

The British
Museum

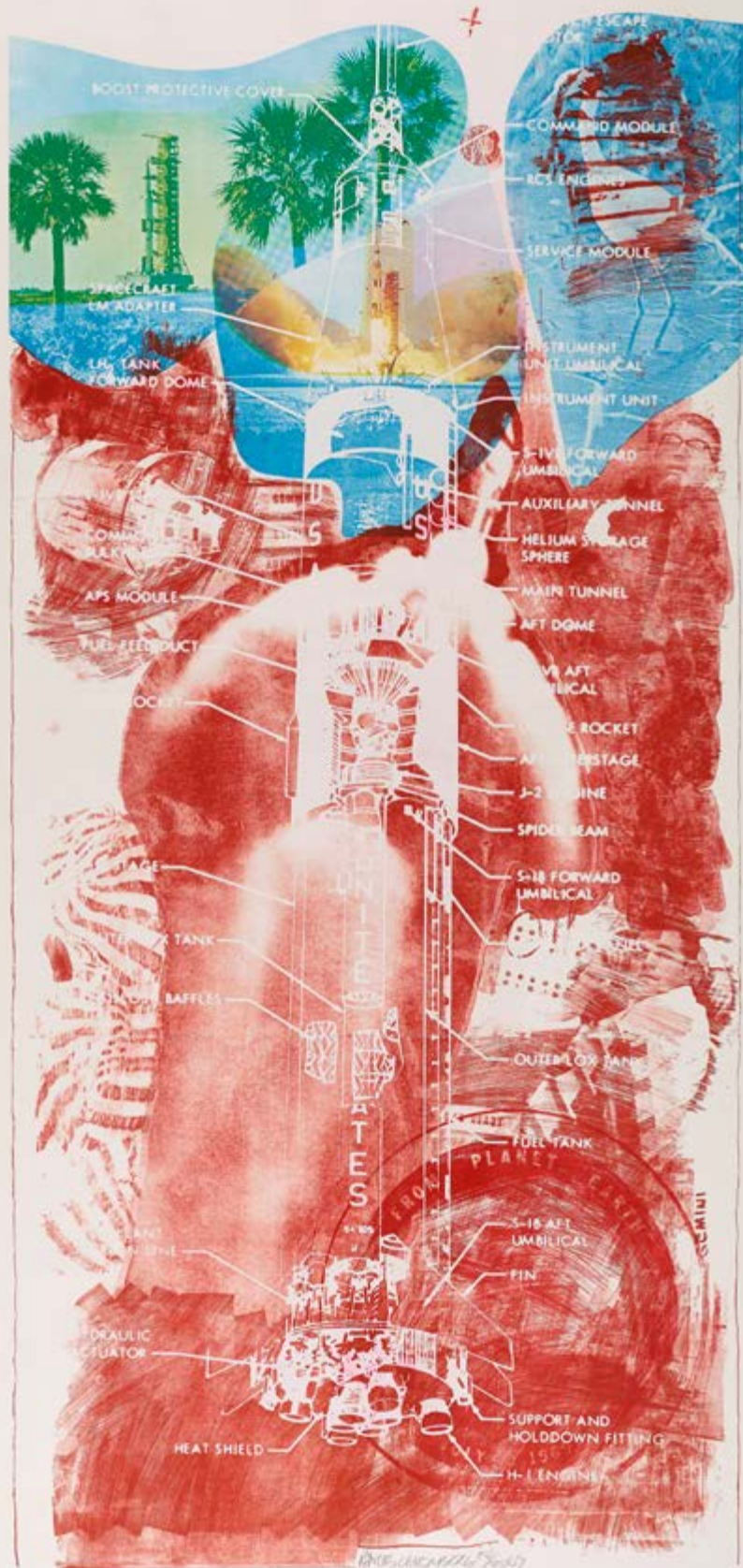
Review

2016
17

**Makapansgat Pebble
of Many Faces**

The exhibition *South Africa:
art of a nation* set out a vast
history of art in the region.
Three million years ago this
pebble, notable for its face-
like appearance, was preserved
by an australopithecine
ancestor of modern humans.
(Width 7 cm)





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Sky Garden, 1969

Over 200 works by 70 artists were shown in *The American Dream: pop to the present*. The exhibition included this colour lithograph and screenprint from the series *Stoned Moon* by Robert Rauschenberg. (214 x 97 cm)



When visitors walk into the British Museum (BM), they can see some of the great works of civilisation – the majestic head of Ramses II, the energetic pose of the Discobolus. These outstanding artefacts have always attracted the public and continue to do so in great numbers. In 2016, 6.4 million people visited the BM in London, making it, for the 10th year running, the country's top visitor attraction.

Museums are a vital representation of history. Visitors can study the long story of mankind, learning as they walk through the galleries about different lands and cultures – both their unique features and how they interacted over time. It is a history that the BM continues to develop for future audiences. A stunning new acquisition in 2016/17 was a rare English Madonna and Child that survived the Protestant iconoclasm of the 16th century. The story of worship in pre-Reformation England can be hard to tell, and expressive artefacts such as this medieval alabaster statue make an extraordinary contribution in this respect.

Across the UK, 9 million people were able to look at BM artefacts outside London – on long-term loan to museums, or as elements in touring exhibitions and displays. This figure represents a serious commitment on the part of the BM to show the collection around the country. We work with regional partners of all sizes to discuss what they would like to borrow and how to make such a display effective for local visitors. Many of these relationships are longstanding: a collection of Victorian watercolours that the BM shared with Worcester's city museum in the 1890s has been reunited with loans from the BM for a special exhibition in 2017.

**Madonna and Child,
14th century**

This alabaster sculpture was transported abroad and survived the iconoclasm of the English Reformation. Its acquisition by the BM in 2016 was widely reported in the media. (Height 75 cm)

Internationally the collection toured widely, from Spain to Singapore. Archaeologists undertook fieldwork in Puerto Rico and the Nile Delta among other places. Research, often in collaboration with other institutions, included the late paintings of Hokusai, artefacts of the ancient nomadic Scythians and tar samples from Sutton Hoo, which scientists discovered were in fact bitumen acquired through Anglo-Saxon trade networks in the Middle East.

No less important is the assistance the BM gives to colleagues worldwide. Staff intervened to help return a Safavid bowl stolen from Afghanistan. They argued for the urgent preservation of cultural heritage at risk in Yemen. To counter the threat to monuments in Iraq, the new Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme has made it possible for the BM to begin to train Iraqi colleagues in retrieval techniques and rescue archaeology. Two groups arrived in London in 2016/17 and later undertook supervised fieldwork in southern Iraq and Kurdistan. The BM also continued its highly successful International Training Programme. Colleagues from 13 countries, from China to Yemen, attended the annual summer school in London and around the UK.

The year has been the first under the new Director, Hartwig Fischer. Under his leadership the Museum has continued its outstanding success. The BM likewise thrives because of the commitment of its supporters, staff and volunteers. We would like to thank all of them for their dedication and hard work.

Sir Richard Lambert
Chairman of the Trustees

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London

First for visitors

The BM attracted 6.4 million visitors in 2016. For ten years the BM has been the UK's most popular visitor attraction.

South Africa to North America

The year's major exhibitions explored the world's cultures – the history of Sicily; discovering ancient Egypt underwater; and centuries of art in South Africa and North America.

Learning for all

Over 270,000 pupils from the UK and overseas booked school visits to the BM. An Open Day welcomed participants into the Conservation Studios, one of many behind-the-scenes tours and public events.

Korean harvest moon festival

A three-day festival of Korean culture at the BM included a study day, a Friday late of music, art and food, and family events such as kite-making.

Topical debate

The long history represented by the BM collection was a starting point for popular lectures and discussions on the UK's relationship with Europe, American politics and the migration crisis.

Sutton Hoo and Syria

A waterproofing residue from the medieval ship burial proved to be bitumen from the Middle East. The research findings, widely reported in the media, suggested the extent of Anglo-Saxon trade networks.

Jericho Skull

Micro CT-scans revealed what lies beneath a 9,500-year-old plastered skull. The man's head was reconstructed for a special display at the BM.

Before the Reformation

An alabaster Madonna sculpted in the Midlands around 1350 was one of the year's outstanding new acquisitions.



Human figure, 1850–99
Sculptures such as this 19th-century wood-carving, probably made by a Tsonga artist, featured in the exhibition *South Africa: art of a nation*. (63 x 22 cm)

National



The BM's programme of Spotlight loans takes outstanding objects from the collection around the country. This Greek figure of a hunter of 575–540 BC, found in Egypt, was shown in Cirencester, Nottingham and South Shields. (Height 49 cm)

Collection on show

In the UK, 9 million people saw BM objects outside London in 2016/17. The BM loaned 3,000 objects to 156 venues.

Reaching local visitors

In a survey, 89 per cent of our national partners found working with the BM important in strengthening their profile with local stakeholders.

National training

Programmes offered training to young people at the BM and partner museums around the country in collections management and public engagement.

Knowledge networks

The BM drew together participants from around the UK to study money and medals, and work with Egyptian papyri.

Lewis chessmen in the Outer Hebrides

A long-term loan of six of the celebrated Lewis chess pieces was made to the Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway. The museum was officially opened in March 2017.

Touring exhibitions

Drawings by Michelangelo and others were shown in Poole and in Hull to mark its year as UK City of Culture. The exhibition attracted more than 60,000 visitors before moving on to Belfast.

Recording finds made by the public

The Portable Antiquities Scheme recorded 82,000 finds made by the public. They included a Roman enamelled pan found in Yorkshire which was inscribed 'use in happiness' and a handaxe discovered in Essex which may date to 800,000 BC.

Online video

The BM published 54 videos on its YouTube channel. One series featured the week by week conservation of a Roman glass urn.

Broadcasting live

BM broadcasts on Facebook Live included historian Simon Schama, whose analysis of the American dream reached 364,000 viewers. A curator's tour of the Sutton Hoo treasures was watched by 870,000 people.



A 15th-century drinking horn made in Denmark was among the 2,200 objects the BM loaned internationally in 2016/17. (Height 17 cm)

International

China

The exhibition *Italian Renaissance drawings from the British Museum* attracted over 213,000 people to the Suzhou Museum in eastern China.

Touring the world

Touring exhibitions proved popular from the USA to Spain. In Australia 330,000 people saw BM loans that included a Danish drinking horn, and prints by Dürer and Goya.

The impact of India

The BM is co-curating an exhibition on India and its contacts with the world. It will be seen in Mumbai and New Delhi as part of celebrations in 2017 marking the 70th anniversary of India's independence.

Research collaboration

International ties included research on Vikings with experts in Sweden, on Siberian objects in Russia, and on the voyages of Captain Cook with colleagues in New Zealand.

Heritage preservation in Iraq

The first two groups from Iraq began training under the BM's Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme. Participants are given skills to face the challenges of preserving severely disrupted heritage sites.

Stolen bowl returned to Afghanistan

A rare Safavid bowl stolen from the National Museum in Kabul was put up for auction in London. With help from BM staff, it was identified and returned to Afghanistan.

Archaeological discoveries

Fieldwork in Sudan included the excavation of a 1st-century AD temple. Finds included jewellery and a large statue fragment inscribed with the name of the Kushite king Aspelta.

True north

Research projects include a collaboration in Alaska looking for evidence of the prehistoric Birnirk people.

In the Future

Future exhibitions

The Japanese art of Hokusai is the focus of a major exhibition at the BM in 2017/18. Another looks at the Scythians, one of the great nomadic civilisations of antiquity.

New gallery for China and South Asia

The Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia will open in November 2017.

On radio

A new 30-part BM/BBC Radio 4 series with Neil MacGregor will explore faith and society. An exhibition at the BM will be linked to the 15-minute programmes.

Publications

BM publications in 2017/18 will include a history of excavations that have taken place on the site of the present British Museum. New books will also examine Buddhist sites in Afghanistan, Celtic Iron Age cauldrons and a Romano-British temple discovered in Ashwell, Hertfordshire in 2002.

Curating with the community

The New Walk Museum and Art Gallery in Leicester will present a display co-curated by refugee artists and local art students. The Object Journeys collaboration with the BM draws on the Asian, African, Americas and Oceania collections.

Vikings in the UK

A major touring exhibition on Vikings is being developed in collaboration with York Museums Trust. Beginning in York, the UK tour will feature over 350 objects, including the recently discovered Vale of York Hoard.

Tours in China

The BM exhibition *A history of the world in 100 objects* will reach Shanghai in 2017 as part of its tour of China. Shown recently in Beijing, it has so far been seen by more than one million people worldwide.

