



National  
Museums  
Scotland

# Uncover Discover

Review 09



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

Our wealth of treasures collected over more than two centuries cover everything from Scottish and international archaeology to decorative and applied arts; from world cultures and social history to science, technology and the natural world.

This has been a year of considerable progress. New attractions appealed to new audiences, our reach extended around the world and our collections drew fresh attention. You can find out the highlights in the following pages.

Uncover the story of our year and discover the variety of what we do at National Museums Scotland.



## National Museum of Scotland

Through our vast collection of treasures, we tell the story of Scotland: its land, people and culture and how Scotland relates to the rest of the world.



## National Museum of Rural Life

We reveal the development of the Scottish countryside through our museum displays and 1950s working farm at Kitchside, East Kilbride.



## National War Museum

We uncover the human stories behind 400 years of Scotland's military experience. We look at Scotland's role, both at home and abroad, and how war has changed and shaped the nation.



## National Museum of Costume

We follow the trends of fashion from the 1850s to the 1950s in the elegant surroundings of Shambellie House, near Dumfries. Room settings help put the clothes into historical context.



## National Museum of Flight

Our East Fortune airfield in East Lothian sets the scene for telling the story of flight. Our comprehensive aircraft displays and hands-on interactive exhibits bring the thrill of flying to life.



## National Museums Collection Centre

Our Collection Centre in Edinburgh provides a home for collections not currently on display. It also houses state-of-the-art facilities for conservation, taxidermy and academic research.

### Cover image

A silver soup tureen bought at auction in Canada and now on display at the National Museum of Scotland. The grandiose piece is part of a spectacular service owned by the 10th Duke of Hamilton.

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**Imaginative\_08**

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# Bold moves



**Dr Gordon Rintoul**  
Director



**Sir Angus Grossart**  
Chairman of the  
Board of Trustees

It has been a year of significant progress on our major objectives: imaginative developments at our museums, enhanced ambitions for our collections and their display, and both creating and reaching out to new audiences.

The £46m Royal Museum Project is our highest priority for the next two years and it is progressing well. The project marks the biggest single change in the museum's history and it will take us to a new level in how we interpret our collections and engage our visitors. Appraising the potential of our collections, both in their display and in the stories which can be told, underpins our ambitions. We plan to develop vibrant new exhibitions which will inform and inspire our audiences and light the spark for young and enquiring minds.

The opening of the revitalised museum in 2011 will provide a major new landmark in Scotland's cultural landscape and it has already inspired the commitment of many supporters. We are very grateful for their generosity and continue to welcome the support of others to help us reach our fundraising target.

This year we have also created dynamic new permanent displays at the National Museum of Scotland and at the National Museum of Flight. We have remained focused on our vital research role and collaborated with partners in Scotland and internationally. These and other highlights of the year are celebrated in this report.

**“We plan to achieve an imaginative exhibition programme, to build more partnerships at home and abroad... and to open up our treasures to new audiences.”**

Our profile has seen a considerable increase and our ambitions are unabated. Among other initiatives, a new International Framework was agreed, a bold programme of acquisitions was developed, and a new digital media team created.

Over 1.1 million people enjoyed our museums, in spite of the partial closure of our largest site, and over 1,300 objects were loaned to be enjoyed by people around Scotland. Our national role was extended with advice, partnership, outreach, and training, reaching 30 out of 32 Scottish local authority areas. Internationally, we have 29 active partnerships, including a particularly exciting strategic collaboration with museums in India.

Looking forward, we plan to achieve an imaginative exhibition programme, to build more partnerships, and to open up our treasures to new audiences.

Our collections include remarkable objects which have come together over 200 years through the efforts of extraordinary people committed to education and discovery. Through the stories which these objects tell, we hope to inspire, energise and engage Scots and global audiences. We are custodians of a great cultural heritage which we strive to take to a higher level.



#### **Chessman tour**

Our major touring exhibition on the Lewis Chessmen will open at the National Museum in May 2010. This is thanks to a partnership with the British Museum and funding from the Scottish Government.

#### **Stories of the World**

We are leading a Scottish cultural programme involving young people as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Malcolm Kerr, 21 holds a Bengali scroll depicting the Robert Burns poem, Tam O'Shanter.

#### **Winning attraction**

Sir Jackie Stewart OBE loaned us his 1971 World Championship winning Tyrrell 003 Formula One car. This celebrated the 40th anniversary of his first World Drivers' Championship in 1969 and Homecoming Scotland 2009.



# Ambitious plans







**The Royal Museum Project**  
Artist's impression of the new arrivals  
hall providing welcoming street level  
access for all.



# Ambitious plans

Work started in earnest this year to turn the Royal Museum Project into a reality. Preparations behind the scenes to realise this exciting transformation continue apace. The project is on schedule and on budget.



## Public celebration

More than 8,000 people join us in April 2008 for a free weekend of music, dancing, art and history celebrating the official start of the Royal Museum Project.



## Packing up

Half of the National Museum of Scotland site is closed from early May and teams of staff dismantle displays and carefully pack objects.



## The big move

Over two million objects move to our National Museums Collection Centre over 18 months. It is one of the largest-ever moves of UK museum collections.



## Work starts

Contractors Balfour Beatty start work on site. The basement floor is excavated, internal walls removed and the floor lowered by 1.4 metres. This creates a vast new arrivals hall at street level (see large image).





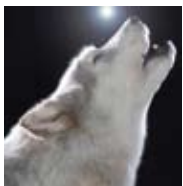
### Treasured objects

We give the public a taste of what is to come in November 2008 when *Treasured: Wonderful Things, Amazing Stories* opens. This exhibition displays over 300 objects from Samurai armour to a Sumatran tiger.



