junior Rural Ambassadors worked with the National Museum of Rural Life, learning about food production and helping spread knowledge about Scotland's rural heritage.



Once upon a time
Storyteller-in-Residence Gerry Durkin is developing stories around collections at the National Museum of Rural Life and the National Museum of Costume with Scottish Arts Council support.

An enthusiastic visitor welcomes Sulley from *Monsters, Inc* to the National Museum of Scotland during our *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation* exhibition



Year-round science programmes included special events to mark National Science and Engineering Week. Nearly 20,000 people joined in talks, workshops, and hands-on activities linked to the Edinburgh International Science Festival. Airshow 07 at the National Museum of Flight attracted 13,500 people, equalling the previous year's record, and more than 1000 visitors took part in science shows linked to the airshow.

People of all ages were attracted to escape to the countryside and visit the National Museum of Rural Life. We invested in new attractions so that family visitors enjoyed meeting new animals like pedigree Highland cows *Mhairi Mhor* and *Fraoch*, took part in rides on the *Farm Explorer*, and learned about rural life in Scotland through new audio visual displays.

A new programme of living history events brought the sights and sounds of the Scottish battlefield to the National War Museum. In *Call to Arms*, we tell the story of Scottish soldiers, from medieval mercenaries to the present day, and offer 'hands-on' experiences, including lifting a two-handed claymore, the Scottish 'Great Sword'.

We are continuing to develop our website – www.nms.ac.uk – which is helping us reach a global audience, and creating new online programmes. The site now features online galleries from the *Scottish Sports Hall of Fame*, a series of web-based learning resources and a new online shop. Our investment in information technology included our first podcast, linked to *Pixar: 20 Years of Animation*.



Fringe music

Our free lunchtime programme of traditional Scottish music, song and dance at the National Museum of Scotland attracted 4,000 people during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



Uncovering history

Annual excavations at the Iron Age settlement at Birnie, near Elgin, are helping tell the story of this important site. Learn more by visiting www.nms.ac.uk/ironage_scotland




Painting stories

More than 14,000 people of all ages took part in our five-day celebration of *The Big Draw*, the UK-wide campaign to promote drawing as a medium for self-expression.



FLYING



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a light pink blouse with a dark pink paisley pattern, is focused on her work. She is using a large, flat, light-colored brush to clean or restore fashion sketches on a white table. The sketches are black ink line drawings of various garments, including dresses and coats. Some sketches have handwritten numbers in red ink, such as 'D8144', '8425', and 'D8831'. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or studio environment with wooden frames and other items.

FASHION

Conserving sketches for our *Jean Muir* exhibition which opens in November 2008 at the National Museum of Scotland and transfers to the National Museum of Costume in April 2009

Looking forward

We have ambitious plans for the future and the energy and enthusiasm to make them happen.

We will make greater use of technology, developing a significantly enhanced web presence with more interaction for users and an increasing focus on user generated content. We will work with international partners to develop a more ambitious exhibition programme. We will seek to acquire beautiful, curious, revealing objects to add to our national collections and present them in imaginative ways.

We are planning new attractions and new developments at many of our sites. Major projects are already underway at the National Museum of Scotland and the National Museum of Flight. The development of the National Museums Collection Centre will continue as resources permit over the next few years. This site, at the heart of the Edinburgh Waterfront development area, is planned to become a storage, conservation and access hub for all of Scotland's national collections.

We have a compelling programme of exhibitions in place for 2009 that will inspire visitors from Scotland and abroad.

Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon, at the National Museum of Scotland (7 Nov 2008–15 Mar 2009), will explore the international designer's work and the distinctive 'Jean Muir look'. Highlights from this amazing collection, gifted to the museum by Jean Muir's widower and former business partner, Harry Leuckert, will later be on display at the National Museum of Costume.