Fieldwork

BM archaeologists will undertake fieldwork around the world – from the Isla de Mona in the Caribbean to Egypt and Sudan.



This Han dynasty model of a watch-tower was made in northern China in AD 25–220. It can be seen in the new Sir Joseph Hotung Gallery of China and South Asia, which opens in November 2017. (Height 86 cm)

Arabic typewriter, 1920s

The BM has set up a Modern Egypt Project to collect objects that represent the country's recent history. Made in New York for the Egyptian market, this typewriter is one of the earliest ever made using Arabic script. (Height 23 cm)

**Collection**

Embracing people, ideas, nations and beliefs, the BM collection permits the many stories of humankind to be told. It is constantly evolving, with new acquisitions and changing displays.

A rare English Madonna

‘Medieval Madonna takes pride of place at British Museum’ announced the *Observer*. The luminous alabaster statue, sculpted in the Midlands around 1350, survived the Reformation with large portions of its original decoration intact: red and green paint, gilding, the Virgin's crown. Removed from England and kept in a monastery at Saint-Truiden, Belgium, the sculpture was sold successively to a series of private collectors.

The BM purchased this rare work in 2016, with generous contributions from the Art Fund, National Heritage Memorial Fund and private donations. The Madonna and Child is now on public display in the Sir Paul and Lady Jill Ruddock Gallery of Medieval Europe, an outstanding example of pre-Reformation English sculpture.

Figure, 1948

This depiction of his muse and lover Françoise Gilot was one of 16 post-war lithographs and 3 aquatints by Pablo Picasso acquired by the BM in 2016. (65 x 50 cm)

The British Museum Review 2016/17

**Growing Picasso collection**

The BM's collection of prints by Pablo Picasso grew in 2016, part of a sustained ambition to represent more fully the Spanish artist's work. The acquisition of 16 lithographs and three aquatints from the late 1940s and 1950s filled the last major gap in showing Picasso's achievements as a printmaker. Six were inspired by Picasso's lover and muse, the young artist Françoise Gilot, whom Picasso met in 1943. A further three are unsparing depictions of the art dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler. The purchase was made possible with support from the Art Fund (with a contribution from Art Partners and the Wolfson Foundation), the Vollard Group and private donations.

Measures of the world

Acquisitions reflect different aspects of the BM's work – exploring the contemporary, researching the past, supporting the public programme. Photographs by contemporary artist Francki Burger were acquired for the BM show on South Africa, while for the exhibition of contemporary American prints, works by African American artist Willie Cole, and by Andy Warhol and Robert Rauschenberg were purchased with support from the Vollard Group, Hamish Parker and others.

Syrian poster, 2011

The inscription on the image says 'Free from the secret police'. Acquired by the BM in 2016/17, the poster was one of a group of 68 produced by the collective Alshaab Alsori Aref Tarekh ('The Syrian People Know Their Way'). (59 x 42 cm)



Additions across the collection included Iranian lacquered pen boxes, Inuit drawings, a Mohawk basket and *The Queen and Me*, a 2016 painting from Australia by Vincent Namatjira. A fishing basket from Guam was made not of traditional fibre, but of the recycled construction straps that litter the island. A series of 36 prints by Utagawa Kunisada links kabuki theatre roles to classical Japanese poems. Popular culture featured in political posters from Syria and in prints from India: a portrait of the Hindu goddess Kali advertised Kali cigarettes. The contemporary often cited the past: three vases by Beirut-based artist Raed Yassin depict scenes from the Lebanese Civil War (1975–90), but were made in Jingdezhen and have the appearance of traditional Chinese blue-and-white porcelain. Support for these acquisitions came from the JTI Japanese Acquisition Fund, the Contemporary and Modern Middle Eastern Art Acquisition group, and the Brooke Sewell Fund.

Collecting contemporary Egypt

The Modern Egypt Project aims to tell the history of Egypt in the last 120 years through objects that represent a cross-section of society. Highlights include one of the earliest Arabic script typewriters, made in Syracuse, New York in the 1920s for the Egyptian market, and a

Mohawk basket, 2016

Acquisitions from America included this contemporary basket of sweetgrass and ash, made by Akwesasne artist Sally Martin. (Height 12 cm)



Nefertiti sewing machine, produced by a military factory in 1954 as part of a programme to modernise domestic life in Egypt.

A pop-up in a downtown Cairo shopfront introduced the Egyptian public to the project, with a week-long installation and a programme of talks in October 2016. The display was designed to attract visitors who would not normally enter museums. It drew widespread TV, newspaper and online coverage in Egypt.

Donations

Many additions to the collection are bequests or donations. Rare Roman and Iron Age coins found in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk were generously given to the BM by the metal detectorist who found them. A Greek terracotta woman's head of the 5th century BC still has traces of its original colour. The sketchbooks and journals of William Gell reveal the renewal of interest in classical Greece in the early 19th century. Other donations included a Tibetan dagger and trumpet, fragments of a Roman wine amphora and a silica chip encoding the Rosetta Stone. Bequests included a drawing by David Hockney and a 13th-century black-glazed stoneware bottle made in Shanxi, China.

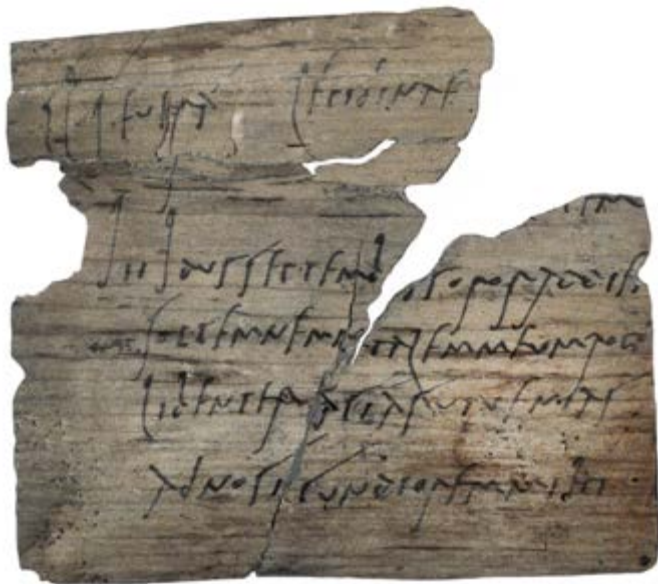
Greek figure, 420–400 BC

This decorative *protome* may depict the goddess Demeter or her daughter Persephone. The terracotta was one of several generous donations to the BM collection in 2016/17. (35 x 25 cm)



Moving the collection

Rare objects stored at Blythe House will be rehoused in the next six years. They include examples of Roman handwriting found at Vindolanda in the north of England, and Peruvian textiles, some up to 2,000 years old, depicting supernatural figures. (Tablet length 23 cm; textile 9 x 10 cm)



New spaces

Displays are changed to relay different stories and aspects of the collection. In the Wellcome Trust Gallery, a case on Australia was installed with historical material and a contemporary mask from the Torres Strait Islands. The Korea Foundation Gallery was renewed with displays marking two traditional holidays: Lunar New Year and Chuseok, the autumn festival, with support from the Korean Cultural Centre UK. Mitsubishi Corporation extended their sponsorship of the Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries, which will be renewed. Acoustic surveys were undertaken to ensure that any changes to the floors and ceilings preserve the galleries' calm atmosphere.

Construction continued on two major galleries. The Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World, due to open in 2018, will incorporate a lift and other infrastructural improvements. A new gallery on China and South Asia, supported by the Sir Joseph Hotung Charitable Settlement, includes new features to control levels of daylight. The gallery will open in November 2017.

Ongoing storage of the collection in the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre offered greater stability for organic materials such as large fibre mats from Oceania and

artefacts from South Africa. Three medieval log-boats were moved to the large object store, the largest weighing over 1,000kg. Other work on the collection included re-housing ivories from ancient Nimrud.

Leaving Blythe House

Blythe House in London houses vast collection stores for the BM, Science Museum Group and Victoria and Albert Museum. The UK Government has announced plans to sell the building, and to make £150m available for the three museums to relocate to new world-class storage facilities by 2023.

The collections at Blythe House are of major significance. They include, among other important objects, plaster casts of Mayan monuments made in the 19th century by Alfred Maudslay. Some of these are now the only surviving record of the originals. Other highlights include 2,000-year-old Peruvian textiles depicting flying shamans and some of the oldest and most famous handwritten documents found in Britain: the Vindolanda tablets, discovered at a Roman fort near Hadrian's Wall.



Mosaic of the Virgin Mary, c.1130–80

Important loans to the exhibition *Sicily: culture and conquest* included the only surviving fragment of the Byzantine-style mosaics that adorned Palermo Cathedral in the 12th century. (75 x 62 cm)

Statue of Arsinoe II, 3rd century BC

This figure of Arsinoe, daughter of Ptolemy I, may have been the cult statue in the Serapeum of Canopus, one of the underwater cities revealed in the BP exhibition *Sunken cities: Egypt's lost worlds*. (Height 1.5 m)



Exhibitions

The exhibitions programme arises out of the BM's research, its collection and its close ties with partners around the world, who generously lend rare artefacts for UK audiences to see.

Conquest in Sicily

Sicily: culture and conquest, sponsored by Julius Baer, attracted over 100,000 visitors. The collaboration with the Regione Siciliana surveyed 4,000 years of the Mediterranean island's history. Many outstanding loans were seen in Britain for the first time: a marble warrior from Agrigento, a painted altar of 500 BC showing three fertility goddesses, a gorgon that once stared out over the coast at Gela.

'An enthralling new show at the British Museum,' wrote the *Observer*, 'sweeps aside all the tourist clichés . . . to reveal an island occupied by so many different cultures – Greeks and Romans, Muslim Arabs and Africans, the Normans, the Spanish and eventually the mainland Italians.' The exhibition's portrayal of the historical interplay of nations and religions on Sicily was widely praised.

Egypt underwater

'A show to move you to tears of wonder' enthused the five-star review in *The Times*. The BP exhibition *Sunken cities: Egypt's lost worlds* showed through film footage and striking artefacts the rediscovery of Thonis-Heracleion and Canopus. The two cities founded in the 7th century BC once sat on islands at the edge of the Egyptian Delta. By the 8th century AD, the sea had reclaimed them: they lay hidden for over 1,000 years.

In the 1990s, marine archaeologist Franck Goddio, in conjunction with the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities, began to recover their treasures from the waters of Abu Qir Bay. The monumental pieces – some of the largest objects ever to come to the BM on loan – included colossal sculptures of a Ptolemaic ruling couple, and a 5.4m statue of Hapy, a divine personification of the Nile's flood, which greeted visitors as they entered. The exhibition, supported by BP and organised with the Institut Européen d'Archéologie Sous-Marine and the Hilti Foundation, drew over 300,000 visitors.

**Statue of Hapy, 4th
or 3rd century BC**

This colossal statue
of an Egyptian fertility
god was discovered
underwater at the site
of the ancient city of
Thonis-Heracleion.
(Height 5.4 m)



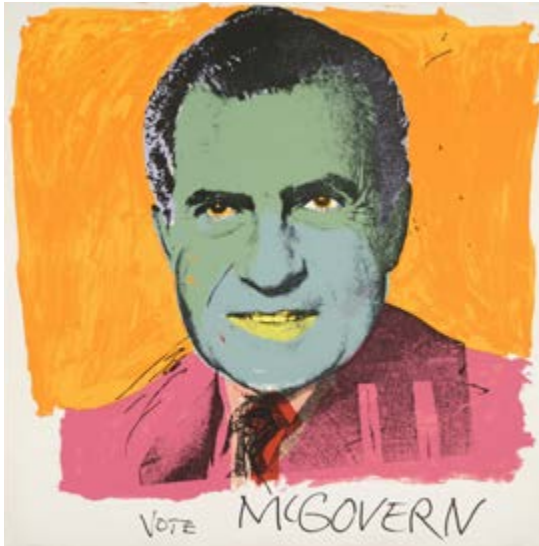
**Gun cartridge dolls,
1900–33**

The exhibition *South
Africa: art of a nation*
included beadwork dolls
made by South Sotho girls
and women. (Height 8 cm)



Vote McGovern, 1972

A confrontational screenprint by Andy Warhol featured in the exhibition *The American Dream*. The print supports Democratic candidate Senator George McGovern by demonising his presidential opponent, Richard Nixon. (107 x 107 cm)



Thai shadow puppet (detail), 1970s

A display on shadow puppet theatre in South-east Asia included characters such as this military figure from Thailand made of hide, bamboo and string. (Height 69 cm)



The art of South Africa

An incredible 100,000 years of art was traced in *South Africa: the art of a nation*, sponsored by Betsy and Jack Ryan, with logistics partner IAG Cargo. Minister of Culture Matt Hancock opened the exhibition in October, with guest speaker South African writer Njabulo Ndebele and others.