### Architecture revealed

Forgotten parts of the museum's outstanding Victorian architecture are revealed as bricked-up arches, partition walls and 1970s mezzanine floors are dismantled.



### Animal attraction

Taxidermists prepare new animal displays from howling wolves to fighting peacocks. These will have huge appeal for family visitors.



### New assets

Thousands of new objects are selected for the new galleries. Over 80% have not been on display before.



**The Royal Museum Project**  
Artist's impression of the new arrivals hall providing welcoming street level access for all.

# Preparing for the future

Thousands of new objects will go on display in the transformed National Museum of Scotland, many for the first time, others not seen for generations. New interpretation of the former Royal Museum galleries will create a truly international museum presenting the world under one roof.

The project will create 16 new galleries, revealing the wonders of nature, the diversity of world cultures, and the excitement of science and technology. Throughout these revitalised spaces, we will tell remarkable stories of pioneering Scots and celebrate Scotland's contribution to the world.

Visitors will get a taste of our diverse collections from the minute they arrive in the building with an eclectic display of objects rising up over four floors in the Grand Gallery, a stunning 'wall of wonder' highlighting what they will see inside.

Street-level entrances, escalators and glass lifts will improve access for all, while significantly enhanced facilities for shopping, eating, toilets and information will provide a 21st century visitor experience.

Preparation has been a major focus this year, readying objects for their move to the National Museums Collection Centre, clearing the building for contractors to start, and working behind the scenes on what each new gallery space will display.



## Audience research

Research covering all audience groups gives us a fuller picture of what visitors want to see and experience.

## Maori canoe

Maori artist George Nuku advises on conservation and carves a new Perspex stern post for a Maori canoe or *waka* which dates from pre 1850.

## Conservation action

Conservators prepare thousands of objects, including this massive Victorian railway signal. The numbers and sheer variety of materials being worked on is remarkable.



## The £46m Royal Museum Project will transform the National Museum of Scotland into a treasure house for the nation.

This is an intense phase of the process for us: rediscovering objects from our collections that have been packed away for generations; deciding on the stories to tell in the 16 new galleries; selecting objects that best tell those stories; and commissioning new artworks and treasures.

All of our planning has future audiences in mind with an ongoing programme of visitor testing. This helps us make choices about the layout of the new galleries, interpretation and interactive displays.

While all of this behind-the-scenes preparation goes on, we continue to promote the project externally. We are now well on the way to meeting our final £12 million fundraising target thanks to the generous support of many private donors, companies, trusts and foundations at home and abroad. During the year, we received a welcome £1 million boost from The Moffat Charitable Trust as the main phase of building work began and The American Foundation for National Museums Scotland reached its first \$1 million pledge for the project. If you would like to help us make a world of difference, contact the Campaign Team on 0131 247 4095 or email [campaign@nms.ac.uk](mailto:campaign@nms.ac.uk).

The project's dedicated pages at [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk) feature visuals, a video fly-through and behind-the-scenes footage. You can receive updates by signing up for the project newsletter.



### Musical commissions

We commissioned Portuguese-Angolan artist Victor Gama to create four contemporary musical instruments inspired by our collections. All the instruments are designed to be communal, best played by more than one visitor.

Gama is a composer, musician and designer who has exhibited and performed around the world. He creates imaginative musical instruments from a variety of materials. Each has its own name and story.

This piece is called Tipaw, using ringing bowls to evoke tiger's paw pads. Gama found inspiration on visits to Edinburgh, passing the zoo on his way to the museum. The inverted ringing bowls were bought in Kolkata, West Bengal, home to the famous tigers.

# Imaginative developments







**National Museum of Flight**

The first return Atlantic crossing by the R34 airship took off from East Fortune. Visitors can land the airship, in a simulator created with Glasgow School of Art.

# Imaginative developments

## The opening of two new exhibitions at the National Museum of Flight this year broadened the appeal of our aviation collections.

*Fantastic Flight* is located in former Second World War workshops at our East Fortune airfield site. It is designed for family audiences using a mix of interactive exhibits and historic objects to showcase the wonders of flight. Visitors of all ages can have fun testing their ability to become a pilot or discovering how an aircraft stays in the air.

*Fortunes of War* builds on the World War heritage of East Fortune airfield and tells its fascinating story and that of the people who served there. This is illustrated through our large collection of photography, archive footage, an interactive map and personal recollections.

Developments at the site have been supported by the Scottish Government, The American Foundation for National Museums Scotland, Viridor Credits Scotland, SELEX Galileo and Arts & Business Scotland.

The two new exhibitions helped attract 26% more visitors in the first six months since opening.



### Passion for planes

Historic objects, recorded interviews, archive film footage, photographs, maps, models, historic objects, aircraft wings, uniforms and equipment combine to tell the story of flight in these vibrant new displays.

### Family attraction

We have enhanced the museum's appeal to families. This aspiring pilot prepares for take off alongside the Vulcan bomber.

### In a spin

Visitors to *Fantastic Flight* can get hands-on with an interactive wind tunnel, air cannon and pedal powered propeller, and even feel the effect of G-force.





**National Museum of Flight**  
The first return Atlantic crossing by the R34 airship took off from East Fortune. Visitors can land the airship, in a simulator created with Glasgow School of Art.

# Setting our sights high



## Airshow 2009

Over 10,000 people enjoyed our annual airshow on July 26, which included the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and daring displays from the Blades. On the ground activities involved children more with our collections, making their visit enjoyable and encouraging them to return for future events.

We delivered new attractions and significant developments at the National Museum of Flight this year. This marks the latest stage in our development plan for the site, which began in 2004 with the arrival of Concorde.

