



National  
Museums  
Scotland

# Review 2010



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.

### National Museum of Scotland

A treasure house showcasing Scotland's story from the earliest times to the present day.

### National Museum of Flight

The story of flight celebrated through interactive galleries, supersonic experiences and historic aircraft.

### National War Museum

400 years of human stories behind Scotland's military experience.

### National Museum of Rural Life

An award-winning museum, historic farmhouse and wide open fields bring the Scottish countryside alive.

### National Museum of Costume

Fashion trends from the 1850s to the 1950s in the elegant surroundings of Shambellie House.

### National Museums Collection Centre

This state-of-the-art conservation, taxidermy and research facility houses collections which are not on display.



Inspired by national treasures and worldwide connections, we make an impact far beyond our own museums.

This year we have continued significant investment in our museums, welcomed 1.26 million visitors and extended our work in communities around Scotland.

In these challenging times, our museums continue to provide enjoyment and inspiration. Read on for some highlights.

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# Aiming high

We are in a period of unique opportunity for National Museums Scotland with the need to translate our clear aspirations through significant new challenges and ambitious developments. The next few years are crucial as we approach the launch of the transformed National Museum of Scotland.





**Dr Gordon Rintoul**  
Director



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

The £46.4 million development of our main site, the National Museum of Scotland, will take us to a new level and help create one of the world's great national museums. There is still more to do. The project is at the heart of a £70 million masterplan and we are already planning further stages.

Anticipation about the full reopening of the National Museum in 2011 is keenly felt by existing visitors, staff and supporters. Visitors will experience the world under one roof through a huge range of treasures revealing the wonders of nature, the diversity and creativity of cultures across the world and the impact of science and discovery. Throughout there will be many stories illustrating Scotland's engagement with the rest of the world.

Our vision for the museum has captured the imagination and inspired the commitment of many supporters. We are most warmly grateful for their generosity and continue to welcome their support both to reach our current funding target and to develop our future.

We continue to invest in our other museums and their programmes to broaden visitor appeal and improve care of collections. At the National Museum of Flight, £2.5 million of improvements over two years has resulted in a 24% increase in visits and the award of Visit Scotland's prestigious five-star visitor status.

While these developments progress, we are maintaining a dynamic programme of activities. Over the past 12 months, we have received 1.26 million visitors to our museums and 2.68 million web page views. Beyond our museums, we deliver activities in all 32 local authority areas in Scotland.

Internationally, we continue to cement our enriching collaboration with Indian museums and have strengthened our links with North America, Australia, New Zealand, China and Africa in the last 12 months. Significant loans of objects extend our reach.

Our museums and collections have particular potency in providing enjoyment and inspiration in the challenging times which we are currently experiencing. They not only uplift the self confidence and aspirations of our nation, but also help our economy. This is indeed a transformational time for National Museums Scotland. We owe a debt of honour to past generations. All of us are determined to rise to this great challenge which will unlock new chapters of ambition and opportunity.

### 1. Taking off

Inside the front of a Boeing 707, the centrepiece of our new exhibition, *The Jet Age*.

### 2. Making music

Shetland maker Ewen Thomson carved a fiddle for our new world culture galleries.

### 3. Hidden value

Gold Iron Age torcs found in Stirlingshire were shown for three weeks courtesy of Treasure Trove.

# A Scottish inspiration

Our reach extends across Scotland, through loans, partnerships, exhibitions, research and training. Here are some highlights from 2009–10. Read on for more or visit our website [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk).



## Chessmen uncovered

Dr David Caldwell led research which cast new light on these iconic objects, including who on Lewis might have once owned them, and how they were carved.

*We collected stories from communities in the west of Scotland and Shetland for the new gallery Facing the Sea.*

*National War Museum Curator Stuart Allan highlighted special forces training in Inveraray and Achnacarry for four different TV programmes.*



## New hens

Scots Dumpys, once a traditional chicken in Scotland but now a rare breed, became a new addition at the National Museum of Rural Life.