The history began with engraved rocks, some of the earliest examples of human art. Its journey forward was conveyed through evocative loans: a terracotta Bantu head, an 800-year-old gold rhinoceros from the kingdom of Mapungubwe, the sandals of Mahatma Ghandi.

South Africa's more recent times could be witnessed in paintings such as Gerard Sekoto's 1946 *Song of the Pick*, in which black workers labour under the watchful eye of a white foreman. The *Guardian* found the show 'dazzling . . . a journey to the heart of our common humanity'.

Contemporary American prints

In the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery *The American Dream: pop to the present* opened in March 2017, sponsored by Morgan Stanley and supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art. With 200 works by 70 artists, the show traced the pivotal importance of printmaking to American art over the past six decades. American artists were increasingly drawn to the print as a forceful

medium of expression. Works by Jim Dine, Jasper Johns, Ed Ruscha, Kiki Smith, Kara Walker and others mapped artistic change alongside social development: pop art's ironic elevation of the everyday, the spare purity of minimalism, and polemical works addressing questions of race, sexuality and gender. The imagery reflected contemporary America: from a monumental depiction of a slave ship printed from an ironing board to a rusty, bullet-marked 'Dead End' sign made from moulded paper pulp.

Worlds away

The BM collection lends itself to changing displays that highlight the world's cultures. *Shadow puppet theatre from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand* showed how intricately made puppets convey ritual, religion and storytelling. An accompanying film in the gallery brought the still figures to life by demonstrating their use in performance. Over 210,000 people visited the exhibition.

Where the Thunderbird lives was supported by the High Commission of Canada in the UK, with additional support from Steven Larcombe and Sonya Leydecker and the PF Charitable Trust. Spanning 9,000 years of history, ancient and recent artefacts celebrated the identities and cultural resilience of the peoples of the Pacific



Northwest Coast, including the Tlingit, Haida and Nisga'a. Smaller BM displays included works of art from Iran, from 16th century illustrations on the subject of love and courtship to contemporary photography and collage.

Drawn to the past

Touch was a display of works on paper by one of Britain's foremost contemporary artists, Maggi Hambling. The BM has collected Hambling's works on paper since the 1980s, and the artist donated several of the works featured in the display to the collection.

Portraits also featured in a concurrent exhibition, *French portrait drawings from Clouet to Courbet*. 'Some of the BM's most absorbing shows happen quietly away from its major exhibition spaces,' wrote the *Evening Standard*. 'French portrait drawings is just such a show: intimate, gently lit, but full of gems from the BM's collection.'

Places of the mind, supported in memory of Melvin R Seiden, looked at British watercolour landscapes. Whistler, Burne-Jones, Nash and Sutherland were among the artists whose works mirrored changing relationships to the land from 1850 to 1950. A major catalogue accompanied the exhibition, published with support from by the Dr Lee MacCormick Edwards Charitable Foundation.



The public face of money

Money matters, supported by Citi, examined how money affects everyday life – from the cash we carry in our pockets to how we understand financial concepts such as taxation and inflation. The display was supported by public talks on the links between the economy and society, as well as education programmes run in the adjacent Citi Money Gallery.

The mutilation of coins and other objects was the subject of *Defacing the past: damnation and desecration in imperial Rome*, supported by Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald. Marred Roman coinage and names chipped out of public inscriptions showed how imperial propaganda could just as easily be turned against itself.

Portrait of the artist's daughter, c.1772

An exhibition of French portrait drawings featured this chalk drawing of a girl by Jean Michel Moreau le Jeune. (32 x 26 cm)

A barber's shop (detail), 1890s

Scottish artist Arthur Melville painted this scene during a trip to Spain. The watercolour was shown in the exhibition *Places of the mind*. (53 x 35 cm)



The Asahi Shimbun Displays

Welcoming visitors as they enter the BM, the Asahi Shimbun Displays focus on a single object or small group. Following the striking wooden figure of the Pacific god A'a, the series offered *Made in Japan: 400 years of Kakiemon porcelain*.

The display marked 15 generations of porcelain production in the town of Arita, where potters have made works in the distinctive Kakiemon style. Special film footage of contemporary makers was filmed on location by a BM team.

Rock art: power and symbolism in southern Africa accompanied the major exhibition on South African art. Made by the San Bushmen, hunter-gatherer-fishers living in southern Africa, the ancient rock fragment depicted two humans and three antelope, probably for ritual purposes.

For *Creating an ancestor: the Jericho Skull*, the person within a Neolithic plaster-covered skull found in Jericho was revealed. Technological advances enabled a startling reconstruction of the face of a man who lived nearly 9,500 years ago.

Moving stories: three journeys used animation and drawing to raise questions about migration. The span ranged from the prehistoric movement of humans one million years ago to the flight from contemporary Iraq.




Defaced medallion, AD 191

After he was slain, the face of the Roman emperor Commodus was mutilated on this medallion. The display *Defacing the past* examined how historical memory can be obliterated. (Diameter 6 cm)

Kakiemon porcelain

An Asahi Shimbun Display explored 400 years of making porcelain in Arita, Japan. Objects showing the evolving style included a bowl made by Kakiemon XIV in 1996 with a design of azalea branches. (Diameter 54 cm)



Moving stories

The BM hosted public events to mark Refugee Week in June 2016. Participating organisations included Amnesty International, the Refugee Council and UNHCR.

Events and learning

Programming draws varied audiences to the BM. Events range from evening lectures to children's activities. The BM's learning programmes ensure schools make the most of their visit.

Year-long events

Throughout the year the BM organised talks, films, workshops and performances. Friday Lates are popular themed evenings associated with the major exhibitions. *Sicilian splendour* included puppetry, poetry and a performance by Inspector Montalbano actor Luca Zingaretti. *Festival of Osiris* saw enactments of Isis, Cleopatra and a mass procession through the Great Court for Osiris. *Ubuntu* celebrated the musical styles of South Africa, from Zulu-inspired Mbaqanga to the use of sampling in Kwaito house music. Over 6,000 people attended the three events.

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, actors and poets gave a marathon reading in the Great Court of the playwright's sonnets, along with contemporary examples of the genre. *Faiths in tune* was an interfaith festival in which 20 different religious groups sang in the BP Lecture Theatre in front of objects from the collection that inspired them.

A lecture and concert in November drew on the Mozart family's visit to the BM in 1765 – part of an international series that included Greek, Indian and Zulu music.

Myths retold was introduced in September 2016. Presented with the Crick Crack Club, the monthly performances have drawn a diverse, sold-out audience to retellings of the stories of Gilgamesh and Kali, the Odyssey and the Kalevala.

Topical discussion

Using the collection as a springboard to debate, the BM arranged talks and discussions relating the past to today's events. Archaeologist Barry Cunliffe and historian Robert Tombs examined the history of Britain, prior to the EU Referendum. Playwright Bonnie Greer looked at the trajectory of the American Dream, as did historian Simon Schama, in a lecture presented in collaboration with the British Academy and FT Weekend. For the BM/Financial Times Public Forum *Crossing borders*, a panel of historians and journalists welcomed an audience of more than 300 to discuss European migration. Lectures organised with the London Review of Books included classicist Mary Beard discussing women and power, from Roman matriarchs to Theresa May.

A gift for Athena

Schools sessions starting in the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre used tablets to explore the Parthenon sculptures. A record 4,000 primary pupils participated in 2016/17.



Families

For the under-fives, the BM held its first ever wet play session. *Get splashy* used inflatable pools on the east lawn as part of the programme for the BP exhibition *Sunken cities*. Over 700 parents and children participated in *Stories from the sea*, learning stories from ancient Egypt and Greece as they donned costumes, handled objects and played musical instruments. Digital programmes included creating Ice Age animation and encouraging teenagers to ‘code the collection’ in the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre.

A three-day festival of Korean culture, supported by the Korea Foundation, was held to celebrate Chuseok, the harvest moon festival. Events ranged from a study day to a Friday Late of traditional music, Korean food and K-Pop. The family day featured storytelling and kite-making. Other events for families included the annual Big Draw, and half-term and holiday programmes inspired by, and prompting learning about, Islamic footwear, Egyptian religion and South African art.

Involving communities

Moving stories was a public event to mark Refugee Week in June 2016. The theme was ‘Welcome’. Organised with Counterpoint Arts, the event featured storytelling, film, theatre, music and art

workshops. Participating organisations included the Refugee Council, Amnesty International and the UNHCR whose tent, painted by Syrian refugee children, set out the issues of the global refugee crisis.

The BM aims to ensure anyone can access the Museum. Portable hearing loops were installed in a number of locations. Multi-sensory tours of exhibitions were offered. Evening lectures were given in British Sign language. *Journey to Sicily*, delivered with Rambert Dance Company and Children and the Arts, welcomed families and children with life-limiting illnesses from the Richard House Hospice. Their day at the BM took in music, dance, food and culture from Sicily.

Wider reach to communities included popular exhibition previews for local groups and a day of talks and activities exploring LGBTQ histories at the BM.

Learning programmes

Booked school visits to the BM attracted over 270,000 pupils, including the highest number of visits from UK schools for more than nine years. For the exhibitions on Sicily and ancient Egypt, teachers could download a free pack with guidelines on structuring their visit, follow-up activities, images, worksheets and information



Friday Lates

Over 6,000 people attended themed Friday Lates at the BM, which included a Festival of Osiris exploring ancient Egypt.



The culture of Assam

The dancing monks of Majuli Island gave a free performance in the Great Court. The public event was linked to the display, *Krishna in the garden of Assam*.

linking the displays to topics in history, geography, classics and citizenship. Special mornings were reserved exclusively for schools, while private views for teachers enabled them to meet curators and prepare an in-depth future visit for their pupils.

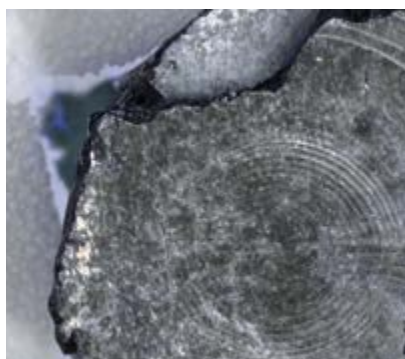
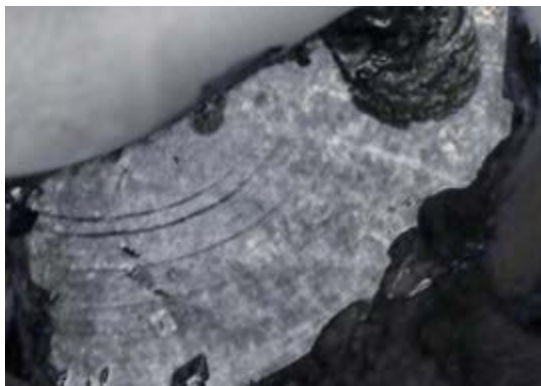
A new module on sex and relationship education was offered. Linked to the National Curriculum, the workshops explore sex and identity over time and across cultures, using the collection to discuss contemporary issues.

A gift for Athena is an hour-long teacher-led session offered through the Samsung Digital Discovery Centre. The BM provides Samsung tablets for young people to explore the Parthenon sculptures. In 2016/17, the BM increased the number of sessions from two a week to two a day, reaching a record 4,000 primary pupils.

Learning programmes for adults ranged widely, from a summer school on classical and medieval coins and medals to a project with Aberdeen University that invited artists to look at historic artefacts as tools for recalling collective ethnic identity. An Open Day gave students access to the conservation studios: 98% said they would recommend the Open Day to their peers.

Sutton Hoo discovery

In 2016, scientists found evidence of far-reaching Anglo-Saxon trade networks, when they identified bitumen from Syria in the Sutton Hoo ship burial.



Research, conservation and science

From science to social history, BM research springs from the collection and what it can tell us about the past. Recent emphases include an examination of how the collection was formed.

New research grants

The BM received generous support for a number of new projects. The Australian Research Council is supporting a four-year project on Western Australia called *Collecting the West*. The study is a collaboration with a number of partners, including the University of Western Australia, and will shed new light on Aboriginal collections in the BM and around the UK.

The Innovation, Dispersal and Use of Ceramics in North-East Europe is a major partnership with museums and universities in Germany, Russia, Poland, Denmark, the Baltic States and the UK. The five-year study looks at the origins and use of pottery vessels by hunter-gatherers across north-east Europe, and is funded by a European Research Council grant of €3.1m.

