



Review 2014



National
Museums
Scotland



Collections with enduring appeal

Recent years have been transformative for National Museums Scotland with significant redevelopment of our sites, innovative visitor engagement and new ways of delivering services beyond our museums. At the heart of all these changes are our collections: remarkable objects with powerful stories that continue to have an enduring appeal to audiences across Scotland and the world.

In this review, we highlight how these collections, which have come together over 200 years, remain relevant today inspiring discovery, learning and worldwide connections.

The investment in our museums continues thanks to generous support from a wide range of organisations and individuals. Two major capital projects at the National Museum of Scotland and the National Museum of Flight will present collections in new ways, with the imaginative interpretation of many thousands of objects not previously seen in public for a great many years.

We have also been able to continue with our drive to improve the preservation of and access to our collections, with the completion of major new state-of-the-art storage facilities at the National Museums Collection Centre and a significant leap forward in digitising collections.

Looking forward, we aim to deliver more home-grown exhibitions on strong Scottish themes following the overwhelming success of the *Mary, Queen of Scots* exhibition, and to build more global partnerships following the development of our international strategy.

We are delighted that the vision for our museums and collections continues to inspire many supporters. They play a vital role in our success through their encouragement, assistance and generosity. We give warm thanks for their continuing support.

The magnificent Cloud Cabinet (pictured left and cover detail), by Edward William Godwin and painted by James Abbott McNeill Whistler which will be displayed in the National Museum of Scotland's new galleries opening in 2016.



Bruce Minto
Chairman

© Ian Jacobs



Dr Gordon Rintoul CBE
Director

© Ruth Armstrong

Internationally significant



A pair of rare embroidered hangings were saved for the nation following an export bar with funding from the Art Fund and the National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust. The unique hangings were designed and worked by May Morris, the daughter of William Morris, the leader of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Our £80 million Masterplan at the National Museum of Scotland has already delivered a significant transformation for this site, which is now recognised as a museum of international importance and is the most-visited UK attraction outside London. But there is more to do.

Ten new galleries are now being developed which will showcase our internationally significant collections in decorative art, design, fashion, and science and technology.

Confirmation of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Government marked the official start of this £14 million project in early summer 2014 with work beginning immediately on site to carefully pack, catalogue and move objects currently on display.

More good news came in autumn 2014 with the award of £1.3 million from the Wellcome Trust to develop the six science galleries as a major hub for public science engagement in the UK and beyond. This support will particularly focus on biomedical science.

A series of high profile acquisitions will complement existing collections in the new galleries such as the magnificent maple *Cloud Cabinet* (cover and inside cover image). Acquired thanks to generous funding from the Art Fund and the National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust, this late 19th century cabinet is the result of an artistic collaboration between designer Edward William Godwin and painter James Abbot McNeill Whistler.

Two further galleries are in development which will open in 2018 presenting our major Ancient Egyptian and East Asian collections. Both of these collections are internationally important and amongst the finest in the UK.

It has been a year of intense planning as we develop displays for the new galleries, test our ideas with audiences, refine building specifications and progress fundraising. If you would like to support, contact our Development team on 0131 247 4095 or development@nms.ac.uk



An artist's impression of the *Enquire* gallery which will tell the amazing story of Sir James Black, one of three Scottish Nobel Laureates celebrated at the museum. Famous for discovering 'beta blockers' and the first drug to treat stomach ulcers, Sir James' discoveries have helped save and improve the quality of countless lives.

Impact

We concluded the highly successful 'Museums as Agents of Change' project with the opening of the exhibition *Dr Livingstone the Man!* at the Chichiri Museum in Malawi. The Scottish Government-funded project delivered on its twin objectives of skills development and raising the profile of the museum service. The exhibition delivered a 35% increase in visitors to the Chichiri Museum.



Couture

We acquired leather and mink fur heel-less boots by Alexander McQueen for display in our new *Fashion and Style* gallery opening in 2016. These highly stylised boots illustrate the designer's theatrical aesthetic and cutting edge design.



Global

Web review site TripAdvisor named the National Museum of Scotland the best museum in Britain at its inaugural 'Travellers' Choice' awards. The museum was also selected as the Best Large Venue at the Scottish Events Awards and was praised by judges as being "beautiful, versatile, impressive and iconic".

Engaging

Events themed around life in the country attracted thousands of visitors to the National Museum of Rural Life. In 2014, players of the People's Postcode Lottery supported this diverse programme including the Heavy Horse Show and Country Fair.