## Bagpipe care

We provided support and advice on collections care at the National Piping Centre, our strategic partner and home to our outstanding bagpipe collections.



### Shetland fiddle

A fiddle made for the re-developed National Museum of Scotland was played at a one-off performance in Shetland.

We lent 129 items of local significance to the new Caithness Broch Centre.

We lent 70 items, including a fragment of a sculptured stone, to the Tarbat Historic Trust.



### Archaeological dig

Our archaeological excavations at Birnie, near Elgin, this year included school tours and public site tours.



### Dundee connections

We lent 13 Scottish archaeological items and three Japanese ceramics for the refurbished McManus Galleries.

Our Museum on the Move resource visited schools in East Ayrshire, a strand of work we do with a strategic partner here.

We lent items from the Roman site at Newstead to the Trimontium Trust in Melrose.

# A global museum

Our work has impact across the world from international loans to strong collaborations with overseas partners. Here are some highlights from 2009–10. Read on for more or visit our website [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk).



## Prize exhibit

We worked with Turner Prize nominee, artist Lucy Skaer, loaning a massive head of a sperm whale for display at Tate Britain.

High level representatives visited the US to attract new funding and further engage existing supporters.



## Arctic connections

We shared research knowledge with the National Inuit Organization in Canada and the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa.

We worked with local communities in Malawi to generate content for our new world culture galleries.

## Measure of success

A 17th-century brass folding rule was lent to the Yale Center for British Art, USA for an exhibition on architects. Almost 120 loans were made to venues outside Scotland.





We lent a dagger found on the body of French privateer Captain Thurot to an exhibition in Stockholm.



## Eastern networks

We participated in a British Council delegation to China and also visited Japan to continue our strong relationship with the Ainu community.

Delegations to Russia, North America and several European museums sourced exciting new major exhibitions for the National Museum.



## New commission

We acquired a contemporary clay mask from the trans-Himalayan region Ladakh for display in new galleries, part of the redeveloped museum opening in 2011.

Knowledge exchange with curators from the Indian Museum, Kolkata strengthened our historic links.

Our samples of the rare mineral Keenastite from South-West Scotland were lent to the University of Western Sydney for research.



## Rolling stones

We opened an exhibition of the work of John Edgar, a contemporary New Zealand artist, whose stone sculptures tell the story of emigration.





## Schools showcase

**Pictured:**

A pilot schools workshop on how to create an exhibition.

**Did you know?**

- Our schools programme is designed to support the Curriculum for Excellence.
- 51,000 pupils participated in our schools activities in 2009–10.
- We also provide strong online resources for pupils and teachers.



# Making an impact

National Museums Scotland plays an essential role in Scotland's economy, education system and culture.

A new study published this year reveals the significant and wide-ranging impact of our activity. On the full reopening of the National Museum of Scotland, we will annually generate £58.1 million output in Gross Value Added (GVA) for the Scottish economy and support 2,600 full time equivalent (fte) jobs. In Edinburgh alone, this equates to £39.9 million GVA and 1,772 fte jobs in the economy.

Our year-round, high quality museums help drive both regional and national tourism. From 2011, we forecast that they will attract more than 1.8 million visitors annually with a fifth from the rest of the UK and a third from around the world.

Our museums inspire innovation, enrich our sense of identity and broaden our awareness of the world. The experiences we offer appeal to young and old alike. From 2011, we expect to increase participation in our learning programmes by a third.

## Wide-ranging benefits

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£58.1m

### Impact

From 2011, we will annually generate £58.1 million in Gross Value Added for the Scottish economy.

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£1 = £3

### Value

Almost £3 will be contributed to the Scottish economy for every pound spent by the Scottish Government.

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£60m

### Investment

We've made a £60 million investment over the last five years in developing the National Museum of Scotland as a world-class destination.