The museum holds one of Europe's most comprehensive aviation collections and is itself a significant element in the story of mankind's fascination with flight. Our research told us visitors wanted to find out more about the history of the East Fortune site, as well as interact more with the exhibits. Visitor numbers had peaked around the opening of *The Concorde Experience* and we wanted to continue to develop and broaden the museum's appeal.

The two new exhibitions address the past and present relevance of both the site and its exhibits. Our aim is to further enhance the museum for visitors, share collections and knowledge in new ways and increase its popularity as a leading tourist attraction and fun day out. These measures should also help increase East Lothian's overall appeal as a family holiday destination. Our ongoing ambition is to develop the site even more. We are carrying out a study this year to assess where the next phases of investment should be.



## Our aim is to share the collections in new ways and increase the museum's appeal as a great day out.

We continue to add to our collections at the site. In the past year we have introduced visitors to new displays of recent arrivals. These include a 1954 Green Goddess fire engine, an RAF Matador haulage vehicle and a Second World War Jeep. We further recalled East Fortune's military heritage with the opening in April of a new assault course. The course has been specially designed for children aged eight to fourteen to further increase the site's family appeal.

We have also increased our collections through strong relationships and partnerships. In April 2009, we acquired a SEPECAT Jaguar XZ119 aircraft, one of the most influential in recent aviation history, from the Ministry of Defence.

We have developed a range of learning programmes and resources linked to these two new exhibitions. New teachers' resource packs allow school visits to make the best use of their time at East Fortune and suggest related activities to take back to school afterwards.

The new attractions helped achieve a 52% increase in visitor numbers in the launch month of April 2009 and a 26% increase in the first six months, as well as attracting extensive media coverage. Most visitors are now spending more than four hours on the site.



### Concorde at 40

The 40th anniversary of Concorde's maiden flight was celebrated in March 2009. We highlighted this landmark anniversary across all media to encourage new and repeat visits to this supersonic icon.

### Wartime history

We brought the war era to life over a weekend of activity in May with our Second World War Days event. We mixed military re-enactments with swing dancing, workshops and period children's movies.

### Jaguar

A SEPECAT Jaguar aircraft, named Katrina Jane, was handed over to the collection by Air Chief Marshall Sir Glenn Torpy, then Chief of the Air Staff. The aircraft is a veteran of 39 missions in the first Gulf War.

### Action packed course

The assault course was designed specifically for children aged eight to fourteen. It was constructed by the Glasgow-based Royal Engineer Troop and Strathclyde University Officer Training Corp.

# Influential links







### **Bengal mask**

Ten headed dance mask representing Ravana, a character from Hindu mythology. This mask will be on display in one of the new National Museum of Scotland galleries in 2011.

# Influential links



## Connections created and maintained with other countries and cultures achieve global reach, collaborative research and knowledge exchange.

One of our main international focuses is a five-year plan for India. Through staff exchanges, joint research and exhibitions, our World Cultures team led productive collaboration in India, in particular with the Indian Museum, Kolkata and Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind), Bhopal.

We welcomed two study visits from three members of staff in 2008. This was part of a staff exchange and collaboration programme with Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya, supported and funded by British Council Scotland. Such visits help us develop relationships of mutual trust with museums in India and share knowledge from public programmes to fieldwork.

Scotland was the theme of the 2009 Kolkata Book Fair, the world's largest, supported by British Council Scotland. Indian connections to Scottish national collections were highlighted through a popular banner exhibition within the Scottish Pavilion which we organised. This attracted 35,000 visitors on each of the 12 days of the fair.



### Exchanging knowledge

Study visit by Professor Kishor K Basa in September 2008, then Director of the Indira Gandhi Rastriya Manav Sangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind), Bhopal. Professor Basa is currently the Director of the Indian Museum, Kolkata. The visit was supported and funded by British Council Scotland.

### Promoting collections

Henrietta Lidchi, Keeper of World Cultures, gave a series of lectures in India. She was joined by Royal Museum Project commissioned artist Victor Gama to highlight innovative work on our musical instrument collections.

### Attracting attention

Two million visitors attended the Kolkata Book Fair with over 35,000 daily at the Scottish pavilion. Image © Anoop Guha.





### **Bengal mask**

Ten headed dance mask representing Ravana, a character from Hindu mythology. This mask will be on display in one of the new National Museum of Scotland galleries in 2011.

# Connecting globally



## Traprain Treasure

We brought together specialists from across Europe as part of a study of the world-renowned Traprain Treasure. The Traprain hoard, the biggest and best known hoard of late Roman hacksilver, was discovered during excavations in 1919. This new research has cast fresh light on the origins and significance of the collection.

## Benin loans

We lent eight items for inclusion in the touring exhibition, *Benin Kings and Rituals: Court Art from Nigeria*, which took in Vienna, Paris, Berlin and Chicago. It was the most comprehensive exhibition ever on the subject, with over 200 works of art including our Benin bronze sculptures and four ivory objects (pictured above left and right).

We set out a new international framework until 2014 to increase the effectiveness of our relationships with partners around the world. We will be more proactive and focused to further enhance links across the globe.

Our mature and comprehensive collections already make us an internationally and culturally important resource and centre of expertise. This combination gives us great scope for extending our international activity and impact.

We identified priority areas for development: Africa, Australia, China, India, New Zealand and North America. We based our selection on the Scottish Government's international strategy combined with our own collection strengths. Our intention is to take Scotland to the world and bring back its international viewpoint, as well as future exhibitions, to Scotland.

One major international plan is engagement with the Scottish Diaspora. While this is a potentially very broad subject, exploratory enquiries suggest scope for an initial project on the Scottish engineering diaspora in Australasia. We are also looking to engage with international academic partners at various levels from studies to collaborations. All help consolidate our relationships with key stakeholders at home and abroad, our immediate priority for 2009 and 2010.