Closely connected to the BM's own founding collection, that of Sir Hans Sloane, is a project to transcribe and digitise the collector's handwritten 18th-century catalogues. The Leverhulme Trust

will support the joint work with University College London.

The Wellcome Trust awarded a significant grant in support of the BM's science research programme. The funding reflects the increasing importance of molecular analysis to museum research as well as the scholarly benefits of the BM's new World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre.

Syria and Sutton Hoo

The Anglo-Saxon ship burial found at Sutton Hoo is one of the UK's most celebrated archaeological finds. Its gold and garnet jewellery and ceremonial armour make it the most richly furnished grave ever discovered in Britain.

Study of Sutton Hoo continues to reveal its mysteries. In 2016, scientists examined what was thought to be tar used for waterproofing the ship. It turned out to be bitumen from the Middle East, probably Syria, a sign of the far-reaching trade networks of the East Anglian elite.

BM experts analysed the archaeological residues and, with colleagues at the University of Aberdeen, used fossil fuel characterisation to identify the source of the bitumen. The story was widely reported by BBC News, *The Times* and other media.

Research on Hokusai

A three-year project on Katsushika Hokusai, famous for his painting *The Great Wave*, includes a major exhibition at the BM in 2017. Here a conservator in the BM's Hirayama Studio consolidates white pigment on an 1811 painting of the warrior Minamoto no Tametomo.



Late Hokusai

The Great Wave by Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) is one of the world's most reproduced images. In April 2016, with a three-year grant from the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the BM and the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, embarked on the research project, *Late Hokusai: thought, technique, society*.

The project focuses on Hokusai's last three decades. It takes him beyond his categorisation as an artist of the 'floating world' (ukiyo-e) school to explore more fully his ideas, his collaborators and how his mature style absorbs the artistic vocabularies of Japan, China and Europe. The research will feature in a new online resource, as well as an exhibition at the BM, *Hokusai: beyond the Great Wave*, supported by Mitsubishi Corporation, in summer 2017.

Conservation of paintings

In the Hirayama Studio, textile conservators joined experts on Japanese painting to stitch, clean and remount a hanging scroll of 1805–6 by Kitagawa Utamaro. *Standing courtesan reading a letter* was conserved in collaboration with the Association of Conservation of National Treasures of Japan, supported by the Sumitomo Foundation.

A conference of scientists and conservators took place at the BM as part of a project with the J. Paul Getty Museum. *Ancient Panel Paintings: Examination, Analysis and Research* is a worldwide collaboration among 26 museums to share technical discoveries on Roman-period mummy portraits from Egypt. BM staff shared recent findings on wood composition based on samples taken from Vienna and Budapest. Many of the portraits were painted on high-quality linden wood imported into Egypt from Europe.

Jericho Skull

This 9,500-year-old skull covered in plaster (left) was found in Jericho. Using modern technology, experts reconstructed the face of the man, which was displayed next to the original. (Height 17 cm)



Jericho Skull

The 9,500-year-old Jericho Skull was discovered in 1953 by archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon near the city of Jericho. The Neolithic skull is covered with a face made from plaster. Traditional X-rays could not easily differentiate the plaster and bone, but recently, thousands of micro CT-scans have revealed what is underneath the plaster: the skull missing the lower jaw, the remaining teeth and the broken nose, probably of a man in his forties. Even the thumbprints of the person who packed the skull with soil were visible.

Using digital imaging, 3D printing and forensic reconstruction techniques, specialists recreated the face of the individual whose skull lies beneath the plaster. The fascinating results were shown to the public in a special Asahi Shimbun Display from December 2016 and were featured by *National Geographic*.

Research in the public domain

Staff regularly lecture in the UK and internationally, and publish online and in academic journals. At the BM itself, the public can attend conferences, evening lectures and free gallery talks.

Specialist studies featured in the BM Research Publications series. *Some Friends Came to See Us* revisited the expedition of Walter Guinness to the

Asmat people of New Guinea in 1936; the book was published with the support of Furthermore: a programme of the JM Kaplan Fund. *Amaravati* examined the sculptures of an early Buddhist shrine along the south-east coast of India. The 40-year-old publication series has now passed its 200th volume: a comprehensive study of the Mildenhall Treasure, 28 outstanding pieces of Roman silver plate discovered in Suffolk in 1942. Planned volumes include a collection of essays on the Waddesdon Bequest.

PhD research undertaken as part of the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Awards Scheme will also be published. Candidates enrol jointly at a UK university and partner institution such as the BM. The national consortium has up to 50 students a year undertaking doctoral research. Current topics range from the survival of pre-Reformation English church sculpture, to evaluating how the BM can work better with local communities. The BM also welcomed two post-doctoral fellows working on organic colourants and fibre identification, and laser applications in conservation. Both are funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The Learning Museum

Participants from across the UK receive training in handling objects as part of the BM's Learning Museum programme. Here a team rehang a painting by John Piper at the River & Rowing Museum in Henley-on-Thames.





Teaching with objects

A national conference held at the BM in 2016 discussed the value and practice of object-based teaching.

Training and partnerships

With museums and galleries across the UK, the BM continues to provide training, staff development and platforms for sharing knowledge and research.

Young professionals

As part of the BM's current Skills for the Future programme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), young people in the UK received, young people across the UK received training in collections management and public engagement. Ten Learning Museum trainees spent one year at a UK museum, with special training days organised by the BM and its partners. A further nine started the second phase of the programme in October 2016. An important emphasis was to help museums recruit locally and build the skills of young people in their communities. The programme's proactive recruitment methodology is now being used in a pilot youth-volunteering project at the BM.

The BM continues to support graduates of two earlier Skills for the Future programmes, with a free conference at the BM in July 2016 for trainees and programme supervisors, as well as further skills-sharing placements at museums in Glasgow, Cambridge and elsewhere.

A skilled workforce

The HLF also supports the Collections Skills Training Programme. The scheme gives UK museum staff and volunteers access to free training at the BM's World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre (WCEC). Following a survey of UK partner needs, the BM is focusing on practical collections skills – pest management, textile storage, handling heavy objects – as well as specialist training in collections such as ancient Egyptian artefacts, European glass or Chinese painting.

A course on 'getting loan-ready' is being delivered regionally. The aim is to increase UK partners' confidence in requesting loans from national museums. The first six-part series was held in Manchester for colleagues in the North West, and a second is being held in the South West. Films are also being produced, with practical episodes on how to make a loan request, or borrow and lend objects.

Opening up the BM's resources

As part of the WCEC Activity Programme, supported by the HLF, visitors can now attend a monthly behind-the-scenes tour of the BM's conservation studios and scientific laboratories. Another new project is Object Journeys, in which community partners will work with museums



Engaging communities

Object Journeys works with community partners in London and across the UK. The Community on Solid Ground group researched South Asian objects from both the BM and Manchester Museum to create their own display.

Chessmen in the Outer Hebrides

Exhibits in the new Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway include six of the celebrated Lewis chessmen on long-term loan from the BM.

to research and display their collections in new ways. The first collaboration explored the BM's Somali collections with ten young adults from the London Somali community. Over three years the BM will present three different displays, and help to run similar projects in Manchester, Leicester and at one other partner museum.

Building networks of skills

The Age Friendly Museums Network, funded by the Baring Foundation and led by the BM, brings people from different sectors together with the aim of making museums more accessible for older people. The Network now has over 1,000 members including people from health and social care, the voluntary sector, research professionals and older people themselves. Seventy older residents and their carers were welcomed to the BM from 11 care homes as part of the nationwide Age Friendly Museums Day in October 2016, and 250 people attended the Network's cross-sector conference held at the Museum in February 2017.

The BM administers the Money & Medals Network, funded by Arts Council England, in collaboration with nine other UK organisations. Events in 2016 included a training day for the South West region, which was held at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. Other events were held in the Midlands, Northern Ireland and Wales.

The goal is to help UK museums care for their collections of coins and medals and use them to engage the public.

Exchanging expertise

With support from the Vivmar Foundation, the BM's long-running Knowledge Share programme continued to deliver professional development opportunities for UK museum staff and volunteers. The popular Knowledge Exchange programme enables colleagues from various departments to spend time in each other's institutions to share the best working practices and ideas. In 2016/17 the BM partnered with Poole Museum Service (Dorset), Bowes Museum (County Durham), William Morris Gallery (London), University of Nottingham Museum and Djanogly Art Gallery (Nottinghamshire), and Compton Verney (Warwickshire) to create ten staff exchanges.

Knowledge Share includes a variety of seminars, training days and bespoke skills-sharing opportunities. The success of last year's Papyri Expertise Day led to a second held at the BM in June 2016. Colleagues who work with papyri collections across the UK attended seminars and discussed a range of issues from conservation to identifying texts. Plans are underway to hold the event annually if possible, at different partner venues with papyri collections.



Survey of UK partners

The Director of the BM, Hartwig Fischer, visited a number of national partners in 2016/17. Staff from museums in Bristol, Norwich, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow discussed what was particular about their collections and how they responded to visitors' interests.

A survey in 2016 revealed enthusiastic support for the work the BM does with organisations across the UK. Eighty-nine per cent of our national partners found working with the BM important in strengthening their profile with local stakeholders.

A conference for the BM's national partners was held in April 2016. *Objectively speaking: The value and practice of object-based teaching* welcomed 320 delegates to talks and debates.

Loans and touring exhibitions

Long- and short-term loans from the BM support institutions around the UK. Spotlight tours attract new audiences, widening interest in museums and galleries nationwide.

Lewis Chessmen in Stornoway

In 2016/17, as part of a partnership with the Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway in the Western Isles, the BM made a long-term loan of six of the Lewis chess pieces. These much-loved figures have, since being carved in Norway in the 12th century, travelled to the Hebrides, to London and Edinburgh, and around the world. Their journey continues. The new museum, with loans from both the BM and National Museums Scotland, was formally opened in Lews Castle March 2017 by First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon. Its galleries tell the story of the Outer Hebrides, its Norse past and its present-day culture, from the use of the Gaelic language to community life.

Overall the BM loaned nearly 3,000 objects to 156 venues in the UK in 2016/17. The loans included Iron Age hoards shown at the Willis Museum in Basingstoke; an Italian Renaissance jewelled cross at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge; a Peruvian gold diadem of the



Lines of thought

A BM touring exhibition of drawings by artists from Michelangelo to the present day drew 42,000 visitors to Poole Museum. It later toured to Hull, to mark its year as UK City of Culture, and Belfast.

1st to 3rd century in Cardiff; and from Iraq a 4,000-year-old Ur dynasty bowl, carved with processions of worshippers, displayed in Redcar and Newcastle.

Spotlight loans

High-profile Spotlight loans were supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe. A 15th-century feasting cup that later became a communion chalice travelled to Salisbury, Durham, Norwich, Nottingham and the Wiltshire Museum. The tour attracted over 160,000 visitors.

Other Spotlight tours included a Celtic Iron Age mirror, which was paired with a similar 2,000-year-old artefact from National Museums Scotland. To coincide with the BP exhibition *Sunken cities* in London, a 6th-century BC statuette of a hunter, discovered by archaeologist Flinders Petrie in the ancient port of Naukratis in Egypt in 1884, was also sent on loan. Its display at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester drew six times the usual number of visitors.

To create a fresh approach to interpreting a Spotlight loan, the BM and Turner Contemporary in Margate commissioned a contemporary artwork in response to the Pudding Pan vessels on loan from the BM. The installation by Hannah Lees was displayed alongside the

Roman wares, found nearby and thought to come from a ship wrecked as it travelled from Gaul.

Rock art in Wrexham

Many tours are created in collaboration with UK museums and galleries. With Wrexham County Borough Museum in north Wales, the BM produced *Sacred spaces: the rock art of the San Bushmen in southern Africa*, which opened in June 2016. Photographs and film revealed some of humankind's oldest art, some of it 77,000 years old. The exhibition was supported by an adventurous family programme of games, puzzles, trails, sleepovers, drop-in art sessions, music and dancing. An earlier collaboration with Wrexham, *Writing for eternity: decoding ancient Egypt*, toured to Carlisle, Salisbury, Abergavenny and Hartlepool.