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# More than a museum

Five visitor and cultural attractions, an academic research institution, education and lifelong learning provider, business tourism destination and inspiring public spaces... National Museums Scotland has a wide-ranging impact.

Our museums have a major impact both locally and nationally as outstanding tourist attractions, cultural venues and employers. Contributing nearly £3 to the Scottish economy for every £1 contributed by the Scottish Government, we represent a good return on investment.

We employ hundreds of people directly and many more indirectly. Shops, cafes, transport operators, hotels and many other suppliers benefit from their proximity to our museum sites. We also offer an unrivalled size, range and quality of spaces for corporate hospitality and conference business.

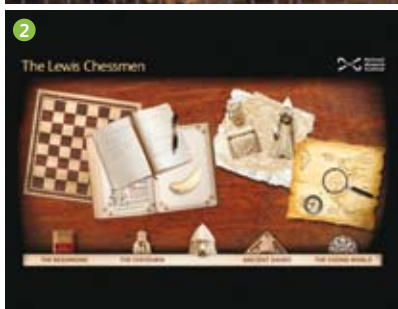
Our sites and collections are vital cultural assets making Edinburgh and Scotland an attractive location for inward investment. Internationally, we help bolster the nation's reputation through our active programme of international research and by promoting Scottish culture abroad through our collections.

The five National Museums are a major draw for tourists to Scotland, including those from international markets. Along with the other major museums and galleries in the UK, we helped earn the country £1 billion in revenue from overseas tourists last year (*source: Visit Britain*).



## Promoting Scotland abroad

A Celtic armlet from Banffshire was one of the objects we lent to the exhibition *Art of the Celts* in Berne, Switzerland, helping to promote Scotland abroad. The exhibition of Celtic art across 14 centuries received 71,000 visitors.



Our programmes also play an important role in educating young people, both online and through school visits. We hosted 51,000 school activities at our sites in the last year with many other projects reaching pupils not able to visit our museums themselves. We are working at a strategic level with Learning & Teaching Scotland to help develop the GLOW digital network for schools which is taking programmes created around our collections into the heart of the classroom. We are the first national collection to have a presence on this pioneering website.

The unique appeal of our museums and the inspiration of our collections generates commitment from a wide community of supporters. Over 180 volunteers give their time regularly, supporting a wide range of activities from helping conserve objects to giving informative guided tours. As well as the significant private fundraising support to the Royal Museum Project, through which we are transforming the National Museum of Scotland, we have earned a further £1.8 million in income from commercial and fundraising activity which supports frontline services for our visitors. Beyond the relaunch of the National Museum in 2011, we have plans to do even more in this area.

### 1. Good for business

Our stunning public spaces were hired by businesses across Scotland for a range of corporate hospitality events.

### 2. Award-winning

The online learning resource for *The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked* was nominated for the Herald Digital Business Awards 2010.

### 3. On tour

Guide Sandy MacPherson, one of our volunteers who entertain visitors with lively tours of the National Museum.



## Animal magic

### **Pictured:**

An artist's impression of the new Wildlife Panorama which will feature an array of the world's most spectacular and rare animals.

### **Did you know?**

- A giant squid can grow up to 30 metres long.
- The tiny vervain hummingbird lays the smallest eggs.
- The electric eel can stun a horse.





# Creating a 21st-century museum

Our £46 million transformation of the National Museum of Scotland is on track to open in the summer of 2011. Through the Royal Museum Project, we are creating a new, must-see museum for visitors from the UK and beyond; one of the largest in the UK and a treasure house for the nation.

The project is part of a significant development programme across National Museums Scotland with investment in improving museum spaces, broadening audiences and enhancing care of collections. It is the centrepiece of a £70 million masterplan for the National Museum of Scotland and its unveiling will mark completion of 85% of the overall plan.

The new museum will be the cultural heart of Edinburgh and an international powerhouse – a place that inspires creativity, offers dynamic experiences and is accessible to all.

## On track for success

£45m

### Funding in place

Almost £45 million of funding is in place and we are in the final stages of our fundraising.