## Our work spans six continents, with 29 active international research projects last year.



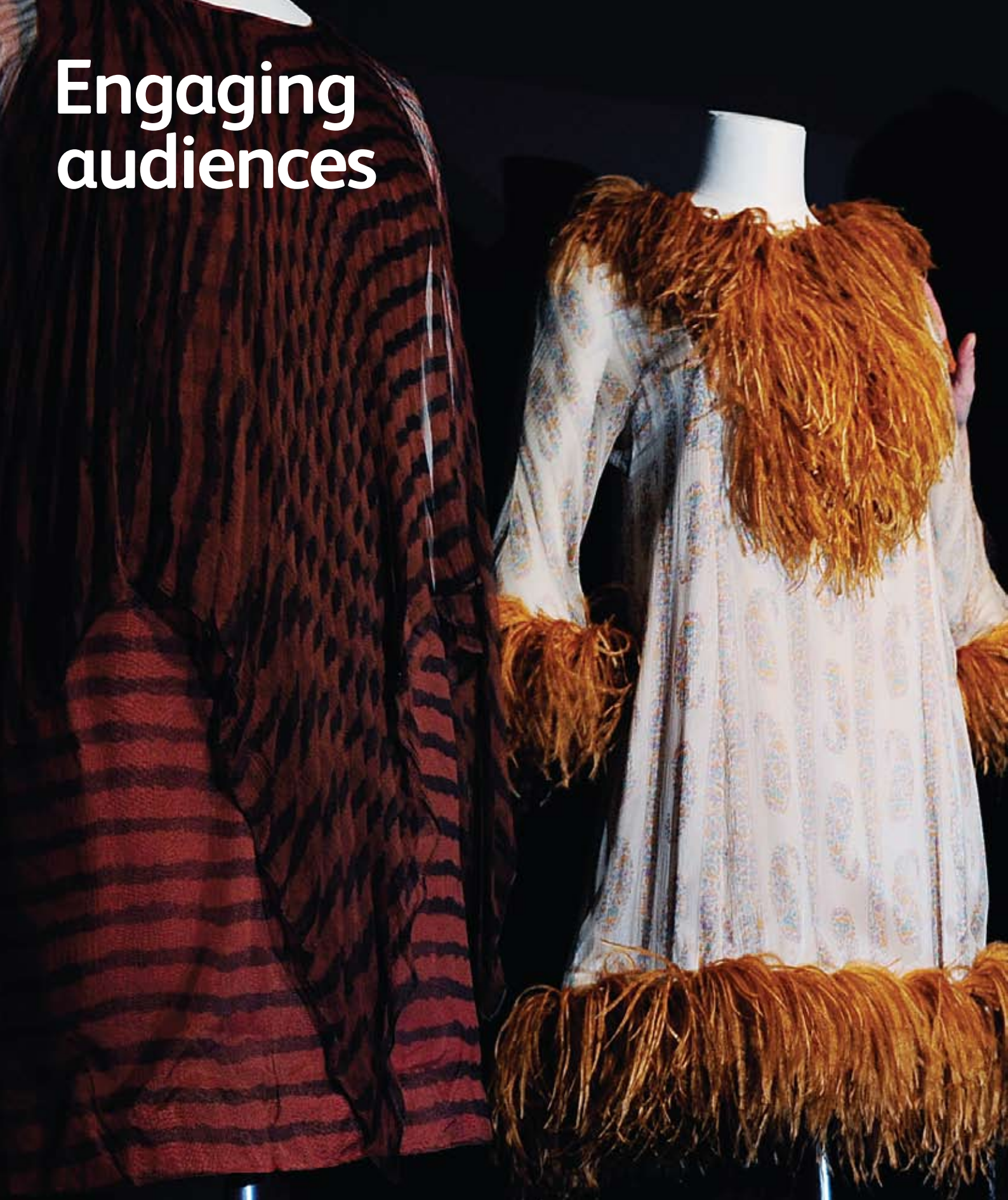
### European profile

We contributed over a quarter of the items in the *Celtes et Scandinaves* exhibition held at the Musée de Cluny in Paris. The exhibition, part of the programme to support France's presidency of the European Union, showed artistic developments from the 7th to the 12th century. An 8th century Rogart brooch from our collections featured prominently in publicity material.

The extent and quality of our palaeontology collections mean there is considerable potential to extend research work with museums in China. Meanwhile, our world cultures collections encourage exchanges with Japan, China and Korea. We hosted three Chinese curators in July and our Natural Sciences team presented research findings on new fossil plants in China's Liaoning province. We took part in an international conservation lacquer workshop in Tokyo funded by the National Research Institute. We also continued our involvement with digitisation projects being undertaken by colleagues in Japanese museums.

In the last year we have undertaken 29 international research projects. Of particular note was a research programme on complete insect fossils found in Southern Virginia dating from the beginning of the Age of Dinosaurs, which should lead to international collaboration and funding opportunities. We are the lead researcher in the UK on an international project on Neolithic jadeite axeheads in the French Alps. Such collaborations open up opportunities for international dialogue, longer term partnerships and research.

# Engaging audiences







**Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon**  
Joanna Lumley opened this exhibition, showing at the National Museum and Museum of Costume.

# Engaging audiences

**Our Jean Muir exhibition proved hugely popular attracting 58,000 visitors and showing at two of our museums.**

*Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon* presented highlights from National Museums Scotland's priceless Jean Muir collection. Jean Muir was one of the United Kingdom's most brilliant and eminent fashion designers, at the forefront of fashion design for four decades.