In 2009 we will increase public access to the National Museums Collection Centre, which includes this motorcycle store



Fine craft
The Garden of the Hesperides overmantle by Alexander Fisher, made for AJ Balfour's Scottish home, was acquired with help from the Art Fund and our Charitable Trust.



Safeguarding fossils
The world's first 'fossil code', developed through work with Scottish Natural Heritage, is encouraging fossil hunters to collect responsibly for future generations.



Project Wildcat
We are working with partners on a project aimed at restoring populations of the wildcat, one of Scotland's rarest mammals, in the Cairngorm National Park.

Wei Tuo is taken into storage before the building phase of the Royal Museum Project, our major future priority



We will celebrate *Darwin 200*, a UK-wide programme of events marking Charles Darwin's scientific ideas and their impact, around the 200th anniversary of his birth. A Darwin-inspired family interactive exhibition will open in the National Museum in summer 2009, moving to the National Museum of Rural Life in 2010.

Two new attractions will open in Spring 2009 at the National Museum of Flight, home of one of Europe's most comprehensive collection of aircraft. *Fortunes of War* will trace the history of the airfield and the events that shaped people's lives through two world wars. *Fantastic Flight* will explore the wonder of flight through 30 interactive displays, inspiring visitors to discover the technology involved in making aeroplanes fly.

Our national museums have a significant role in cultural diplomacy. We will be working with partners in helping develop Scotland's international potential in locations such as India and Africa. We will be sharing in celebrating Scotland's culture and heritage for St Andrew's Day and during the nation's Homecoming year in 2009 with an exhibition and events at the National Museum. We are working with partners in developing the UK-wide Cultural Olympiad that will accompany the 2012 London Olympics and we are supporting the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow through our actual and virtual Scottish Sports Hall of Fame (www.nms.ac.uk/scottishsportshalloffame.aspx).



Changing Nation

Our world class Scottish collections are helping to define the story of our nation in a new exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland.



Aladdin's Cave

Visitors will soon go behind the scenes at the National Museums Collection Centre to experience this rich treasure house and watch our conservators at work.



Sacred dance

This ornamental costume, worn by performers of the sacred Tibetan cham dance, will feature in the new World Cultures galleries, part of the Royal Museum Project.

Involving people



Arts business

Legal, finance and property specialists Pagan Osborne were lead sponsor for *Picasso: Fired with Passion*. Chief Executive Alistair Morris said: "The ability to see life's challenges from all perspectives is fundamentally important. Advising Picasso would have been a wonderful test of our skills!" The firm is also sponsoring *Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon*.



Guiding light

Member and volunteer guide Karen Clulow organises around 20 lectures each year for members and the public. The highlight of the past year was the *Farewell Symposium* in Spring 2008: "It was a lovely occasion, people shared happy memories of the museum and looked forward to what is going to happen at the Royal Museum in future."



Natural selection

Naturalist Charles Darwin lived in a flat on the site of the National Museum of Scotland while he was studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh. A programme of events during *Darwin200* will celebrate the bicentennial of his birth and 150 years since the publication of *On the Origin of Species*.



Lasting legacy

Lifelong visitor and Patron Miss Adèle Stewart gave us our biggest ever legacy. Part of her £2 million bequest will support the project to reinvent the Royal Museum and we will recognise her contribution by naming the new World Cultures galleries in her honour.



Conserving skills

Intern Lydia Messerschmidt joined us to learn more about the responsibilities of a conservator in a large museum. Her projects included the 'very challenging' treatment of a Chinese headdress decorated with kingfisher feathers. "The experience has strengthened my intent to focus on the conservation of ethnographic and Asian objects."



War artist

Maori artist George Nuku is creating an acrylic stern for a 150-year-old war canoe, built by his ancestors. "The beauty of transparent acrylic is that it doesn't overpower what's there... it doesn't detract from the artefact." The 'waka taua' will feature in a new World Cultures galleries, part of the Royal Museum Project.