© Ruth Armstrong

Flagship

The BBC launched its new arts strand from the National Museum of Scotland in May 2014. The programme was broadcast UK-wide on BBC2 and anchored by Arts Editor Will Gompertz.



© Ruth Armstrong

Reach

Precious silver objects from the 'Skail Hoard' were lent for exhibition at Shetland Museum and Archives and to mark the opening of an international Vikings conference on the islands. Pieces from the hoard were also lent to the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin for an exhibition on the Battle of Clontarf.

Treasures

A collection of original Ming artefacts, including National Treasures from Nanjing Museum, were on display in the only UK showing of *Ming: The Golden Empire* which was sponsored by Baillie Gifford Investment Managers. Highlights included this exquisite golden cicada on a jade leaf.



© Nanjing Museum / Nomad Exhibitions

Partners

We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Edinburgh which recognises the long-standing association between the two institutions and provides a framework for joint working. Pictured above Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice Chancellor, with Dr Gordon Rintoul, Director.

Advocacy

We hosted our first symposium on international working for the museums sector in Scotland. 'Going Global' included speakers from the Scottish Government, the British Council and the International Council of Museums. Throughout the year cultural advocacy was a key theme as we hosted international delegations from China, India, Russia and the Commonwealth.



Lacquer box made by Misree Doodee in 1850, on display in Indian Encounters.



Visitors will be able to see our aircraft cockpits up close with striking new photography which will be displayed digitally online and at the National Museum of Flight. Here you can see the complex control panel of the Panavia Tornado F.3.

Aiming high

We are further investing in the National Museum of Flight by restoring two Second World War hangars and creating vibrant display spaces worthy of our internationally significant aviation collections.

Completing in 2016, this £3.6 million project, which is supported by the Scottish Government and the Heritage Lottery Fund, will enhance the site's position as one of the major aviation museums in Europe and a must-see visitor attraction.

The restoration of the two iconic 1940s hangars will not only ensure their long-term survival but also transform the exhibitions within them with contemporary interpretation and inspiring displays. Both hangars will include energy efficient ground source heating systems, a first for the East Fortune Airfield site which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. As a result of the significantly improved environmental conditions, an array of fascinating objects currently in storage will be displayed including uniforms, photographs and technology relating to aviation history. Audiovisual programmes will also add drama to the displays.



© Redman Partnership LLP

Dramatic film and sound effects, interactive displays and digital interpretation will bring the story of flight to life in the two new hangars opening in 2016.

2.5m visitors

were welcomed to our group of museums in 2013–14, our most successful year ever.

1.6m visits

were made to our website. The website was revamped in summer 2014 delivering improved mobile and tablet access.



© Ruth Armstrong

22,000 objects

are now digitised and available to view on our website, 50% more than last year. This offers significantly more public access to collections including this Computer board for the original Apple 1 personal computer, created in 1976.



£370,000 worth of acquisitions



were made by local museums supported by the National Fund for Acquisitions on behalf of the Scottish Government. The £150,000 annual fund, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2013, assisted purchases in 17 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. This included a grant of £9,200 to Tain and District Museum for a rare silver cup made around 1710 by Hugh Ross.

1.1b

opportunities

were generated in the media for people to see, read or hear about our museums, programmes and collections. Filming at our museums included live heats of the UK Portrait Artist of the Year Competition for Sky Arts hosted by Frank Skinner.

185,000

people



© Ruth Armstrong

took part in learning programmes across our museums from weaving wool at the National Museum of Rural Life to researching their family wartime history at the National War Museum.



£6.1m

of income generated in 2013–14, 19% of our overall income. This is part of a strategic drive to build our self-generated income through commercial activity, sponsorship and fundraising.

2,600 objects

from our collections lent to museums across Scotland and internationally. A silver Disruption brooch (pictured right) made in 1843 was part of a series of objects lent to the Otago Settlers Museum in New Zealand for an exhibition about Scottish identity, emigration, and life in Dunedin.



65,000 school pupils

enjoyed visits to our museums in 2013–14 and a further 2,700 pupils discovered more about Mary, Queen of Scots, Vikings, Romans, Ancient Egypt, dinosaurs and the First World War through live broadcasts to classrooms from Shetland to Dumfries via Education Scotland's GLOW TV, the schools intranet.