Michelangelo drawing, Picasso printing

'An exhilarating show' was the *Telegraph's* description of *Lines of thought: drawing from Michelangelo to now*, supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation. The exhibition of 70 drawings from the BM collection also garnered attention in *The Times* and local media. The tour was launched in Dorset in September 2016, where Poole Museum increased publicity by live-streaming a curator's talk for the first time. The



Roman wares, modern art

The BM Spotlight loan of Roman pottery to Turner Contemporary in Margate was accompanied by a new art commission and a lively public programme for children.

show attracted 42,000 visitors. It later travelled to Hull to mark the opening of its programme as 2017 UK City of Culture, and then to Belfast.

With the Lady Lever Art Gallery, part of National Museums Liverpool, the BM organised a tour of 17 large linocuts by Pablo Picasso. Two sets of proofs – *Still life under the lamp* and *Jacqueline reading*, both produced in 1962 – formed the centrepiece of the well-attended display, which has since toured to Barnsley and Coventry.

Japan and Africa

Arising out of a popular exhibition at the BM was *Dressed to impress*, a tour of Japanese *netsuke*. These miniature sculptures have their origins as ornaments of dress and were displayed with a kimono and related objects at the Oriental Museum in Durham. They travel to Middlesbrough, Bath and Worthing in 2017/18.

Social fabric: African textiles today also transformed a BM display into a successful four-venue tour, which ended at the William Morris Gallery in London. The brightly coloured cloths, often with strong social and political messages, were seen by 120,000 people during their UK tour.

UK archaeology

With strong public support, the Portable Antiquities Scheme aims to record archaeological finds made in England and Wales. BM research in the UK includes fieldwork in the Channel Islands.

Recording UK archaeology

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records archaeological discoveries made by the public in England and Wales – from precious metal finds and hoards reported under the Treasure Act to historical artefacts such as clothing fasteners or coins. In 2016, nearly 82,000 finds were recorded through the Scheme.

The earliest object, found in Essex, was a Palaeolithic handaxe which may date back as far as 800,000 BC. Major discoveries included a rare group of four Iron Age neck ornaments located in the West Midlands, and a hoard of Iron Age and Roman coins discovered in Cornwall. In Yorkshire, large fragments of a Roman enamelled pan were found. The handle was inscribed VTERE FELIX ('use in happiness'). The Dorset Foundation has begun to help local museums across the UK acquire non-Treasure finds recorded through the PAS.

Finds in the UK

Archaeological discoveries reported through the BM's Portable Antiquities Scheme included four Iron Age gold torcs, found in Leekfrith, Staffordshire, and a handaxe, discovered in Essex, which may date to 800,000 BC. (Torc diameter up to 15 cm; handaxe length 14 cm)



Fascinating stories of Britain's past are preserved when members of the public report finds through the PAS. A Roman diploma was found in Durham. It grants Roman citizenship to a veteran Briton of the Roman Navy. Its inscription dates to the reign of the emperor Antoninus Pius (AD 138–61), and records that the soldier served in the *classis Germanica*, an auxiliary unit based in Cologne that made up a fleet on the river Rhine.

The BM acknowledges the many institutions across England and Wales who have supported the PAS, and its network of Finds Liaison Officers.

Building skills

PASt Explorers is a five-year project supported by the HLF to enhance the PAS's volunteer programme. A conference at Merseyside Maritime Museum in 2016 examined activities undertaken by volunteers who work with the PAS and how they might be developed in future. The role of volunteers is essential to the scheme.

With 88% of finds made by metal detector users, the PAS is working with detectorists to update the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting. The annual PAS conference in November 2016 took up the topic. 'Can detectorists be archaeologists?' saw several

detectorists speak on the importance of following good archaeological practice.

Influence abroad

The great success of the PAS in England and Wales has proved influential. In July 2016, the UK launched a Marine Antiquities Scheme for underwater finds. Drawing on advice from PAS staff, the scheme is run by Wessex Archaeology on behalf of the Crown Estate. In the Netherlands a Portable Antiquities scheme has been established, and in Flanders, MEDEA is a new programme to record finds made by the public. A North Sea Area recording group has also convened several countries around the North Sea to engage with public finds. All draw on the experience of the PAS in building an approachable, efficient method of gathering archaeological data with the public.

Public archaeology

The PAS model is being adopted in other countries. This 16th-century toy carriage was found by a member of the public in Amsterdam and reported through the recently devised Portable Antiquities of the Netherlands. (Length 7 cm)



Collecting Britain's past

A rare 14th-century English Madonna acquired in 2016 (see p.10) was a significant addition to the collection. Several acquisitions – many of them finds identified under the Treasure Act – illuminated different aspects of British history. The religious devotion of late medieval England can be seen in an engraved gold mount found in Bedfordshire. The 15th-century decoration depicts Saint Anne teaching the Virgin Mary. Britain's longer history is witnessed in eight Bronze Age gold ornaments found in Gloucestershire, and an Anglo-Saxon silver stud, gilded and depicting a face with a protruding tongue. The stud may have decorated a belt or weapon sheath. An enamelled posy ring of around 1500, found in Shropshire, bears the private inscription 'My Har[t]'.

The importance of the Treasure Act, which came into force 20 years ago, will be marked by a campaign in 2017 highlighting its importance in preserving outstanding finds discovered around Britain.

Fieldwork on Jersey

At Petit Portelet, archaeologists examined the submerged coastline and found evidence of its use by Neanderthal people 180,000 years ago. The well-preserved stone artefacts cast new light on those from earlier excavations on the island. Supported by the Calleva Foundation, the research is a collaboration with Southampton, Trinity St David and St Andrew's Universities.

At Les Varines, with colleagues from Manchester University and University College London, fieldwork at the 14,500-year-old hunter-gatherer site found evidence of open-air settlement, including granite paving, burnt bone, pits and post-holes. Such sites are rare in northwest Europe, and the preservation of the remains is exceptional. Over 1,000 people visited the excavations.



BM audio guides

Hire of the BM's audio guides, which offer information in ten languages as well as British Sign Language, increased by 43% in 2016/17.

New publications

BM exhibition catalogues, co-published with Thames & Hudson, included popular titles on ancient Egypt, American art and South Africa.

Digital and publishing

Online video and live-streaming reach audiences around Britain and worldwide. Books draw on the collection to illuminate world history for adults and children.

Broadcasting and social media

The BM published 54 videos on its YouTube channel, including two with BM director Hartwig Fischer. Ten episodes showed the week by week conservation of a Roman glass urn. New strands on Facebook included broadcasts on Facebook Live, 360 degree videos and Instant Articles. A curator's live tour of the Sutton Hoo treasures reached 870,000 people. Popular videos included a tour of the Egyptian Sculpture Gallery and a 360-degree view of the BM Forecourt: online visitors could 'travel' through the courtyard, enter the BM and then view the galleries online via Google Street View. The BM has 1.3m followers on Facebook, the top ranking among UK museums.

Popular tweets featured the Roman god Janus for New Year and prints by the Japanese artist Hokusai. Hokusai also proved popular on Instagram, where the BM audience rose by 85%. A new format for connecting with audiences

was Instagram Stories. These combinations of images and video last 24 hours and received on average 30,000 views each. Three live Periscope broadcasts on one night for Museum Week attracted 50,000 viewers in 24 hours.

Collaborations included *Two Million Years of History and Humanity*, a virtual reality download which enables players to explore an array of BM artefacts. On Sketchfab, visitors can view and download 3D models of BM artefacts from Rapa Nui, ancient Egypt and elsewhere. By March 2017, the 3D scan of the Neolithic Jericho Skull reached over 185,000 views, quickly becoming the BM's most viewed object on the site and generating wider discussion around the object online.

External filming in the BM included a new BBC1 drama, *McMafia*, starring James Norton; *Hampstead*, a film starring Diane Keaton and Brendan Gleeson; and the Hollywood blockbuster *Wonder Woman*, in which the BM stood in for the Louvre.

Technology in the galleries

Sales of BM audio guides, sponsored by Korean Air, increased by 43% in 2016/17. With content available in several languages, the guides were hired by more than 257,000 visitors. A special Family Guide was designed for families to use



together as they explore the collection. In the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Gallery, a children's app could be downloaded, featuring animation and information about animals in early Egypt.

The Admonitions Scroll is a copy of a 4th-century Chinese painting, in which an instructress advises ladies of the court on their behaviour. Its fragility prevents it being displayed for long periods of time or in bright light. A new gallery interactive, supported by the American Friends of the British Museum in honour of Francis Finlay, allows visitors to view the entire scroll using Gigapixel technology. Supporting information includes an explanation of the painting's many scenes in English and Chinese.

Publications

The BM collaborated with a number of publishing partners overseas. The *Sicily* exhibition catalogue, which sold 10,000 copies, was co-published by Cornell University Press. A book on how to decipher Latin inscriptions was available in the USA through Getty Publications. Among several works issued on coins and seals was the most recent volume in a series on Roman provincial coinage, jointly published with the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

Winner of *Apollo* magazine's Book of the Year 2016 was *The Print Before Photography: An Introduction to European Printmaking 1550–1820* by the former keeper of the BM's Department of Prints and Drawings, Antony Griffiths. From the technology of printmaking to its finance and patronage, the book's range of topics led several reviews to judge it a groundbreaking survey of the European print trade.

In the *Times Literary Supplement*, Professor Mary Beard listed the catalogue for the BP exhibition *Sunken cities*, published with Thames & Hudson, as one of her books of the year: 18,000 copies were sold. A linked children's book, *Secret Treasures of Ancient Egypt* – published with Nosy Crow for schools, libraries and general trade – sold 6,500 copies. A new souvenir guide sold over 10,000 copies. Among foreign-language editions of BM books, *Thai Textiles* appeared in Japanese and *A Little Gay History* in Chinese.

BM across the UK

The BM works with partners around the UK to ensure loans, partnership galleries, knowledge exchange, public archaeology and training are an effective national resource. Partnerships in 2016/17 took place across the country.



Roman diploma found

Found in Durham in 2016, this Latin document from the reign of Antoninus Pius (AD 138-61) grants Roman citizenship to a Briton who served in the Roman Navy. The diploma was recorded through the BM's Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Aberdeen, Abergavenny, Anglesey, Aylesbury, Barnard Castle, Barnsley, Basingstoke, Bath, Beamish, Belfast, Benbecula, Birchington-on-sea, Birmingham, Bishop's Stortford, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carlisle, Carrickfergus, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Chester, Cirencester, Colchester, Compton Verney, Derby, Derry, Devizes, Dorchester, Dover, Downpatrick, Driffield, Dundee, Durham, Eastbourne, Edinburgh, Exeter, Falmouth, Galashiels, Glasgow, Great Yarmouth, Halton, Hartlepool, Henley-on-Thames, Hexham, Hull, Inverness, Ipswich, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Kendal, King's Lynn, Leeds, Leicester, Lewes, Lincoln, Littlehampton, Liverpool, Llanfairpwll, Lochgilphead, London, Ludlow, Maidstone, Manchester, Margate, Middlesbrough, Montrose, Newark, Newcastle, Newmarket, Northampton, Norwich, Nottingham, Oakham, Oxford, Plymouth, Poole, Port Sunlight, Preston, Reading, Redcar, Richmond, Romford, Rotherham, Salford, Salisbury, Scunthorpe, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Southport, South Shields, St Albans, Stornoway, Stroud, Sunderland, Swaffham, Swansea, Taunton, Thetford, Torquay, Truro, Wakefield, Ulster, Warwick, Wellingborough, Welshpool, Winchester, Woking, Worcester, Worksop, Worthing, Wrexham, York





Lending worldwide

This silver statuette of AD 150–220 depicts the Gallo-Roman goddess Tutela. It was displayed in New York, one of more than 2,200 objects which the BM loaned internationally in 2016/17. (Height 14 cm)



A history of the world

The touring exhibition based on the BM/BBC Radio 4 series, *A history of the world in 100 objects*, has attracted more than one million visitors worldwide. Displays include this Huastec figure from Mexico. The show toured to Australia and China in 2016/17. (Height 87 cm)

Loans and tours

Museums work internationally to make the most of their collections. BM exhibitions benefit from generous loans, and sculptures, drawings and other objects from the BM appear worldwide.

Lending objects worldwide

In 2016/17 the BM loaned over 2,200 artefacts to 113 venues outside the UK. Many supported special exhibitions organised by museums across the globe – on artists and Empire in Singapore, on Indian Ocean trade in Australia. Institutions borrowed particular artefacts to introduce their visitors to different cultures from around the world. A Roman statuette of the goddess Tutela was sent to New York. British works shown abroad included, in Basel, Michael Landy's ASBO 'medal of dishonour' listing a young man's crimes against his local community in Hartlepool.