85%

### Delivering our masterplan

85% of our 15-year masterplan for the National Museum will be delivered by 2011.

50%

### Bigger venue

The transformation of the site will create 50% more public space.

# The countdown begins...

The excitement is growing as we enter the final phase of the project to create a new National Museum. Millions of visitors will be inspired to experience the whole world under one roof.

The new museum is taking shape as major building works are now nearing completion. We have achieved the biggest single programme of redevelopment on the Royal Museum building since it opened in 1866, delivering 50% more public space and reinstating stunning Victorian architecture.

Many staff are busy preparing thousands of new objects for display when the museum reopens. Over 80% of these will be shown in the museum for the first time in generations, including new acquisitions, loans and commissions.

Plans are well advanced for a series of innovative and exciting exhibitions. Visitors to the new museum will experience the world under one roof through a broad range of treasures revealing the wonders of nature, the diversity of world cultures and the excitement of science and discovery. The most eye-catching feature to greet visitors will be the Window on the World, an object wall spanning four floors in the much-loved Grand Gallery and featuring an awe-inspiring display of almost 1,000 treasures from the collection.

As a world-class architectural venue and a breathtaking space for public events, the transformed museum will be a new cultural focal point for Edinburgh and Scotland, while also offering future significant income generation.



## World of wonder

An aluminium chair, designed by Konstantin Grcic, Germany. An example of our ongoing collecting in contemporary design, the chair is the most modern item to feature among the hundreds of items on our Window on the World display.



We are now working with partners in Edinburgh and beyond to realise the potential of this major destination.

All of this is being realised with significant support. Grants of £17.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £16 million from the Scottish Government have encouraged other vital contributions from private donors, companies, trusts and foundations at home and abroad.

Our most significant donation this year was £1 million from Scottish businessman Dr Walter Scott who was inspired by collections reflecting Scots' scientific achievements, including those of Nobel Laureates Sir James Black and Sir Alexander Fleming. With the public phase of our fundraising launched this summer, support from many individuals is helping close the gap in our fundraising target. Our grateful thanks go to everyone who is helping realise this exciting project.

The project is the centrepiece of a 15-year masterplan to redevelop the whole National Museum complex. We are now actively planning the final stages of the masterplan which focuses on developing a further 11 vibrant and engaging galleries by 2020.

Our vision is to create one of the great national museums of the world. It will be a museum for the 21st-century and one of which Scotland can be justly proud.

### 1. Write support

Crime novelist Ian Rankin is a key supporter of the redevelopment project.

### 2. Precious artefacts

A precious gold box gifted to Brodie Cruikshank (1814–1854), to commemorate a military mission, will feature in the Discoveries gallery.

### 3. Ongoing work

A section of the Window on the World display being prepared, part of the transformation of the Grand Gallery.





## International links

**Pictured:**

Tibetan monks from the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery perform sacred music and dance, part of our international programme.

**Did you know?**

- We welcome around 400,000 visitors from abroad each year.
- Thousands of international items will be on show in the redeveloped National Museum.
- The death mask of Dolly the Sheep was among items we lent abroad in 2009.



# On a world stage

Just as the influence of Scots historically has extended around the world, our collections, acquired for Scotland by scientists, archaeologists, explorers, collectors, traders and missionaries, represent those connections.

Our International Framework focuses on countries where we have strong collection links combined with opportunities for enhanced profile or increased knowledge. By working overseas we are extending Scotland's international profile and developing knowledge of our collections far beyond our museums.

Partnerships abroad have gone from strength to strength with success in India, China, North America and Australasia. New exhibition team links with North America, Russia and Europe will bring exciting touring exhibitions to the National Museum.

At home, Scottish audiences benefit from the connections we make around the world with greater insight and opportunities to see new material. We welcome around 400,000 international visitors each year representing at least 50 nationalities.

## Far-reaching ambition

33%

### Internationally attractive

33% of museum visits are from international tourists.