Joanna Lumley, the actress and broadcaster and Jean Muir house model, opened the exhibition at the National Museum in November 2008. The exhibition attracted more than 41,000 visitors at this venue, making it our most successful free exhibition. It was sponsored by Pagan Osborne. The exhibition went on to show at the National Museum of Costume during 2009.

The gift to the National Museums of the Jean Muir Collection by her husband Harry Leukhart bequeaths us an unrivalled archive. It recognises both Jean Muir's pride in her Scottish heritage and her support for National Museums Scotland. The 18,000 items provide an international resource for fashion students, designers and researchers, providing rare opportunities for learning about the creative processes behind an internationally renowned fashion business.



## **Inspiring collection**

Successful learning events inspired by the collection were created in partnership with Edinburgh College of Art. These included study days, workshops and a photography competition with *The Herald* newspaper.

## **Unique resource**

The vast collection gifted by Jean Muir (pictured) includes sketches, patterns, *toiles*, fabric examples and finished garments.

## **Future legacy**

Over 18,000 items are now being catalogued and stored in conditions that will ensure access for future generations.





**Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon**  
Joanna Lumley opened this exhibition, showing at the National Museum and Museum of Costume.

# More people, more experiences



## Homecoming 2009

We joined with organisations across Scotland to celebrate *Homecoming Scotland 2009*. Our year-long celebration included a Burns Day at the National Museum and a Scottish Fare at the National Museum of Rural Life.

The highlight of our programme is *Salt of the Earth*, a major photography exhibition, by Craig Mackay, (pictured above) showing at the National Museum until January 2010. This show was sponsored by BNY Mellon and supported by Homecoming Scotland. It incorporates portraits of people who capture the essence of Scotland or who are of Scots ancestry. *Ballast*, an exhibition of sculptures celebrating the strong cultures shared by Scotland and New Zealand, ran during Edinburgh's Art Festival.

In addition to our own activities, we loaned items to six local Homecoming exhibitions across Scotland.

We continually strive to find new ways to inform, educate and entertain our existing audiences and to encourage new ones.

A lively programme of events and exhibitions across all our sites helped attract new and existing audiences throughout the year. We reinterpret exhibits to keep them fresh and relevant and host regular activities to allow visitors to fully engage with our collections.

The National Museum of Scotland remained firmly open for business during Royal Museum Project construction and exceeded visitor targets. We held events to mark St Andrew's Day and the Chinese New Year, a Burns Weekend to launch Homecoming 2009, a Celebration Weekend in April and Free Fringe Music in August. These five events together attracted more than 22,000 visitors.

Exhibitions at the National Museum continued to attract large numbers. *Extremes: Life in Subarctic Canada* introduced 35,000 visitors to Canada's indigenous Tlicho community, early trading links with Scotland and how people live and thrive in extreme climates. With its celebrity associations, *Silver: Made in Scotland*, sponsored by Lyon and Turnbull,



## We welcomed over 1.1 million visitors to our museums and attracted 3.2 million web users.

helped raise the profile of Scottish silver with 14,000 visitors. Hands-on activities and themed talks at the National Museum and the Museum of Flight over the ten days of the Edinburgh Science Festival attracted a combined audience of 17,000. Our annual Airshow in July drew family crowds of 10,000 to our East Fortune site.

A series of new free courtyard events extended the offer at the National War Museum. Some 26,000 visitors enjoyed live swordsmanship displays and re-enactments within Edinburgh Castle, from Clan Warriors to First World War Scottish Soldiers, over seven weekends throughout the year.

*Hip Knits* at the National Museum of Costume dispelled the image of knitwear as old-fashioned and reinforced Scotland's reputation as a leader in luxury markets. Visitors, young and old, took part in knitting workshops to learn the pleasures and skills of this craft, many for the first time.

There were also smaller events and exhibitions, from Victorian Day at the National Museum of Costume to the Christmas Fowl Show at the National Museum of Rural Life. Together they helped us welcome over 1.1 million visitors and to attract 3.2 million web users.



### Wildlife photography

The *Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition made a welcome return to the National Museum of Rural Life. It included 107 stunning wildlife pictures, from a stampeding zebra to chinstrap penguins, by photographers from all over the globe.

### Schools success

42,000 school pupils visited our sites during 2008–09. New online resources were developed to maintain access to popular collections during the Royal Museum Project. Collaboration with Learning Teaching Scotland remains vital to the success of the schools programme.

### Helmand: Faces of Conflict

The National War Museum brought the human side of war to its visitors with the opening of *Helmand: Faces of Conflict*. The exhibition features stark photographs of Edinburgh's 52 Infantry Brigade taken by Robert Wilson.

# Revealing collections







**Colourful insects**

This jewel beetle, from the Anadaman Islands in the Bay of Benegal, was acquired by National Museums Scotland in 1905.

# Revealing collections

## Our role as curators and custodians of Scotland's legacy of collections is a national one.

We look after and conserve the objects at each of our five museums and at our purpose-built National Museums Collection Centre in North Edinburgh, as well as advising museums around Scotland on collections care.

We successfully renewed our Accreditation with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in 2008. Accreditation is the professional standard for museums. It involves a rigorous inspection of all areas of our activity, plans and policies to ensure we maintain a professional standard. MLA Accreditation is also recognised as the basic requirement for eligibility for external funding from bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Art Fund.

We also provided advice and support throughout the year to museums across Scotland to help them enhance their own collections and displays.



### Careful restoration

A conservator painstakingly cleans a 10th-century carving of a Mexican fertility goddess.

### New stores

New state-of-the-art storage facilities at the National Museums Collection Centre.

### Doors open

Successful public tours of the National Museums Collection Centre during the Edinburgh International Science Festival and Doors Open Day increased access to our stored collections.