Other loans filled important gaps in local stories. The BM loaned spear throwers and knives from Australia to the Western Australian Museum. The programme in Albany was initiated by the Menang Aboriginal people of the region following a research project on Australian collections involving the BM, National Museum

of Australia and Australian National University. The 14 historic artefacts included the oldest known ethnographic objects from that region.

From radio to reality

Two recent touring exhibitions arose out of the BM's successful BBC Radio 4 series on Germany and on world history. In Berlin, at the Martin-Gropius-Bau, Neil MacGregor's most recent radio programmes were translated into an exhibition entitled *The British view: Germany – memories of a nation*, supported by Betsy and Jack Ryan. The book based on the series proved popular in Germany and the exhibition attracted 46,000 visitors

In Perth and Canberra, visitors could travel two million years of human history in a chronological display of stories drawn from the BM's encyclopaedic collection. *A history of the world in 100 objects* was seen by 200,000 visitors at its two venues. The exhibition subsequently travelled to Beijing, where it was opened in March 2017 by BM Director Hartwig Fischer.



Medieval Europe

From the splendour of royal courts to the struggles between church and state, the BM's touring exhibition of medieval treasures looks at life in Europe from AD 400 to 1500 – the Black Death, the Crusades, the Wars of the Roses. Its exhibits have been seen around the world: the garnet-set Wingham Brooch from England, a Limoges casket from France, an Italian processional cross, a Danish drinking horn. In Brisbane, the exhibition drew 86,000 visitors while in Madrid, as the first of a series of BM exhibitions at the CaixaForum, the show was seen by 138,000 people. It later toured to Barcelona.

Drawings and prints

Italian Renaissance drawings from the British Museum appeared at the Suzhou Museum in China. Outstanding works by Raphael, Titian, Michelangelo and Leonard da Vinci told the story of Italian art through exquisite preparatory drawings.

In Adelaide, *Curious beasts: animal prints from Dürer to Goya* set prints from the BM collection among artefacts from the South Australian Museum. The exhibition encourages the host museum to feature its own collection. Alongside works by Rembrandt and Stubbs, the museum displayed snakes, koalas and parrots.

World culture

So popular was *Treasures of the world from the British Museum* that its run at the National Museum of Singapore was extended by one month. The displays ranged from a portrait bust of the Roman emperor Hadrian to a 19th-century wooden potlatch figure from Canada. The exhibition included two contemporary artworks from Singapore's own national collection and attracted 141,000 visitors.

At the Cleveland Museum of Art, the tour *Pharaoh: king of Egypt* also proved popular, attracting 75,000 visitors. The exhibition of monumental statues, reliefs and gold jewellery from ancient Egypt began life as a BM national tour from 2011–13, when it won a Museums & Heritage Award. An exhibition on Egyptian mummies began its tour at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Medieval Europe

BM Director Hartwig Fischer (far left) visits a BM touring exhibition in Spain. The show of medieval art and artefacts opened at the CaixaForum in Madrid, attracting 138,000 visitors before continuing to Barcelona.

International training

The BM's annual International Training Programme welcomed participants from 13 countries, including China, Lebanon and Sudan.

Africa programmes

With training and support from the BM, colleagues in Ghana study field notes relating to pottery from northern Ghana as they start to make a selection for display.



Training and collaborations

Longstanding and new collaborations ensure the BM maintains strong international ties. Training and cultural partnerships help the BM support colleagues worldwide.

South Asia Season

The BM is marking the 70th anniversary of Indian independence as part of an India-UK Year of Culture. As well as special displays and events in London, two Spotlight tours are showing objects from India to audiences around the UK. One is a 13th-century sculpture of the Hindu god Ganesha (to be shown in London, Manchester and Luton). The other (travelling to Derby and Blackburn) uses 17th-century ragamala paintings and a four-stringed ivory sarinda to discuss music in courtly India.

In Mumbai and New Delhi, a collaboration with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) and the National Museum will see a major exhibition open later in the year. The BM is providing important loans to help tell the 5,000-year story of India and its contacts around the globe. *India and the world: a history in nine stories* is supported by the Getty Foundation and Tata Trusts.

Science exchanges

In May 2016 scientists from the BM visited the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg to research Siberian artefacts. On a return visit Russian colleagues advised on material in the BM collection. The research is linked to a forthcoming BM exhibition on one of the great nomadic civilisations of antiquity, the Scythians.

A BM scientist was invited to the Museo de América in Madrid in June 2016 to study the Pacific collections and to carry out sampling and identification of fibres and shells. The results will appear in a joint publication led by the Museo de América and the University of Konstanz.

Curatorial collaboration abroad included research on Vikings with the University of Uppsala, Sweden; on Captain Cook's voyages with the Tairāwhiti Museum, New Zealand; and on Parthian coins with colleagues in Iran and Austria. A staff exchange with the National Museum of Denmark was renewed. In 2016/17 BM press and publishing staff spent a week examining work practices in Copenhagen, with a reciprocal visit arranged for colleagues there.



International Training Programme

As part of the International Training Programme each summer, museum professionals from around the world come to the BM to work with staff in relevant departments. They also spend ten days at different museums around the country, looking at other models of museum practice, governance and funding, as well as local collections and community links which may more closely mirror the participants' own institutions. Training included evaluating museums in London and writing an exhibition proposal.

In 2016, 21 fellows were invited from China, Croatia, Egypt, Greece, India, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, South Africa, Sudan, Turkey and Yemen. They also consulted museums in Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Lincoln, Manchester, Oxford and Tyne & Wear.

Programmes in Africa

In Ghana and Nigeria, the BM delivered training in the care and management of collections as part of its West Africa Programme, supported by the Ford Foundation. At the Museum of Science and Technology in Ghana, the combined Ghana-UK team drew up a masterplan for the entire museum. Cases from the closed National Museum were re-purposed and moved to the new layout. The group resituated larger open-display objects – an armoured car, space shuttle and jet engine – and provided new interpretive material for visitors. At the University of Ghana, a documentation project saw the cataloguing and storage of 400 pieces of 20th-century pottery, with field notes and transcripts of interviews with potters and traders.

A workshop at the National Museum Lagos focused on archaeological collections from the important 9th–10th-century site of Igbo Ukwu in eastern Nigeria. Issues raised included the need for a comprehensive audit of existing collections, the development of dedicated storage facilities and ways to foster effective collaboration between educators and curators in Nigeria.

Work on African collections in the UK is also important. In Exeter, BM staff examined 200 West African textiles as part of plans to redisplay the World Cultures gallery of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum.

Training staff in Iraq

As part of the BM's Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme, participants undertook training in site photography at Tello, a well-known Sumerian site.



Cultural protection

In 2015, in response to the destruction of heritage sites in Iraq, the BM set up the Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme. Supported by the UK government's Cultural Protection Fund, the four-year scheme will eventually train 50 staff from the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage in retrieval techniques and rescue archaeology.

The training is intended to provide participants with the expertise to face the challenges of documenting and stabilising severely disrupted heritage sites. They will also learn to prepare for their potential reconstruction. The first group arrived at the BM in May 2016, and a second in January 2017, for specialist training in excavation methodology, and advanced techniques of digital photography, including 3D capture and geomatics. Candidates then undertook fieldwork at two sites in Iraq: Tello, a well-known Sumerian site in the south, and Darband-i Rania, a previously unexplored cluster of sites in Iraqi Kurdistan. Each site represents a range of conditions the trainees may encounter in future.

The scheme is already having an effect: one 2016 alumnus has been appointed to lead the assessment of the site of Nimrud, recently released from Daesh control.

Assistance to Afghanistan and Yemen

With help from the BM, a beautifully inscribed bowl stolen from the National Museum of Afghanistan was returned. Large portions of the collection were taken or destroyed during the Afghan civil war in 1992. The bowl dates to the Safavid Period (1501–1722) and is decorated with scenes from a Persian romance. Sold outside Afghanistan, it came to the attention of Christie's when its owner decided to put it up for resale. The BM confirmed its identity and subsequent negotiations saw the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani personally return the bowl to the National Museum in May 2016.

Conflict in Yemen has caused similar disruption to the country's cultural heritage. The Ottoman citadel at Kawkaban has been damaged, Sufi shrines and the historic Qahira castle levelled. When the National Museum in Taz was shelled, thousands of books, manuscripts and antiquities were destroyed. To raise awareness, the BM joined UNESCO's #Unite4Heritage campaign. With colleagues in Russia, USA, Britain, Italy and France, online films, live-streamed Q&A's with curators, social media and a Yemeni Heritage Week were used to harness public attention to the urgent need for cultural protection in Yemen.

Stolen Safavid bowl returned

A rare silver bowl stolen from the National Museum of Afghanistan was identified with help from BM experts when it came up for sale in 2016. (Diameter 21 cm)



Support for museums abroad

Since 2008, the BM has been associated with a project to create the new Basrah Museum in Iraq. The initial stage of this project, primarily funded by BP, saw the first gallery, devoted to the history of the Basrah region from 300 BC onwards, formally opened on 27 September 2016. 'This is a great day for Iraq's cultural heritage,' said the Iraqi Minister of Culture Faryad Raundozi. 'It is an important example of how the international community can work with Iraqi experts and institutions to improve the way we conserve, celebrate and protect our past.' The museum's director, Qahtan Alabeed, is an alumnus of the BM's International Training Programme and the BM continues to offer their support. The Friends of Basrah Museum, the charity set up to run this project, have been awarded funds from the UK government's Cultural Protection Fund, and further galleries on Sumer, Babylon and Assyria are planned. The museum is expected to be fully open in 2019.

In Dhahran, the BM is advising on the development of the new King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, including a gallery on Arabic calligraphy. Designed by Snøhetta, the Saudi Arabian cultural centre is set to open in 2017. Advisory work in the United Arab Emirates included support for the Multaqa Zayed National

Museum Series. Five talks given in Arabic and English from March to June 2016 drew a large Emirati audience. Topics included music, language and archaeology, as well as celebrated men and women from the country's past. The discussions fed into the evolving storylines of the new Zayed National Museum. The BM has worked closely with the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority since 2009 and concluded the development phase of the project in spring 2017.

Archaeology in Sudan

At Dangeil, fieldwork is being undertaken at the temple of Amun.

Archaeologists uncovered bracelets, necklaces and this woman's beaded pelvic girdle of the 12th–13th

century AD at a burial site excavated in November 2016. (30 x 10 cm)



Fieldwork

Excavations continue to unveil discoveries about the past. Contemporary archaeology investigates new sites and revisits former excavations with the advantage of recent research and technology.

Egypt and Sudan

The BM has instigated a project to explore the deep history of the Asyut region and shed light on the collections from that site, with support from the Newton-Mosharafa Fund and the AHRC. Two fieldwork seasons in 2016 laid the groundwork for a more holistic approach to the area's cultural heritage, drawing on the perspectives of local communities to understand the region's past.

In Sudan, excavations of a 1st-century AD Amun temple at Dangeil continued as part of the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP). Discoveries included the graves of two women adorned with copper bracelets and necklaces of glass and stone, a large statue fragment bearing the name of the Kushite king Aspelta inscribed in hieroglyphs, and the discovery of a new ancillary temple within the sacred enclosure.

At Amara West, challenging conditions required structural engineers to ensure safe

excavation at the bottom of 7m deep tomb shafts. The burial chambers beneath two pyramids of the 19th and 20th dynasties (1300–1070 BC) had been badly looted. Some burial goods were recovered: painted coffin fragments, decorated gold leaf, scarabs and small figurines. In the town, the team discovered an ancient 'garden island' that was inundated seasonally. The fieldwork is also supported by QSAP and BM scientists will now analyse botanical samples to gain insights into ancient gardening.

A study of the western Nile Delta was supported by the Shelby White and Leon Levy Program for Archaeological Publications at Harvard University. In collaboration with colleagues in Greece and the USA the project revisits unpublished fieldwork from over 30 ancient sites. Excavations at the Greek-Egyptian trading port of Naukratis revealed parts of the Egyptian temple enclosure, the Greek sanctuary area and the port's harbour front, the team uncovered ship planks, Mediterranean imports and votive offerings to the twin gods Castor and Pollux.



Revisiting Hadrian's Villa

Excavations in the 18th century at Tivoli uncovered outstanding sculptures such as this marble bust of a companion of Ulysses. The BM is part of an international team combining archival research with renewed fieldwork to understand better this important site. (Height 74 cm)

Americas and Australia

Fieldwork in northwest Alaska was the first phase of a three-year project with the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Paris-Sorbonne University. Funded by the US National Science Foundation, the project is looking for evidence of the prehistoric Birnirk people and the later emergence of Inupiaq culture in the area.