25%

### Worldwide web

Over 25% of our website visitors are based overseas.

120

### A global lender

Almost 120 loans were arranged outside Scotland.

# Global connections

Collaborations with partners internationally allows us to share knowledge, learn from others and promote Scotland abroad.



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### Voyage of discovery

A figure carving of hard red wood painted black, possibly collected on Captain Cook's third voyage in 1778, was one of four objects we lent to a major international exhibition on Captain James Cook.

International strategic partnerships with worldwide institutions helped us to share objects and expertise with our peers. We enjoy a close and rewarding relationship with The Indian Museum in Kolkata. Personnel exchanges between the two institutions have done much to cement the partnership and promote research work. From September 2010, several items went on display in Edinburgh demonstrating the historic links between Scotland and India. Looking ahead, we are collaborating on a project to celebrate the bicentenary of the Indian Museum in 2014.

A recent visit to the National Museum of Chichiri in Malawi is leading to an exchange visit to Scotland from Malawi and a more formal partnership. Similarly, during the year we have strengthened links with North America, Australia, New Zealand and China through a range of projects.

Offering objects on loan from our collections for exhibition overseas connects directly with audiences who might never visit our museums. Examples of loans in the last year include a major exhibition *The Art of the Celts (Kunst der Kelten)*, hosted by the Historisches Museum in Berne, Switzerland. Presenting masterpieces of Celtic art across 14 centuries, the exhibition attracted more than 70,000 visitors. We also contributed pieces to an exhibition bringing together the world's greatest objects connected to Captain James Cook. The exhibition, *James Cook and the Exploration of the Pacific* toured Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

We led a ground-breaking partnership initiative as part of STICK (Scottish Transport & Industry Collection and Knowledge Network) called *Old Tools, New Uses*. This encourages museums across Scotland to offer surplus domestic technology objects from their collections to artisan communities in Africa. Objects such as typewriters, tools and sewing machines are finding a new practical use in some of the world's poorest regions through the charity Tools for Self Reliance.

### 1. Iconic loans

We lent an iconic mummy portrait known as 'Jewellery Girl' to an exhibition in Rome.

### 2. Offering support

Minister for Culture Fiona Hyslop launched a partnership initiative supporting communities in rural Africa.

### 3. Indian partnerships

Curator Friederike Voigt with colleagues from the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Teams working on the transformation of the National Museum have also been drawing on links across continents to acquire objects for the new museum including contemporary sculpture, photography and ceramics. We worked with our network of wildlife contacts internationally to source items for our new Natural World galleries. As part of this, our curators and taxidermists brought back 130 specimens from Australian zoos and museums, including unusual animals such as a Numbat (striped marsupial anteater), a blue-tongued skink and a rabbit-eared bandicoot.



## Iconic chessmen

**Pictured:**

Over 68,000 people visited *The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked* in Edinburgh, double the expected number.

**Did you know?**

- The chessmen were probably carved by five different craftsmen.
- They may have been used for other games like hnefetafl.
- They came from at least four chess sets.



# Beyond our walls

Collaboration and partnerships allow us to make our collections available to wider audiences than ever before. Our work involving the iconic Lewis Chessmen is an excellent example of a UK-wide partnership drawing on new research led by National Museums Scotland to engage the public.

Bringing together chessmen from National Museums Scotland and the British Museum, *The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked* is the most comprehensive exhibition on the chessmen for over a decade. Almost 70,000 people were enthralled by the display on these enduringly popular 12th-century objects and a supporting programme of events when it opened at the National Museum of Scotland.

Now on tour thanks to funding from the Scottish Government, the exhibition will visit Aberdeen Art Gallery, Shetland Museum & Archives and the Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway during 2010 and 2011. An interactive website and a new fast-selling book extend the story of the chessmen to wider audiences.

It is a story of collaborative success and opening up our collections to people across the country.