**Colourful insects**

This jewel beetle, from the Anadaman Islands in the Bay of Benegal, was acquired by National Museums Scotland in 1905.

# Getting the most from the best

## We make sure our collections reach and connect with as many people as possible through partnerships and outreach programmes.

We work with many museums and cultural communities across Scotland, delivering in 30 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. Through partnerships, touring exhibitions, loans, support and dedicated activity programmes, we are able to introduce our collections to a much wider audience than are physically able to visit our museums.

We have renewed our partnership agreement with the National Piping Centre in Glasgow until 2011. This will focus on access to and engagement with our internationally recognised piping collections. The National Piping Centre celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

We have also signed a four-year partnership agreement with the Shetland Amenity Trust to boost skills-sharing opportunities and enhance access to the national collections. This will also enable loans and joint access, as well as collaboration on common

projects and shared learning and online resources. The first outcome of this agreement is the short-term loan of the St Ninian's Isle Treasure to Shetland Museum and Archives to mark the 50th anniversary of its discovery. A new booklet for sale in Edinburgh and Shetland further supports this loan. A similar agreement has been signed with East Ayrshire Museums & Arts and the Western Isles Museum Service.

We supported 125 individual collection loans out over the year to 28 local authority areas. These ranged from a single object to several hundred per loan. Major contributions were made to the new Culloden Visitor Centre and Summerlee Industrial Museum in North Lanarkshire.

Museum on the Move brings our handling resources on Picts, Romans and Egyptians to local authority schools throughout Scotland, informing children in entertaining new ways. It is further enhanced by online interactive resources and games aimed at five to eight year olds. The familiar format ensures children are more easily and quickly engaged in each new subject.



We support museums around Scotland, with loans, training and advice reaching 30 of Scotland's 32 local authorities last year.



#### Orkney exhibition

Advice and loans from our collections supported Stromness Museum's summer exhibition *The Adventures of Jack Renton; A Victorian Sailor's South Seas Odyssey*. The exhibition brought together items usually held separately in Stromness and the National Museum in Edinburgh.

#### Annual grants

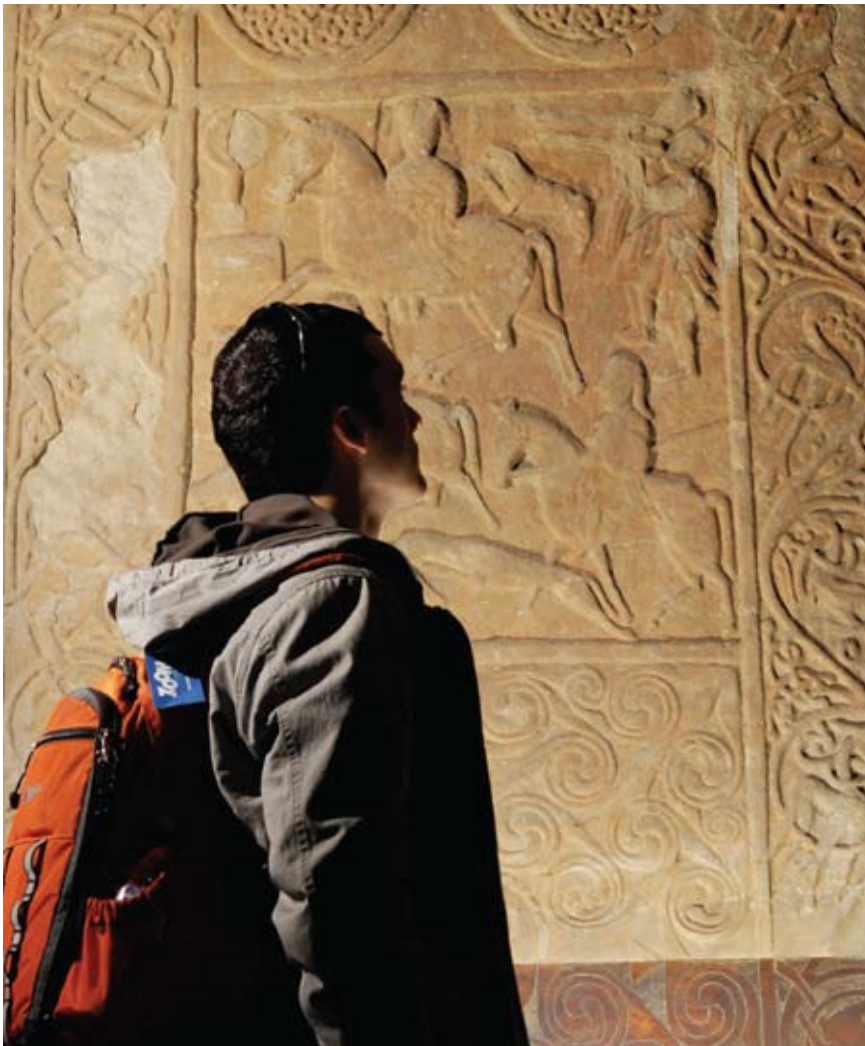
The National Fund for Acquisitions made 94 awards totalling £202,513 to 34 organisations across Scotland, including the archive of carpet manufacturers James Templeton & Co Ltd and Stoddard International plc by Glasgow University Archives, Culture & Sport Glasgow and Glasgow School of Art.

## Glenmorangie partnership

Malt whisky company Glenmorangie is working with us as sponsor of research into Scottish early historic art. Our collection includes many sculptured stones of a quality and sophistication unsurpassed in Europe at that time.

The 8th-century Hilton of Cadboll Stone in the National Museum's Early People Gallery is a Pictish masterpiece. The stone originates from a site near the Glenmorangie distillery and its intricate carvings inspired the whisky's branding.