In Brazil, BM scientists are collaborating with colleagues in Salvador on a tropical fuelwoods project with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Natural History Museum. Fieldwork continued on Isla de Mona, an uninhabited island of the Puerto Rican archipelago. *Archaeology* magazine listed the 16th-century European inscriptions found on the island alongside pre-Columbian Indigenous rock art as one of the top 10 archaeological discoveries of 2016.

In Australia, the BM is working with the Yirrkalá community in the Northern Territory. The research is part of an Australian Research Council project, 'The Relational Museum and its Objects' which looks at the relations among makers, consumers, traders and others that underlie museum artefacts.

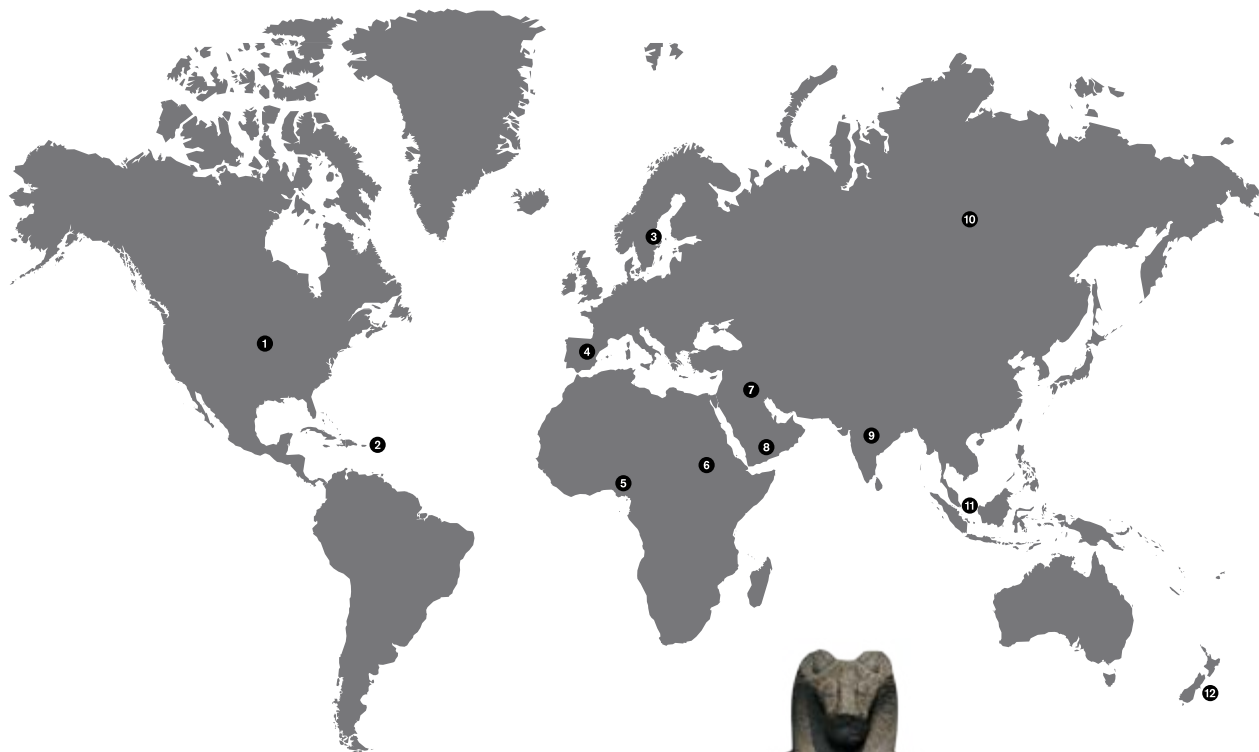
Europe

In Italy, in August 2016, the BM undertook excavations at Tivoli. At the Pantanello basin at Hadrian's Villa, staff examined locations highlighted by last year's archaeological, geological and geophysical survey. Archaeologists unearthed Roman structures and artefacts within four trenches. The project is funded by Christian Levett and the Ida Carrara Bequest.

Work on finds continues long after the fieldwork is done. Documentation and research were undertaken on a 19th-century collection of organic artefacts from the 14,000-year-old site of Courbet Cave in France. Staff discovered two new prehistoric engravings depicting the head of a saïga antelope and that of a horse, both drawn on fragments of antler. The saïga antelope, which inhabits cold dry steppe, likely indicates a cold phase between 15,000 and 13,000 years ago.

BM across the world

The BM works with partners around the world. Loans, research, archaeology and training build strong ties with other countries and institutions. The map features a selection of the BM's international activities in 2016/17.



1 USA

Fieldwork in Alaska is looking for evidence of the Birnirk and later Inupiaq peoples. This Inupiaq shape-shifting figure or shaman is carved of walrus ivory.



2 Puerto Rico

On the uninhabited Isla de Mona, a BM archaeologist found Taino drawings such as this near later Christian inscriptions. The evidence of life before and after European contact was named one of the year's top ten finds by *Archaeology* magazine. (detail)



3 Sweden

Long-term loans abroad included an ancient Egyptian statue of Sekhmet to Stockholm's Medelhavsmuseet. Collaborations in Sweden include a ten-year research project on the Vikings, headed by the University of Uppsala, to which the BM is contributing.



4 Spain

The first of four BM exhibitions toured to Spain in partnership with CaixaForum. In Madrid, 138,000 people came to look at *The pillars of Europe: the Middle Ages at the British Museum*. Displays included this 14th-century French ivory depicting the baptism of Christ.



5 Nigeria

The BM collection includes wooden masks of the Igbo people of West Africa. A BM workshop at the National Museum Lagos looked at strategies to document and monitor artefacts within Nigeria from various sites at Igbo-Ukwu.



6 Sudan

In the ancient city of Dangeil, fieldwork at a temple dedicated to the god Amun uncovered this statue fragment with the name of the Kushite King Aspelta (600–580 BC) inscribed in hieroglyphs. (detail)



7 Iraq

This 4,500-year-old statue of a woman is one of many significant finds from Tello in Iraq. Fieldwork in 2016/17 was undertaken at the site as part of the BM's five-year training scheme in emergency heritage management for colleagues in Iraq.



8 Yemen

The BM is working with international partners to raise awareness of imperilled cultural heritage in Yemen. Conflict in the region has caused severe damage to historical sites such as this tower in Sirwah.



9 India

This ancient Greek coin, minted in Iran, was loaned to New Delhi for an exhibition on Zoroastrianism. To mark 70 years since Indian Independence, the BM is co-curating a major exhibition in Mumbai and New Delhi looking at 5,000 years of India's history.



10 Russia

BM scientists travelled to St Petersburg to research artefacts for a future BM exhibition on the Scythians. Displays will include this gold costume-fitting of two archers of 400–350 BC found in Kul Oba.



11 Singapore

A Javanese figure, sent to Singapore for a special exhibition on colonialism, was one of 2,200 loans the BM made internationally. At the National Museum, a BM touring exhibition of world culture attracted 140,000 visitors.



12 New Zealand

This print of a Maori man was published shortly after Captain Cook's arrival in New Zealand in 1769. A research project with the Tairāwhiti Museum is examining the legacy of Cook's voyage. (detail)



The British Museum as a charity relies on its generous partners and benefactors who share the Museum's vision and support the work we do.

The Fund for the Future directs income from legacies and bequests to be spent on the areas of most urgent need. The Fund welcomed gifts in memory of Rachel Baxter, Alan Curtis and Jean Martin. As a volunteer, Jean Martin will be remembered for her many years' work with the Chinese collection, giving gallery tours and helping with cataloguing.

Scholarship is vital to the BM's responsibility to care for and share its collection. In 2017 the first Basil Gray Curator of Chinese Art was appointed. The post is funded through the generous bequest of Robert H Ellsworth and reflects his interests and expertise. The Sir Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art pledged support for the Curator of Chinese Ceramics, Jessica Harrison-Hall. Nicole Rousmaniere is undertaking research as the IFAC Handa Curator of Japanese Arts, while Richard Hobbs, Weston Curator of Roman Britain, published a major research publication on the Mildenhall Treasure. Nicholas and Jane Ferguson funded the work of Lloyd de Beer, Curator of Medieval Europe. As Albukhary Foundation

Project Curator, William Greenwood will also be working on a temporary exhibition planned for London and Kuala Lumpur in association with the Albukhary Foundation.

The BM's wide range of publications benefits from the generosity of trusts and individuals. The John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust, alongside the Roman Research Trust, supported *Pudding Pan: A Roman shipwreck and its cargo in context*. An illustrated account of Lord Moyne's 1936 expedition to the Asmat was published thanks to a programme of the J M Kaplan Fund. The E Rhodes and Leona B Carpenter Foundation supported a book on late Burmese wall paintings. The Mercers' Company and the Marc Fitch Fund provided funding to catalogue the BM's collection of British medals. The catalogue will be freely available to both scholars and the wider public thanks to this support.

Much of the BM's conservation and scientific research is undertaken in the World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre. The Department of Scientific Research, underpinned by the generous support of the Wellcome Trust, extended its work in the galleries with a new portable microscope, funded by an appeal to BM Members. The Mark Pigott Pictorial Conservation Studio received a major benefaction for conservation of works on paper. Generous funding from the Hintze Family



A focus on objects

The Asahi Shimbun supports a regular programme of displays that highlight single objects or small groups from the BM collection. Displays in 2016/17 included a celebration of Kakiemon porcelain from Japan.



Charitable Foundation and Oleg and Galina Smirnov is supporting work in the inorganic conservation studio. The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust enabled skills development for an early-career conservator during conservation of a Tang Dynasty textile, with additional support for the work received from the Idlewild Trust and the Thriplow Charitable Trust.

The International Training Programme continued to benefit from the lead support of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. Further assistance from Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement and gifts from a number of private individuals and trusts ensured that the BM can continue to welcome museum professionals from around the world. The Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation renewed its generous funding for access and education projects for children with special educational needs and adults with learning disabilities. The Bridget Riley Art Foundation Programme is encouraging drawing among art students, while the exhibition *Lines of thought: drawing from Michaelangelo to now* toured to three UK venues in 2016/17 with the Foundation's support. Generous funding will enable this important programme to continue to 2020. The Portable Antiquities Scheme is to strengthen its regional network of local partnerships up to

2020 with a grant from Graham and Joanna Barker. The BM map received financial support from UnionPay.

The BP exhibition *Sunken cities: Egypt's lost worlds* marked the 20th anniversary of the BM's partnership with BP. In this time over 4m people have attended a BP exhibition either at the BM or on BP-funded tours in the UK or worldwide.

Under the government's scheme of accepting works of art in lieu of inheritance tax, the BM was allocated a rare drawing by 15th-century Florentine artist, Benozzo Gozzoli. The recto side contains studies of four figures, while on the back the Madonna and Child are depicted, standing under a canopy with attendant angels.

The BM also acquired works of art by modern British artists with support from the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, which generously updated its long-term benefaction. A Pre-Raphaelite drawing, Millais' *Married for Rank* (1853) was a key addition to the collection thanks to the Dr Lee MacCormick Edwards Charitable Foundation, the Finnis Scott Foundation, the Wakefield Trust and an anonymous donation. The Archibald Bequest, established through a generous legacy from museum curator Marion M Archibald, will enable the BM to acquire coins, medals, tokens and bank notes. The Friends of the National Libraries supported the purchase of a rare proof



Renaissance drawing

A major addition to the collection in 2016/17 was a rare 15th-century drawing by Benozzo Gozzoli. It was allocated to the BM by the UK government through the Acceptance in Lieu scheme, which allows inheritance tax to be paid through outstanding works entering public collections. (16 x 17 cm)

Getting involved

The Patrons of the British Museum support the Museum's work and enjoy a range of special events.

copy of the catalogue of the Pembroke Collection of coins and medals. The Art Fund provided a generous grant for the BM to develop its Middle East photography collection.

In 2016 the BM marked the 400th anniversary of porcelain production in Japan by commissioning two new works from the celebrated Kakiemon kiln in Arita. Their purchase was funded by JTI, who over the past six years have helped the BM acquire more than 600 objects for the permanent collection. New acquisitions are made regularly and can be viewed in the Mitsubishi Corporation Japanese Galleries. The Museum also acquired an important porcelain vase made in 2016 by Imaizumi Imaemon XIV.

In February 2016, as part of a new travel programme, the Patrons of the Museum visited Berlin and Dresden to meet the new Director, Hartwig Fischer. Later in the year they travelled to Sicily to see sites featured in the major BM exhibition *Sicily: culture and conquest*.