One nation

"Tha mi smaoineachadh gun canainn gu bheil mi nam Albannach" (I think I would say that I am a Scot). "S toil leam chicken curry" (I like chicken curry). Stornoway pupil Christina L Macleod is one of 130 people featured in *One Nation, Five Million Voices* in our new gallery, *Scotland, A Changing Nation*.



Fife wheelmen

Five teenagers from Kelty, Fife, were inspired to 'road test' a Victorian penny-farthing bicycle and compare it with their 21st century BMX bikes. The 13-14 year-olds worked with our Access & Outreach team in scripting and storyboarding a short film that will feature in *Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories* at the National Museum of Scotland.



Elite warriors

Britain's first commandos trained in the Scottish Highlands. Sculptor Scott Stevenson made this bronze statuette of the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge, which was presented to the celebrated Scottish commando Lord Lovat after the unveiling of the Memorial in 1952. The work was the centrepiece of Commando Country at the National War Museum.



Communicating strategies

Insight gained during a 12-month secondment to the Scottish Parliament will inform future stakeholder communications at National Museums Scotland, says Communications Manager Susan Gray. "Working with Members of the Scottish Parliament who have specific interests in cultural issues will prove especially beneficial to the Royal Museum Project."



Flying high

Pioneering aviator Sheila Scott flew solo around the world in 1966 in a single-engine Piper Comanche that will feature in the new *Fantastic Flight* gallery at the National Museum of Flight. Her record-breaking flights were in the spirit of the great women pilots of the 1920s and 30s, such as Amy Johnston and Amelia Earhart.



War service

Industrialist and company director Sir Lewis Robertson served as an Aircraftman Photographer at RAF East Fortune during the Second World War, before joining the code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park. "I remember the pleasant countryside and the very nice people." His memories feature in *Fortunes of War* opening at the National Museum of Flight in Spring 2009.



Family friendly

Chris Wingrow and family enjoyed visiting the National Museum of Costume during their holiday. "It's a really interesting museum and the Victorian Day in the garden was very entertaining. The staff were extremely forthcoming and helpful, and were fabulous at entertaining the children. It was the best day of our holiday!"



Land girls

Betty Ralston joined the Women's Land Army during the Second World War and worked with cattle on farms in Auchterarder and Balfron. By 1943, 8,250 'land girls' were working on farms across Scotland. Former Armed Forces Minister, Adam Ingram MP presented specially designed commemorative medals to Land Army veterans at the National Museum of Rural Life.



Hello, mum!

Tammy, the first breeding sow at the National Museum of Rural Life, has produced a litter of nine piglets. We chose the rare, golden-red Tamworth breed as they are one of the few native British breeds to survive and are well suited to an outdoor life.



Role playing

Visitor Services Assistant Kate Murdoch brings history to life, almost too convincingly, in a Victorian School workshop at the National Museum of Costume. "I heard one small boy later saying 'That lady must be awful old, 'cos she used to be a teacher in Victorian days!'"



Scotland's story

Our own experts worked with archaeologist, broadcaster and writer Neil Oliver in making the BBC Scotland television series, *A History of Scotland*. We helped create an audiowalk through the historical monuments in Kilmartin Glen, Argyll and the BBC filmed more than 40 objects from our national collections for the forthcoming ten-part series.



Facelift

Our conservators reconstructed the face of Ancient Egyptian priest, Iufenamun. The distinguished priest, who lived about 900 BCE, helped rebury the remains of the Pharaohs in a secret tomb, rediscovered in 1881. Iufenamun's story, and others from extensive Egyptian collection, will feature in the new Royal Museum Project galleries.



On parade

Sergeant John Rose MC, Royal Regiment of Scotland, was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action against Iraqi forces in 2003. The citation says he 'displayed great personal courage...in a chaotic and dangerous situation.' Sgt Rose features in *A Call to Arms* at the National War Museum.