© Ruth Armstrong

12,000 visitors

experienced the thrill of flight through dramatic displays at our annual Airshow at the National Museum of Flight.

Sparking inspiration

Inspired by our collections, we engage a diverse audience of all ages through a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and activities at our museums.

More people than ever enjoyed our museums in 2013–14 with 2.5 million visits across our sites, 230,000 people enjoying temporary exhibitions and 185,000 people participating in our learning programmes.

The extensive public programme was designed to foster excitement, enjoyment and discovery, from large-scale exhibitions such as *Mary, Queen of Scots* aimed at cultural audiences to innovative after hours events for young people.

“I loved that we were involved in making our own hydro power.”

Secondary school pupils from across Scotland were inspired by our collections to solve scientific challenges relating to our energy needs of the future through an innovative project supported by the ScottishPower Foundation.

More than 350 pupils took part in the ‘Get Energised’ programme working alongside experts from the fields of science and engineering in a series of challenge days aimed at solving scientific problems around renewable energy; solar, hydro, wind and wave power.

The programme was created to encourage pupils studying physics, technology, engineering and maths to consider pursuing a future career in the fields of science and technology. The programme allows us to explore ways in which we can engage young people with a new gallery called *Energise* one of the ten galleries opening at the National Museum of Scotland in 2016, which will include the story of the renewable energy industry within Scotland.



© Sandy Young



Beautiful examples of early light bulbs, the Osram electric light bulb made by G.E.C. of England (far left), and an electric lamp made by the Swan United Electric Light Co. Ltd (left), will spark inspiration in our new Energise gallery.

Beyond our museums, young people across Scotland took part in the 'Scotland Creates: A Sense of Place' project, creating their own exhibitions inspired by our collections and defining the place where they live. The results were exhibited at their local museums in the Western Isles, East Ayrshire, Greenock and Dundee and then came together at the National Museum of Scotland in summer 2014. We also worked with Scottish Ballet, Live Music Now, artists, choreographers and film-makers in the two year project which was supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Creative Scotland.

We invested more in digital delivery to interpret collections and reach audiences who might not be able to visit our physical sites. Website visits were up 8% with further growth planned thanks to increasing digitisation of collections, more engaging content and a revamped website launched in 2014 which delivers better mobile and tablet access. An online game for the *Mammoths of the Ice Age* exhibition was particularly popular.



© Ian Jacobs

44,000 people enjoyed the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition (above) at the National Museum of Scotland.

130,000 people took part in science challenges, talks, debates and workshops at the National Museum of Scotland (right) and the National Museum of Flight as part of the Edinburgh International Science Festival.



© Ruth Armstrong

Access to our collections for research, conservation and learning will significantly improve through redevelopment of the National Museums Collection Centre.

With support from the Scottish Government, more than 2.4 million objects are being moved from inadequate buildings into newly created state-of-the-art storage facilities at the north Edinburgh site. This includes material previously held at Leith Customs House and Port Edgar. The £12 million project will enable us to achieve our long-term ambition to bring all stored collections into a single location. A further £2.8 million project will provide additional conservation facilities by summer 2016.

This major reorganisation of objects is being delivered alongside a strengthened research focus. Demonstrating the scope and calibre of our collections, the research programme in 2013–14 delivered more than 100 peer reviewed publications and multiple collaborations.

Working in partnership with museums in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Perth, we led a review of Scotland's Pacific Collections to better understand their potential, document the stories associated with this material and identify areas for further research. The project was supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, run by the Museums Association.

An unparalleled collection of Scottish fossils, which we secured for the nation in 2013 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, is the focus of a four-year joint study with the British Geological Survey and the Universities of Leicester, Cambridge and Southampton. The specimens have rich international research potential and date from one of our planet's most crucial evolutionary periods, 360 to 340 million years ago, when back-boned animals first moved from water to land. The study is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.

Revealing insights

High level collaborations include our appointment of leading scientific figures to a new Science and Technology Advisory Panel to help guide the development of our six new science and technology galleries and related public programmes at the National Museum of Scotland.





Conserving an 18th century Mughal miniature at the National Museums Collection Centre.



An innovative six-year partnership with The Glenmorangie Company revealed new insights into the people and society of Early Medieval Scotland. Archaeologists worked with artists and craftspeople to recreate significant artefacts from existing fragments to better understand a period when elaborate and sophisticated objects, sculptured stones and manuscripts were produced in Scotland. The results were presented in an exhibition, *Creative Spirit: Revealing Early Medieval Scotland*, at the National Museum of Scotland.