The BM's new Membership tiers – Corporate Members and Partners – enjoyed special access for their staff and clients. The British Museum Friends held a number of events, including several popular evening lectures. A new Members' podcast was launched which includes highlights of the lectures for those who were not able to attend. The BM is grateful to this growing community and indeed to all our supporters, who generously underpin the Museum's wide-ranging activities.



Appendices

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**Welcome figure,
19th century**

The exhibition *Where the Thunderbird lives: cultural resilience on the Northwest Coast of North America* featured this welcome figure. These tall human forms were placed facing the sea or in highly visible locations in the village as a sign of welcome to guests arriving for a feast, or potlatch. Welcome figures are still used throughout the region today as a sign of hospitality. (Height 2.3 m)

Exhibitions

LONDON

Sicily: culture and conquest
21 Apr – 14 Aug 2016
Sponsored by Julius Baer

The BP exhibition
Sunken cities: Egypt's lost worlds
19 May – 27 Nov 2016
Supported by BP

South Africa: the art of a nation
27 Oct 2016 – 26 Feb 2017
Sponsored by Betsy and Jack Ryan
Logistics partner IAG Cargo

The American Dream: pop to the present
9 Mar – 18 Jun 2017
Sponsored by Morgan Stanley
Supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art

Life and sole: footwear from the Islamic World
14 Nov 2015 – 15 May 2016
Supported by Stephen Larcombe and Sonya Leydecker

Hoards: the hidden history of ancient Britain
3 Dec 2015 – 22 May 2016
Supported by Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald

Light, time, legacy: Francis Towne's watercolours of Rome
21 Jan – 14 Aug 2016
Supported by Lowell Libson Ltd

Krishna in the garden of Assam: the cultural context of an Indian textile
21 Jan – 15 Aug 2016

Supported by the Tabor Foundation

Drawn to Sicily: early British exploration of the classical world
14 Apr – 14 Jul 2016

Courting to contract: love and marriage in Iran
21 May – 20 Nov 2016

Voices of Iran
28 Nov 2016 – 2 Apr 2017

Money matters
3 Jun – 9 Oct 2016
Supported by Citi

Maggie Hambling – Touch: works on paper
8 Sep 2016 – 29 Jan 2017
Supported by an anonymous donor

French portrait drawings from Clouet to Courbet
8 Sep 2016 – 29 Jan 2017
Shadow puppet theatre from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand
8 Sep 2016 – 29 Jan 2017

Defacing the past: damnation and desecration in imperial Rome
13 Oct 2016 – 7 May 2017
Supported by Stephen and Julie Fitzgerald

Places of the mind: British watercolour landscapes 1850–1950
23 Feb – 27 Aug 2017
Supported in memory of Melvin R Seiden

Where the Thunderbird lives: cultural resilience on the Northwest Coast of North America
23 Feb – 27 Aug 2017
Supported by the High Commission of Canada in the UK
Additional support by Steven Larcombe and Sonya Leydecker, and PF Charitable Trust

The Asahi Shimbun Displays

Containing the divine: a sculpture of the Pacific god A'a
17 Mar – 30 May 2016

Made in Japan: 400 years of Kakiemon porcelain
23 Jun – 21 Aug 2016

Rock art: power and symbolism in southern Africa
15 Sep – 29 Nov 2016

Creating an ancestor: the Jericho Skull
15 Dec 2016 – 19 Feb 2017

Moving stories: three journeys
30 Mar – 30 Apr 2017

Supported by The Asahi Shimbun

AUSTRALIA

Medieval power: symbols and splendour
Queensland Museum, Brisbane
11 Dec 2015 – 10 Apr 2016
A history of the world in 100 objects
Western Australian Museum, Perth
13 Feb – 18 Jun 2016

National Museum of Australia, Canberra
8 Sep 2016 – 29 Jan 2017
Curious beasts: animal prints from Dürer to Goya
South Australian Museum, Adelaide
21 Oct 2016 – 5 Feb 2017
Egyptian mummies: exploring ancient lives
Powerhouse Museum, Sydney
10 Dec 2016 – 30 Apr 2017

CHINA

Italian Renaissance drawings from the British Museum
Suzhou Museum
7 Oct 2016 – 6 Jan 2017

A history of the world in 100 objects
National Museum of China, Beijing
1 Mar – 31 May 2017

GERMANY

The British view: Germany – memories of a nation
Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin
8 Oct 2016 – 9 Jan 2017

SINGAPORE

Treasures of the world from the British Museum
National Museum of Singapore
5 Dec 2015 – 3 Jul 2016

SPAIN

The pillars of Europe: the Middle Ages at the British Museum
CaixaForum, Madrid
19 Oct 2016 – 5 Feb 2017
CaixaForum, Barcelona
7 Mar – 18 Jun 2017

UNITED KINGDOM

Social fabric: African textiles today
William Morris Gallery, London
20 Feb – 29 May 2016

Writing for eternity: decoding Ancient Egypt
Tullie House, Carlisle
12 Mar – 8 May 2016
Salisbury Museum
21 May – 3 Sep 2016
Abergavenny Museum
16 Sep 2016 – 10 Jan 2017
Museum of Hartlepool
21 Jan – 21 May 2017

Picasso linocuts
Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight
24 Jun 2016 – 8 Jan 2017
Cooper Gallery, Barnsley
21 Jan – 29 Apr 2017

Sacred spaces: the rock art of San Bushmen in southern Africa
Wrexham County Borough Museum
25 Jun – 27 Aug 2016

Lines of thought: drawing from Michelangelo to now
Poole Museum and Art Gallery
3 Sep – 6 Nov 2016
University of Hull Library
3 Jan – 28 Feb 2017
Ulster Museum, Belfast
10 Mar – 7 May 2017
Supported by the Bridget Riley Art Foundation

Dressed to impress: Netsuke and Japanese men's fashion
Oriental Museum, Durham University
9 Dec 2016 – 21 May 2017

SPOTLIGHT TOURS
UK

Lacock Cup
Nottingham Castle Museum
20 Jan – 8 May 2016
Wiltshire Museum
10 May – 17 Jul 2016

Celebrating Ganesha
Cartwright Hall, Bradford
16 Jan – 15 May 2016
The Bowes Museum, Durham
21 May – 18 Sep 2016
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
24 Sep 2016 – 11 Jan 2017
The Horniman, London
11 Feb – 23 April 2017

Reflections on Celts
Old Gala House, Galashiels
15 Mar – 22 May 2016
Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
25 May – 28 Aug 2016
The McManus, Dundee
31 Aug 2016 – 26 Mar 2017

A Greek in Egypt: the hunter of Naukratis
Corinium Museum, Cirencester
26 May – 15 Jul 2016
University of Nottingham Museum
22 Jul – 16 Oct 2016
South Shields Museum
22 Oct 2016 – 26 Feb 2017

National exhibitions and Spotlight loans are supported by the Dorset Foundation in memory of Harry M Weinrebe

USA

Pharaoh: King of Egypt
Cleveland Museum of Art
8 Mar – 12 Jun 2016

British modern prints from the British Museum: from the Great War to the Grosvenor School
University of San Diego
10 Feb – 19 May 2017

Supporters

The Trustees and the Director would like to thank the following for their support and advice during the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

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The Albukhary Foundation
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Community Groups

The BM welcomes communities from across London and beyond. The following groups attended free exhibition previews in 2016/17

Abbey Community Centre
ACDiversity
Action for Refugees in Lewisham
Age UK
Ageing Better in Camden
Akash Residents Association, Akbar and Shan House
Albanian Supplementary School
Albert Kennedy Trust
Alevi Cultural Centre and Cem-Evi
Alone in London
Anti-Slavery International
Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group
Ardhmeria Albanian Supplementary school
Arlington House
Arts 4 Dementia
Association of German Saturday Schools
Baile Peru
Barnet Mencap
Bede House Association
Belief in Bow
Bengali Service – Church Street Library
Bishop Ho Ming Wah Association
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
Buddhist Society
Calthorpe Project
Cambridge St Alban's Primary School
Camden & Islington Communication Support

Camden Carers Centre
Camden Chinese Community Centre
Camden Futures
Camden Garden Centre
Camden LGBT Forum
Camden Libraries
Camden Society
Camden Town Shed
Capital Arts
Cara Trust
Caras
Castlehaven Community Association
Central & Cecil Housing Trust
Chinese Information and Advice Centre
Christopher Hatton School
City & Islington College
CityLit
Claremont Project
College of North West London
Community Association for West Hampstead
Confraternity of Saint James
Congolese Supplementary School
Connection at St-Martin-in-the-Fields
Contact the Elderly
Cooltan Arts
Core Arts
Creative Support
Crisis
Croydon Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Support group
Czech School Without Borders
Dementia Befriending Service
Dragon Hall Trust
East London Chinese Community Centre
Elfrida Rathbone Camden
Emergence
Enaip
Equiano Society
Esforal

Estonia Supplementary School
Evelyn Oldfield Unit
Finchley Greek School
Fitzrovia Centre
Fitzrovia Community Centre
Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association
Flourishing Lives
Friends of Tavistock Square
Fulham Good Neighbours
Garden School
German Saturday School Islington
Goffs Greek School
Great Croft Resource Centre
Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital School
Greater London Forum for Older People
Gujarati Literary Academy
Hackney Community College
Harrow High School
Healthwatch Camden
Helen Bamber Foundation
Helios Centre
Hibiscus Initiatives
Holborn Asian Women's Association
Holborn Community Association
Holborn Community Centre
Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre
Hounslow Chinese Community Centre
Imperial College Healthcare Charity
Iranian Association
Iranian Community Centre
Iranian Youth Development Association
Iraqi Association

Iroko Theatre Company	Margate Greek School	South London	Wild Street Estate
Islamic Circles	Mary Ward Centre	Supplementary School	Garden Club
Supplementary School	Middle Eastern	South West Essex and	Windsor and St
Islamic Cultural Centre	Women & Society	Settlement Reform	Panteleimon Greek
Isledon Road Mental	Organisation	Synagogue	School
Health Recovery	Migrant Resource Centre	Spice	Women at the Well
Centre	Mildmay's Sheltered	St Alban's Catholic	Working Men's College
Islington & Shoreditch	Housing	Primary School	Yarrow Housing
Housing Association	Millman Street Resource	St Eleutherios Greek	Znaniye the Russian
Islington Bangladesh	Centre	School	School
Association	Milton Keynes Greek	St Mungo's Broadway	
Islington Centre for	School	St Patrick's Italian Club	
Refugees and	Mind	Stitches in Time	
Migrants	Mind in Camden	Stroke Association	
Islington Chinese	Mind Yourself	Stroke Project	
Association	Mitcham Town	Sudbury Neighbourhood	
Islington Chinese	Community Trust	Centre	
Community Centre	Mosaic	Swadhinata Trust	
Islington Mind	Mother Teresa Albanian	Sydenham Garden	
Islington Women's	Union School	Tavistock and Portman	
Centre	Najah Supplementary	NHS Trust	
Italian Consulate School	Arabic School	Terrence Higgins Trust	
Italian Cultural Institute	New Horizons Youth	Third Age Project	
Italian School Slough	Centre	Three Faiths Forum	
Kentish Town	North London Epilepsy	Time and Talents	
Community Centre	Action	Toynbee Hall	
Kilburn Library	North London Interfaith	Training Link	
King's Cross Brunswick	Notting Hill Housing	Triangle Community	
Neighbourhood	Group	Services	
Association	Nubian Users Forum	Twining Enterprise	
Laamiga	Open Age	UCL Communication	
Ladbroke Grove Autism	Opening Doors	Group	
Centre	Oremi Centre	UK Punjab Heritage	
Latin American Disabled	Our Camden	Association	
People's Project	Parkinson's UK	Volunteer Centre	
Latin American House	Pavement	Camden	
Leicester Greek School	Peace School	Volunteering Matters	
Lismore Circus	Penfold Community Hub	Wandsworth &	
Community Woods	Positive East	Westminster Mind	
London Central Mosque	Praxis	West Euston Partnership	
& Islamic Cultural	Primrose Hill	West Euston Time Bank	
Centre	Community	West Hampstead	
London Connected	Association	Women's Centre	
Learning Centre	Quaker Social Action	Westminster Kingsway	
London Inter-Faith	Rosetta Art Centre	College	
Centre	Rustam Iranian School	Westminster Senior	
London Irish Centre	Salvation Army	Citizens Forum	
London Muslim Centre	Sanctuary Housing	Westway Trust	
London Welsh Centre	Sikh Education Council		
London West End	Single Homeless Project		
Women's Institute	Smart Network		
Marchmont Association	Solace Women's Aid		
Marchmont Community	South Bloomsbury		
Centre	Residents Association		

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