Knowledge exchange

Curator Rachel Benvie, of Montrose and Brechin Museums, found our Knowledge Exchange Workshops 'refreshing and inspiring'. "I came away with a fuller understanding of the collecting policies and collections curated by colleagues in a wide range of museums. The 'hands-on' aspects were a chance to discuss different emphases and solutions to common problems."



In partnership

Working with Tayside Museums Learning & Access Partnership saw staff exchanging knowledge and skills, and local pupils experiencing the life of Picts and Egyptians through our touring learning project. Ruth Neave says: "It helped us improve access to our own museums and collections." The Partnership is a Regional Development Fund project, administered by Museums Galleries Scotland.



Rural therapy

Volunteer John Armour shows visitors around the National Museum of Rural Life and prepares exhibits for display. After seven years, he still enjoys learning about farm machinery and the rural way of life. "There's lots of variety!"



Triumphant partnership

Partnership working on *The Cutting Edge: Scotland's Contemporary Crafts* helped accomplish 'a triumphant exhibition', says Phillipa Aitken, East Ayrshire Council's Arts and Media Development Manager. "Working in this way provided the opportunity to share resources, skills, knowledge and ideas, and accomplish something significantly bigger than each of us could have done individually."



Just brilliant

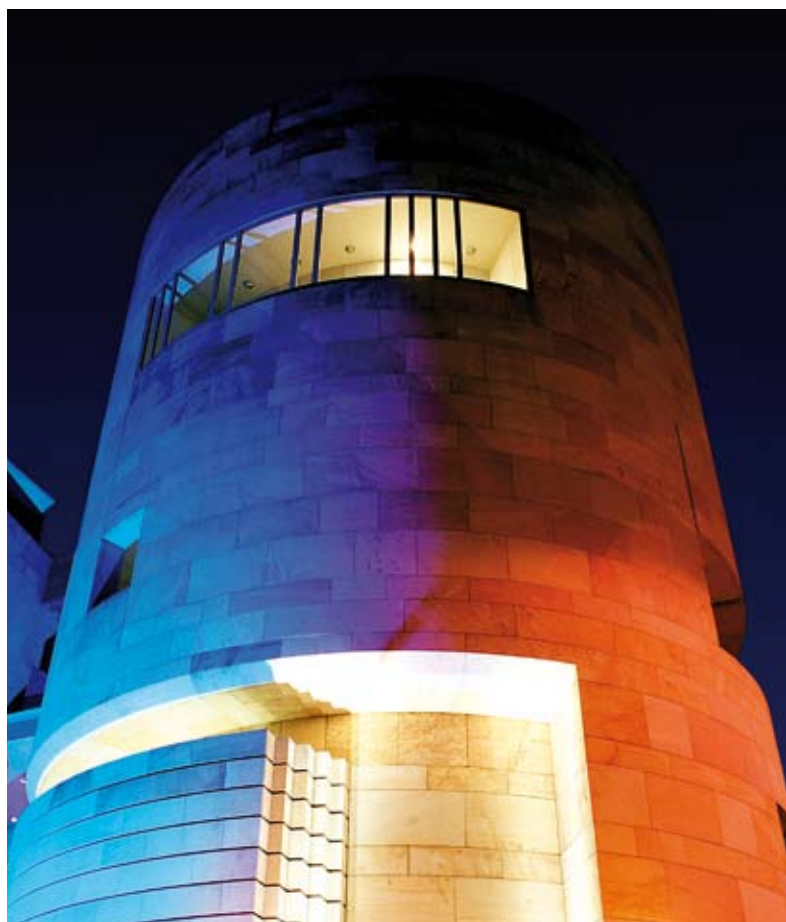
"...me and my pals went back to someone's house, passing the guitar round, singing songs. It was a brilliant. Next morning I wrote 'This Is The Life', 'cause I realised, this is the life." Inspiring words from contemporary Scots, including singer-songwriter Amy Macdonald, feature in *Scotland: A Changing Nation*.