An archaeology research post has been funded through the partnership, the first time a malt whisky company has funded such a post, and we have presented a number of conference papers on the work. The sponsorship has enabled us to study some of our objects in more depth. X-radiography and XRF technology were used on the Monymusk reliquary to establish this iconic object's creation and provenance with more certainty. This research will lead to further papers and provide important information for the publication of a book on Early Historic Scotland in 2011.





# Enriching treasures







The code (Turnout) by Ernest Wilson. Turnout's have become an international Scottish brand, and the 'code' is produced since 1976, is their iconic product.



**Scotland: A Changing Nation**  
Iconic Scottish brands illustrating everyday life in Scotland, like this artwork from Tunnock's, are included in the gallery.



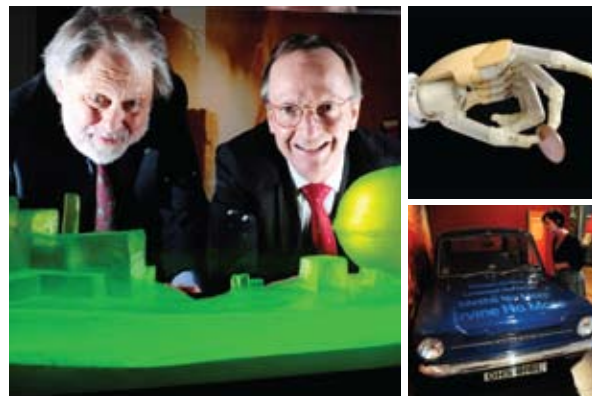
# Enriching treasures



## Our major new permanent gallery at the National Museum gives both local and international visitors food for thought on Scotland as a nation.

*Scotland: A Changing Nation* opened in July 2008. It occupies the whole top floor of the Museum of Scotland building, making it the largest gallery we've introduced since its opening in 1998. It is also a key part of our 15-year vision to transform the whole National Museum of Scotland. The gallery offers a thought-provoking insight into our recent past, from the First World War to the present day, through personal accounts, familiar objects and evocative films. From heavy to hi-tech industries and humour, a nation is put under the spotlight.

Displays focus on five main themes: war, emigration, industry, politics and social change. They address how each aspect has shaped Scotland, its culture and its people over the last century. Incorporating the existing Scottish Sports Hall of Fame, the gallery includes 30 personal experiences of both famous Scottish personalities and ordinary Scots with interesting stories to tell.



### Major recognition

Lord David Puttnam pictured with Dr Gordon Rintoul during a visit to the gallery. We were long-listed for The Art Fund Prize and Lord Puttnam chairs the judging panel.

### Bionic arm

A pioneering bionic arm developed in Scotland features in a changing section of the gallery covering 'Scotland today and tomorrow'.

### Poignant message

The lyrics to the Proclaimers' famous song, Letter to America, are projected onto a Hillman Imp car manufactured at Linwood.





The Laker (Painted by the Francis Weston, Tunnock's).  
This iconic Scottish brand is included in the gallery.  
The Laker is a traditional Scottish cake, and the  
recipe is protected since 1950, in that case product



**Scotland: A Changing Nation**  
Iconic Scottish brands illustrating everyday life in Scotland, like this artwork from Tunnock's, are included in the gallery.

# Challenging new perspectives



## One Nation, Five Million Voices

People across Scotland contributed to a film to feature in the newly opened permanent gallery, *Scotland: A Changing Nation*. The film presents a cross-section of people offering their views on what it means to be Scottish or live and work in Scotland.

We sourced many of the contributors through our links and partnerships around Scotland, involving schoolchildren, families, students and adults from all walks of life.

Many Scottish celebrities, musicians and actors also gave their views on camera. The film represents the diverse heritage of language that exists across Scotland, from mainly English to broad Scots dialects, Gaelic and Cant words.

An online version extends the impact of the film beyond the museum walls to a worldwide audience and reinforces National Museums' role as storyteller for the nation.



**Our approach to collecting is strategic. We continue to collect items that best represent modern Scotland and its achievements.**



#### Inspiring loan

Sir James Black OM loaned his Nobel Prize Medal for a display at the National Museum. Sir James is renowned as the discoverer of beta-blockers and the first effective non-surgical treatment for stomach ulcers.



#### Early TV receiver

The Baird 'Type A' receiver was a double tuner for use with the Baird Televisor, the earliest television set to go into production. Fewer than 100 receivers were made.

**We play an important role in challenging stereotypes and preconceptions through our work. We also aim to make what we display resonate with as many people as possible.**

One of our fundamental responsibilities is to preserve materials for future generations. At the same time, we interpret and present what we look after to the widest achievable audience. Our cornerstones are knowledge, understanding and enjoyment.

These were our focus when creating *Scotland: A Changing Nation*. The challenge was deciding how to convey Scotland as a nation with so many potential themes. We embarked on a major collecting initiative to find material for display then made a selection of objects and stories to include which we felt best represented the story of Scotland, from the First World War to the present day. Objects were also chosen for the response they would evoke in visitors, from the familiar to the extraordinary.

Our national collections are the source of many of the exhibits on show, joined by material not seen before and several new acquisitions and loans. The gallery brings together literature, music, costumes and film and familiar objects such as a howitzer shell which stood in Glasgow's Queen Street Station for many years. Interactive areas bring home the hardships endured in shipbuilding and how Scots used to live. Other examples, Irn Bru artwork in Russian and Arabic among them, celebrate how far Scottish brands reach around the world. The gallery will always aim to be relevant. As Scotland changes, so the gallery will reflect future topics or areas of interest, such as the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

The new gallery has already been well received, attracting over 50,000 visitors in its first six months. It was long-listed for the 2009 Art Fund Prize for originality and excellence in museums. The subject matter of the new gallery has helped us reach more Scots visitors, accounting for 50% of the audience, compared with 24% of general visits to the museum.