## Reaching out

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2.68m

### Online success

2.68 million pages on our website were viewed in 2009–10 and we had 700,000 website visits.

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1,700

### Wide benefits

Over 1,700 objects were out on loan to other Scottish venues in 2009–10.

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173

### Specialist training

173 local museum staff have taken part in our specialist training programme, more than in the previous three years combined.

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# Extending our reach

Objects hold interest and meaning beyond our walls. They can resonate far and wide. Through loans and our website, they can be taken out into the hearts of our communities to delight and inspire an ever increasing number of people.

We are committed to building partnerships nationwide – from lending important objects to helping other museums to expand their own collections. Our ongoing programme with four strategic partners shows real evidence of what national and local museums can achieve by working together.

During the year, we lent the Gunnister Man collection of 25 artefacts discovered in Shetland in 1951 to the Shetland Museum & Archives in Lerwick. Over 12,000 people visited the museum during this exhibition, a 23% increase.

More than 30 objects were lent to East Ayrshire Museums for their successful *Innovators* exhibition during Homecoming 2009 highlighting the impact of new thinkers who were born, lived or worked in Ayrshire. This year, we are supporting *The Journey Beyond*, with significant material from our Egyptian collection. Over 93,000 people have visited these two exhibitions.

In Glasgow, we are working with the National Piping Centre, home to a significant loan of historic bagpipes from our collection. A joint event will bring organisations in the UK with bagpipe collections together leading to an international bagpipe conference planned for 2011.



## Elaborate ewer

This St Porchaire ewer, known to have belonged to Horace Walpole, was lent to a prestigious exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The ewer is one of the very few surviving and highly valued examples of this elaborate 16th-century style of French pottery.





As well as the *Lewis Chessmen* exhibition, we have supported local museum staff in the Western Isles with training, we provided loans to the associated independent museum Taigh Chearsabhagh, and we are advising on a new Heritage Lottery Fund redevelopment project at Lews Castle creating a new museum and hotel.

We administer the National Fund for Acquisitions, a Scottish Government supported initiative which enables regional museums, galleries, archives and libraries to add value and interest to their collections through new acquisitions. In 2009/10, 83 grants were made to 32 organisations, enabling the purchase of objects worth £803,000. This included the Burrell Collection's acquisition of a 17th-century silk and silver thread embroidered panel depicting the head of Holofernes.

Creativity in partnerships has inspired both new audiences and new insight. An award-winning three-year research partnership with The Glenmorangie Company is helping enrich understanding of Early Historic Scotland, AD 300–900. A new research post has been established, an audiovisual display created in the Early People gallery, and a major new book will be published in 2011. Part of this research involves commissioning artists to make pieces inspired by Early Historic artefacts. The first, a Pictish throne, went on public display in venues such as Edinburgh's Festival Theatre and the Scottish Parliament.

### 1. Egyptian loan

The 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy of Iufenamun was conserved before its loan to the Dick Institute, East Ayrshire.

### 2. BBC partnership

Dolly the Sheep was one of six of our objects chosen for the website of the BBC's History of the World project, partnering with museums across the UK.

### 3. Creative insight

We recreated a pair of Early Historic book satchels as part of the Glenmorangie Research Partnership.



## A world of nature

**Pictured:**

Children explore our *Garden Detectives* exhibition at the National Museum of Rural Life. The exhibition was sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage.

**Did you know?**

- The exhibition marked 200 years since Charles Darwin was born.
- Darwin observed worms' reaction to sounds such as the French horn.
- The robin topped our poll of favourite garden creatures.



# Inspiring audiences

We create real connections with our visitors in everything we do. From great days out and major exhibitions to family events and hands-on activities, we offer people inspiration, excitement and enrichment through their experiences at our museums.

We provide incredible opportunities for public engagement through our vibrant collections, unique sites and diverse knowledge and expertise. We design our activities to have wide appeal and to enthuse our audiences, stimulating creativity far beyond our walls.