Funding success

Free entry to the National Museum of Scotland is made possible by our government grant-in-aid

Our main funding comes from the Scottish Government, helping us care for the national museum collections, make them accessible to communities across Scotland, and present them overseas to promote Scotland internationally.

In 2007–08, we received £19.3 million from the Government, including a grant to allow us to continue offering free entry to the National Museum of Scotland and the National War Museum in Edinburgh Castle. We also received £5.4 million in capital grants, allowing us to improve the conservation and storage of the treasures in our collections and provide high quality public facilities.



New partnerships
Whisky company Glenmorangie is now sponsoring research into Scotland's earliest inhabitants, after the carving on the 8th century Hilton of Cadboll Stone inspired their new brand.



Timely gift
Lanarkshire resident Rita Inch found this rare 17th century brass and steel 12-hour lantern clock in a second-hand shop and donated it to National Museums Scotland.



Hospitality assured
Our commercial subsidiary, NMS Enterprises Ltd, is the first organisation in the UK heritage sector to achieve the UK Institute of Hospitality 'Hospitality Assured' accreditation.

NMS Enterprises Ltd generates valuable income providing services such as corporate hire and event management



Many people – in Scotland and overseas – treasure objects in our collections, and every year we receive personal donations, legacies and gifts. Many companies share a sense of corporate responsibility and also offer their support in maintaining an important part of Scotland’s cultural heritage. These generous contributions help us preserve Scotland’s national collections for future generations. We value each of them and welcome other contributions.

We also generate income from commercial activities managed by NMS Enterprises Ltd. These include corporate hire of our facilities, event management, catering, publishing and sales from our shops. Along with income from admissions, this additional income totalled £4 million in 2007–08.



Business support

A grant from Viridor Credits Scotland will help towards making the National Museum of Flight a world class centre of excellence for science and aviation.



Gifted benefit

Voluntary Gift Aid donations, included in admission prices and membership subscriptions, are providing vital extra income to conserve our collections and support learning activities.



Your support

Members’ subscriptions and visitors’ donations are supporting this new adventure playground for families at the National Museum of Flight. We now have donation boxes at all our museums.

Thank you

Our donors, sponsors, volunteers and advisers – across Scotland and around the world – play a vital role in our success. We would not achieve all we do without their encouragement and help.

We have enjoyed tremendous support from individuals, charitable trusts and companies for our £46 million Royal Museum Project. This project is the main focus of our capital fundraising and we are fortunate in having a high profile Campaign Board in the UK and an energetic US Committee guiding our efforts. We are making good progress towards raising the final £12 million that we need to complete the project. If you would like to hear more about it or discuss ways of helping realise this exciting initiative, please contact our campaign team on 0131 247 4095 or email campaign@nms.ac.uk

This year, we also saw supporters engaging with us in new and imaginative ways to help deliver two new attractions at the National Museum of Flight and other exciting developments in collections, exhibitions, research and learning.

In 2007–08 – as in every year – donations, grants, sponsorship, legacies and subscriptions have made an enormous contribution in helping us deliver a world class museums service for Scotland.

We would like to thank the following for their support:

Our supporters in 2007–08

Royal Museum Project

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The Dowds Family
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Mr Punch at our annual Airshow; grants, sponsorship and donations help us deliver a world class museums service and bring a smile to visitors' faces



With your support we have expanded our learning activities, including a new series of historical re-enactments at the National War Museum



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The Royal Academy of Engineering
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The Synthesys Project (EU)
Viridor Credits Scotland

And many other anonymous donors

Finding out more

A detail of a fan on display in the accessories room at the National Museum of Costume

Getting involved

We like to engage as many people as we can in the work we are doing.

You can get involved in many different ways...visiting our museums and seeing our collections on loan elsewhere...taking part in our events and activities...joining our membership schemes...applying for a job...hiring our spectacular venues...sponsoring our activities...taking part in our outreach programme...visiting our website...

