

Booking information

No RSVP is required to attend this open evening.
Please bring your membership card on the evening for admittance.

GUESTS

You may bring a friend or family member with you if your card displays Admits 2. To upgrade, contact the Membership Office.

EXHIBITIONS

In the event that the special exhibition reaches maximum capacity on the evening, entry will operate on a one in one out basis. A limited number of free audio guides will be available on the night for the exhibition. You will be asked to swipe your membership card at the Fast Track point at the exhibition entrance.

To enable you to enjoy more of the Open Evening programme and avoid the crowded exhibition spaces, come back and visit the exhibitions any time during normal opening hours with Members' Fast Track entry. There is no need to book tickets – just swipe your membership card at the exhibition entrance to gain entry.

LECTURES, DEMONSTRATIONS & PERFORMANCES

No booking required, please go directly to the venue after 18.15. Once a venue has reached maximum capacity you may be refused admittance. Only bottled water may be taken into the lecture theatres.

GALLERY TALKS

Advance booking required. To book, call + 44 (0)20 7323 8195 before 17.00 on Friday 10 December. Members may only pre-book a maximum of two talks; places are issued on a first come, first served basis. Please arrive at the Gallery talk desk 15 minutes before the start of the talk; any unclaimed places will be made available to other Members.

Large print copies of this programme will be available on the evening

Enjoy

BAR AREA & THE COURT RESTAURANT

Come to the East Court Café for drinks and a selection of snacks. Relax and enjoy a glass of wine as you listen to music underneath the celebrated roof. Alternatively, enjoy a delicious set menu in the Court Restaurant, open from 17.30 for Member reservations only. The Court Restaurant will close at 21.15.

Fine dining set menu*

2 courses £25.00

3 courses £28.50

Reservations

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8990

eat@britishmuseum.org

**Please note this set menu includes the Members' discount.
Prices in the restaurant are subject to 12.5% service charge.*

EVENING SHOPPING

All the Museum's shops are open on the night with exclusive offers to help you choose the perfect Christmas gifts.

Meet the author and book signing

19.45, Book Shop

Meet Roger Bland and Sam Moorhead, authors of *The Frome Hoard*, the first book to tell the story of one of the largest Roman coin hoards ever found in Britain.

50p from the sale of every book will go to the Frome Hoard appeal fund.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM FRIENDS

Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8195

Facsimile +44 (0)20 7323 8985

friends@britishmuseum.org

www.britishmuseum.org

Registered Charity Number 1086080

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THE BRITISH MUSEUM FRIENDS

Members' Open Evening

Monday 13 December 2010

18.15–21.00

Enjoy the Museum after hours with other Members. View the current exhibitions, find out more about the magnificent permanent collection or experience a range of free lectures, demonstrations and gallery talks by staff from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. You can also find food and drink at the café and restaurant, or browse in the shops.

Please bring your membership card for entry.

Introduction & exhibitions

The Department of Portable Antiquities and Treasure co-ordinates the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), a voluntary initiative to record archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. The department is also responsible for administering the Treasure Act 1996 on behalf of the Government. This evening staff from the department will be showing some of the detailed work that goes into recording Treasure in the UK.

EXHIBITIONS

Journey through the afterlife: ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead Reading Room

Follow the ancient Egyptians' journey from death to the afterlife in this once-in-a-lifetime exhibition focusing on the Book of the Dead, a compilation of spells designed to guide the deceased through the dangers of the underworld. See these beautifully illustrated spells alongside jewellery, statues, coffins and mummies, some over 3,500 years old. A full family activity and events programme, including two special family days, accompanies the exhibition. Journey with the Book of the Dead to discover the important mythical and spiritual ideas of ancient Egyptian life and death.

Supported by BP

Agents of the Buddha: 17th-century Japanese sculptures of Fugen and Monju Room 3

Immerse yourself in this display of two lively Buddhist sculptures, accompanied by the atmospheric sound of chanting monks and the sweet scent of incense.

The Asahi Shimbun Displays

Recent publications from the British Museum Press Room 2

The British Museum Press publishes award-winning books for general readers, academics and children. This display features three of the Press's recent publications alongside the objects they explore, including south Indian paintings.

Lecture, performance & demonstrations

No booking required. Venues open at 18.15.

Admittance may be refused once capacity is reached.

LECTURE

Meet the Frome hoard of 52,503 coins: the largest pot of Roman coins found in Britain 18.30, BP Lecture Theatre

Roger Bland and Sam Moorhead from the Portable Antiquities Scheme discuss the recent discovery. When Dave Crisp found the hoard in April this year he called in the Portable Antiquities Scheme to excavate the coins. As a result it is one of the best-documented hoards ever found in Britain. Amongst the coins are many pieces of Britain's 'forgotten emperor', Carausius (r. AD 286–293), making the hoard a vital source of information for a tumultuous period of Romano-British history.

PERFORMANCE

The First Shepherds' Play & the Offering of the 3 Kings 19.30 & 20.30, BP Lecture Theatre

The Hidden Theatre Company presents two medieval plays for Christmas. The First Shepherds' Play from the Townley Cycle and the Offering of the 3 Kings from the Chester Cycle tell the stories of the gifts of Christmas. Performances last 45 minutes.

DEMONSTRATIONS

Highlights from recently discovered treasure 18.30–20.45, Room 1

Caroline Barton, Caroline Lyons, Hilary Orange, Janina Parol & Ian Richardson, Portable Antiquities Scheme

What's been found in your back yard?

18.30–20.45, West Clore Foyer

Dan Pett, Portable Antiquities Scheme

Is that Treasure?

18.30–20.45, Great Court

Discover how British Museum scientists analyse gold and silver artefacts to see if they are Treasure. Have your own jewellery analysed by Duncan Hook and Sue La Niece, Conservation and Scientific Research.

X-ray fluorescence spectrometer provided for this demonstration by Bruker AXS

Gallery talks

Advanced booking required. See reverse for details.

Talks are repeated and depart at 18.45 & 20.00

GALLERY TALKS

Recent treasures discovered in Britain

Caroline Barton, Caroline Lyons, Hilary Orange, Janina Parol & Ian Richardson, Portable Antiquities and Treasure

The Sutton Hoo Treasure: a reintroduction

Sue Brunning, Prehistory and Europe

The Royal Cemetery at Ur

Sarah Collins, Middle East

South Indian paintings in the British Museum

Anna Dallapiccola, Professor of Indian Art, De Montfort University, Leicester

Agents of the Buddha:

17th-century Japanese sculptures of Fugen and Monju

Tim Clark, Asia