Promoting this gallery helped convey the important message that while part of the National Museum was closed for the Royal Museum Project, over half remained open to visitors. It also marked the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Museum of Scotland building.

# Collected stories



## Birnie goes online

New web learning resources were developed around our archaeological work at Birnie, near Elgin. These explore the lives of Celts and Romans. Visit [www.nms.ac.uk/birnie](http://www.nms.ac.uk/birnie)



## Willow sculpture

A giant Willow Lady was commissioned for Art in the Gardens at the National Museum of Costume, using a combination of dried and living willow.



## Aboriginal figures

We purchased three carved human figures and two 'camp dogs' by Australian Aboriginal artist Wally Pwerle. These sculptures appeal to children and adults alike and will feature in new National Museum of Scotland galleries.



## Commando statuette

We acquired a bronze statuette of the famous Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge presented to Lord Lovat, patron of the Memorial project. His family has previously lent it to the *Commando Country* exhibition at the National War Museum.



## Scottish Fossil Code

We worked with Scottish Natural Heritage to provide substantial input to the Scottish Fossil Code, encouraging all fossil collectors, from amateur to academic, to collect responsibly.



## Homecoming support

Face-mask belonging to covenanter Alexander Peden who used it as a disguise when preaching illegally. It was loaned to the Baird Institute, Cumnock, to mark its £600,000 refurbishment and Homecoming 2009.



## New animals

Events throughout the year at the National Museum of Rural Life highlight the seasonal nature of farming and the countryside. Visitors can meet our new calves in February and March and our spring lambs in April.



## Birds of Scotland book

We contributed significantly to *The Birds of Scotland*, the definitive new book by the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, which was launched at the National Museum of Scotland.





### Odiot silver

A pair of silver-gilt dessert dishes by Jean-Baptiste Claude Odiot, one of the leading French goldsmiths of his day, was acquired for the nation. The pieces complement our existing collection of early 19th century French and British silver gilt.



### Saved for the nation

We saved a rare portrait from export with support from National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust and The Art Fund. Scot Alexander Dalrymple (1737-1808) was the first Hydrographer to the Admiralty, and through his creation of nautical charts secured safe navigation of the world's oceans.



### Working engine

Over 1,500 people got up close to our 1907 Marshall traction engine at *Steam in the Park*, Balado, Kinross, organised by the Scottish Traction Engine Club in May 2008.



### Project Ability

A group of learning disabled adults used our collections at the National Museum of Rural Life to inspire paintings and drawings, which were exhibited at the museum. This was a joint initiative with Project Ability.



### Land girls

Former members of the Women's Land Army and Women's Timber Corp joined us at the National Museum of Rural Life to recognise their contribution during the Second World War.



### Bagpipes book

Our publication of *Bagpipes: A National Collection of a National Instrument* was a comprehensive study on the Scottish bagpipe's origins. The accompanying CD-Rom makes our bagpipe collection database available for the first time.



### Roman tombstone

This unusual tombstone commemorates a Roman cavalryman buried near Carberry in East Lothian. It is the first to be found in more than 170 years. It was allocated to us by Treasure Trove.



### Treasures at Culloden

A major long-term loans package was agreed with the National Trust for Scotland for the new Culloden Visitor Centre. Such loans bring our collections to new audiences.

# Grateful thanks

**Our donors and supporters, both at home and abroad, are fundamental to our success. Their encouragement, assistance and generous contributions ensure we deliver a world class museums service.**

The Royal Museum Project is well under way and we have received generous gifts in support of our plans during the year. We also acknowledge with gratitude those donors who have made anonymous gifts and the many donors who have given to the campaign in previous years. You can still get involved through donation to help us reach our goal. Further capital developments are also planned at each of our sites so your continued support is more important than ever.

We also acknowledge the invaluable time and commitment given by all our many volunteers. Their contributions range from providing informative guided tours to helping document our collections.

From development to research, our work over the past year received support from donations, grants, sponsorship, legacies and membership subscriptions. We thank the following for their support this year:

## Our supporters in 2008–09

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The Scottish Government  
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Government in conjunction with  
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### Fashionable image

Pagan Osborne, sponsor of *Jean Muir: A Fashion Icon*, recreated an iconic photo wearing the designer's dresses. Joanna Lumley joined them, thanks to the magic of modern technology! The partnership was recognised at the Arts & Business Scotland Awards.

### Behind the scenes

Special events for our Patrons give behind-the-scenes insight and the chance to engage with collections. The support of Patrons contributes widely to the care and display of our treasures, and helps increase access for all.

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and many more anonymous donors.

# Find out more



## How can you get involved?

We like to engage as many people as possible in our work. You can visit our museums and take part in events and activities. You can join our membership schemes or even apply for a job. You can also visit our website, participate in our outreach programme or see our collections on loan elsewhere. You can hire one of our museums as a venue, sponsor our activities, and more...

Find out what National Museums Scotland can offer you at [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk), contact the Marketing & Development team on 0131 247 4352 or email [info@nms.ac.uk](mailto:info@nms.ac.uk).

## What are we planning next?

Our current Strategic Plan sets out our major objectives until 2012 and how resources are assigned to achieve them. You can view this plan at [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk) or hard copies are available on request.

## Do you need extra copies of this review?

Contact the Marketing & Development team for additional copies of this review or for the full Annual Report and Accounts. Alternatively, you can view them online at [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk).

**This review is also available in large print, Braille and on CD.**

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