Find out more by visiting www.nms.ac.uk, calling our Marketing & Development team on 0131 247 4352 or email info@nms.ac.uk.

Getting more information

We have set out our major objectives for the next five years in our Strategic Plan. We also describe how we will use our resources to achieve our ambition.

You can read the full plan online at www.nmc.as.uk but if you prefer a print version, please call our Marketing & Development team on 0131 247 4352 or email info@nms.ac.uk.

Copies of this Annual Review and the full Annual Report and Accounts are also available.

Contacting us

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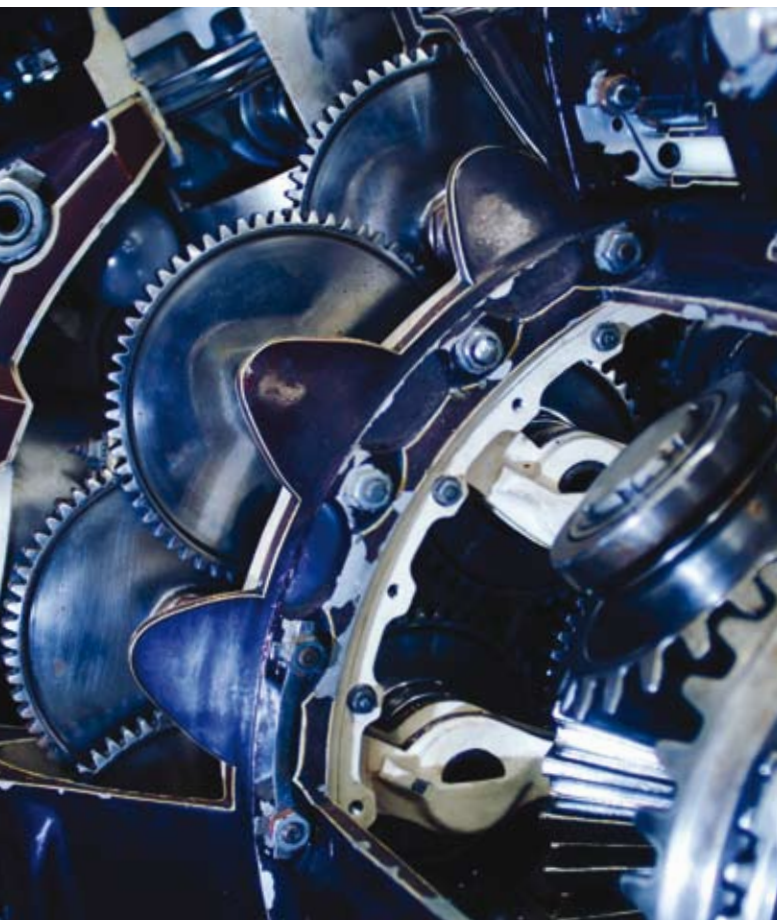
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A section of a Bristol Hercules engine on display in the military hangar at the National Museum of Flight



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About us

We care for museum collections of national and international importance and present them to visitors at our six centres.

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

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

Scotland's national collections range from Scottish and international archaeology to decorative and applied arts, and from world cultures and social history to science, technology the natural world. We aim to present them in ways that connect with visitors' personal experiences and through vivid interpretation.

Our work includes fieldwork and research, often working with partners at local, national and international levels and sharing our knowledge with the wider museum community across Scotland. We aim to be a world class museums service that informs, educates and inspires.

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Our operating name is 'National Museums Scotland'. We retain the name 'The Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland' for statutory purposes.

Dressing up as tigers at our Celebration Weekend, part of the Royal Museum Project



Many of our animals, including this tiger, have been moved to the National Museums Collection Centre for safe-keeping during the Royal Museum Project



Front Conserving a Venetian guitar, for our new galleries in the Royal Museum Project
Back Conserving a Tibetan Cham dance costume for the Royal Museum Project