From *Meet Your Maker* to *Salt of the Earth*, our recent exhibitions inspired artists in design, photography and sculpture. We encouraged audiences to further their own creativity through hands-on activities, interactive learning opportunities and our online presence. Our approach led to a significant increase in visitor numbers, up by over 10% from last year, and 2.68 million web page views.

## Increased appeal

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1.26m

### More attractive

We achieved 1.26 million visits across our five museums.

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20%

### More families

We experienced a 20% increase in family visits across our five museums.

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£4m

### More coverage

The equivalent of £4 million in media coverage was generated promoting our sites and collections.

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# Creativity and discovery

A new five-year public engagement strategy set the scene for our events and exhibitions programme. It focuses on fostering excitement, enjoyment, discovery, learning and participation.

Over 1.26 million visitors were inspired by a packed programme at our five national museums in 2009–10. Our exhibitions reached new and appreciative audiences with a diverse range of subjects; from the grit and determination of Scotland's *Land Girls and Lumber Jills* at the National War Museum to the wonders of the natural world on our doorstep in *Garden Detectives* at both the National Museum of Scotland and the National Museum of Rural Life.

As part of the wider Homecoming 2009 celebrations, *Salt of the Earth* at the National Museum of Scotland allowed photographer Craig Mackay to highlight key personalities who have made a unique contribution to the image of Scotland. War artist Robert Wilson's starkly dramatic photographs showed the reality of modern warfare for soldiers in Afghanistan at the National War Museum. New Zealand artist John Edgar was inspired by 19th-century emigration to create five large stone sculptures for the exhibition *Ballast*. Nine of Scotland's best craftspeople showcased their skill in *Meet Your Maker*.

High profile loans and discoveries led to further significant displays. The late Sir James Black's loan of his Nobel Prize Medal and gift of over 100 other items led to a showcase of his illustrious career. Sir Jackie Stewart loaned his 1971 World Championship winning Tyrrell 003 Formula One car



## Women at war

A colourful Women's Land Army poster captured the spirit of *Land Girls and Lumber Jills*, an exhibition at the National War Museum on women who worked the land during the World Wars. It will move to the National Museum of Costume next year.

for the centrepiece of a display marking the 40th anniversary of his first World Drivers' Championship in 1969. We also collaborated with the Crown Office and the Treasure Trove Unit to display an important archaeological find, four Iron Age gold torcs found in September 2009 in Stirlingshire, following huge public interest.

We held 30 large-scale events across all our museums, welcoming over 90,000 visitors. Our participation in the Edinburgh International Science Festival this year attracted 22,500 people, and our largest special event, the Airshow, brought another 10,000 to the National Museum of Flight.

Events at the National Museum of Rural Life were also popular, with over 8,500 visitors taking part in activities. Visitors to the National Museum of Costume's *Marriage in the Movies* exhibition doubled when one of the outfits on show was requested for a new movie directed by superstar Madonna.

Our emphasis on engagement is also reflected in our new permanent displays. At the National Museum of Flight, *The Jet Age*, an exhibition set inside the giant front fuselage of a Boeing 707, and an evocative restoration of the Parachute Store were the culmination of a two-year, £2.5 million investment in the site to enhance its public appeal. Visitor numbers were 24% higher following our investment and we secured a Visit Scotland five-star rating.

### 1. Faces of conflict

Robert Wilson's striking image from *Helmand: Faces of Conflict*, shown at the National War Museum.

### 2. Flying high

Fearless wingwalkers Team Guinot were part of the air display at the National Museum of Flight Airshow.

### 3. Material girl

Margaret Roberts, General Manager of the National Museum of Costume, with a dress lent to Madonna for her latest film.





## Shining lights

### **Pictured:**

Conservation teams preparing for *Shining Lights* which opened at the National Museum of Scotland in October 2010. The exhibition was sponsored by Pagan Osborne.

### **Did you know?**

- The first Scottish lighthouse was built in 1636 on the Isle of May.
- All Scottish lighthouses are now controlled from one room in Edinburgh.
- The Bell Rock near Arbroath is the world's oldest surviving rock lighthouse.



# Preserving treasures

The objects in our care are Scotland's national legacy. As custodians, our responsibility is to ensure that our collections are conserved, understood, appreciated and made available to future generations.

We look after, store and conserve objects at our National Museums Collection Centre in North Edinburgh. It is a growing collection enriched with significant new objects which further illuminate Scotland's heritage and our place in the world.

It has been a year of intense activity for our conservators and collections management teams preparing thousands of new objects for display in the expanded galleries of the National Museum. In tandem, further expansion of the Collection Centre continues apace with objects from the former National Museum of Antiquities moved to allow development of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. An extended storage building, due to open in 2011, will hold this material. We are also moving forward with a masterplan to develop the site as the main hub for stored national collections.

## Background knowledge

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1,000m<sup>2</sup>

### New storage

A 1,000m<sup>2</sup> extension to a building at our Collection Centre site will house over 300,000 objects and specimens.

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110

### Research papers

110 research papers were produced by our staff in 2009–10.

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12

### Knowledge shared

We published 12 books in 2009–10.

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# Research and knowledge

Our academic research status has achieved new recognition and an ambitious programme of research and acquisitions helps enhance access to our collections and knowledge.







### **A life at sea**

This decoration, awarded to Lord Cochrane by the Emperor of Brazil in 1823, will feature in an exhibition in 2011. Visitors will be able to explore Cochrane's life and times through an extraordinary collection of awards, personal possessions, private papers and dramatic paintings never seen together before.

### **1. Prickly problem**

Analytical scientist Lore Troelen analysed raw dyed porcupine quills collected in 1862.

### **2. Life on earth**

David Attenborough was filmed with our fossil collections for a new series on the first life on earth.

### **3. Inspired by nature**

Textile Conservator Miriam McLeod conserved a late-19th-century textile painting from India for our new Inspired by Nature gallery.

Academic research often deepens our understanding of objects within the collections. Sharing our knowledge and expertise with other bodies throws new light on the past. Our research programme follows four major themes: Collectors and Collecting, the Creation and Use of Material Culture, Identities and Cultural Contact, and Understanding the Natural World.

The quality of research work carried out by National Museums Scotland has been recognised with an award which puts us on a par with UK universities and allows us to seek grants for research in our own right. We have been awarded Independent Research Organisation status by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). We are the only museum in Scotland to hold this status.

We are delighted with our first award; a grant from NERC to use our collections to analyse the development of flight in birds. We have also created a research fellowship with an endowment from the Pelham-Clinton Trust, a fund bequeathed by the last Duke of Newcastle who was a curator at the museum, to carry out research in entomology.

Research also contributes to exhibition development. Preparations are underway for an exhibition on the life of Admiral Lord Cochrane, one of the Royal Navy's most brilliant and controversial characters in the age of Nelson. Working with the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the National Maritime Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Archives of Scotland, as well as with private individuals, we will bring together a wide range of objects which have never been seen together before for an exhibition in autumn 2011.

We have developed a Research Repository, a web-based database containing research and academic papers by museum staff. It holds 150 papers at present, and aims to make accessible as many academic publications produced in recent years as possible. Such repositories are well established in the university sector, but ours is one of the first in the UK within a museum.

# 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 nearing completion and support in the final stages is more important than ever. 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 for the National Museum so your continued support is more important than ever. 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).

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:

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and many more anonymous donors.

# Support us

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, volunteer, 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...



## 1. Contemporary craft

Work by Fran Priest shown in the *Meet Your Maker* exhibition.

## 2. Conservation work

A conservator working on a Chinese painting for display in the *Ivy Wu* gallery.

## 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 and 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, in Braille and on CD.

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### Cover image

We created *The Lewis Chessmen: Unmasked* exhibition extending the reach of these popular objects in partnership with The British Museum.