The powerful stories we tell

Our collections play a powerful role in bringing to life international themes for audiences of all ages. One such theme is the centenary of the First World War which spans over the next four years. A major programme of exhibitions, events and digital activity was launched in 2013 to mark this.

Many of the objects in our collections related to the First World War provide a tangible link to events which, a century on, have passed from living memory. Our programme of commemoration over the next four years shares the Scottish memory of these world-changing events with national and international visitors.

Part of the international First World War Centenary Partnership and supported by the Scottish Government's Commemoration Panel, the programme was launched at the National War Museum, Edinburgh Castle, with the opening of a special exhibition entitled *Next of Kin*.

Through a selection of family treasures, this exhibition reveals profound personal experiences and explores the way in which loved ones were remembered. It will tour eight venues across Scotland from 2015 to 2017 with supporting digital and learning resources thanks to grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government.

An extensive programme of lectures, events and activities for schools and the public about the First World War continues at the National War Museum, the National Museum of Scotland and the National Museum of Flight. To find out more visit www.nms.ac.uk/centenary

Wallace Anderson's memorial sculpture (main image) Defence of ANZAC, 1933, represents the traumatic experience of Australian and New Zealand (ANZAC) forces in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey in 1915.



Next of Kin will tour to Dumfries Museum and Camera Obscura, Rozelle House Galleries in South Ayrshire, Hawick Museum, Low Parks Museum in South Lanarkshire, Grampian Transport Museum, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, the Black Watch Castle and Museum, and Orkney Museum.

Our first iPad interactive for the *Next of Kin* exhibition allows visitors to browse material too fragile to fully display, for example pages of remarkable illustrations and hand-written notes from a nurse's autograph books (pictured left).



Memorial plaque issued to the family of Private Hayden Mellor, of the 8th/10th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, who died in 1918.

More than 33,000 people explored the stories of the Scottish diaspora and the Commonwealth nations during the First World War at the National Museum of Scotland during summer 2014. *Common Cause: Commonwealth Scots and the Great War* included poignant objects borrowed from partners in Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. The exhibition was supported by the Scottish Government as part of the Year of Homecoming 2014.



4th South African Infantry (South African Scottish)
© Ditsong National Museum of Military History

With thanks

We are extremely grateful to the many individual donors, trusts, foundations and corporate supporters who have generously contributed to National Museums Scotland this year.

Key Funders

The Heritage Lottery Fund
Scottish Government

Trusts and Other Organisations

The Art Fund
Association for Roman Archaeology Fund
Barcapel Foundation
The Binks Trust
Bòrd na Gàidhlig
British Academy/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant
Craft Scotland
Creative Scotland
Dunard Fund
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The European Community Moray LEADER 2007–2013 programme
The Fidelity UK Foundation
Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation
Historic Scotland
The Inches Carr Trust
The Margaret Murdoch Charitable Trust
Marine Productivity Programme
The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
Museums Association – The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund
NADFAS Scotland & Northern Ireland Area
Nancie Massey Charitable Trust
National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust
Natural Environment Research Council
New Zealand Lottery Grants Board

The PCG Charitable Trust
Players of People's Postcode Lottery
The Robertson Trust
The Ronald Miller Foundation
The Royal Society of Edinburgh (Scottish Government Arts and Humanities Workshops)
ScottishPower Foundation
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Strathmartine Trust
The Wellcome Trust
Welsh Family Trust

Individuals and Legacies

Patricia Barclay
Sir Sandy and Lady Crombie
The Late Agnes J Cruickshank
James Ferguson
The Late Ian J Fleming
Kenneth and Julia Greig
Sir Angus Grossart and Lady Grossart
The Dowager Duchess of Hamilton
E & I Jamieson
Barrie and Janey Lambie
Andy Macfie
The Late Mary E Mackenzie
Alan and Anne McFarlane
The Late Moira McGovern
Kenneth McKelvey
Murdoch McKillop
Angus McLeod and Campbell Armour
The Late May P Nicol
Alexander Porteous
June Rutterford
Barry and Helen Sealey
George and Moira Stewart
Ian and Flora Sword
David and Terri Warnock

Corporate Support

Baillie Gifford Investment Managers
Diageo
The Glenmorangie Company Ltd
Zalando GmbH

Corporate Members

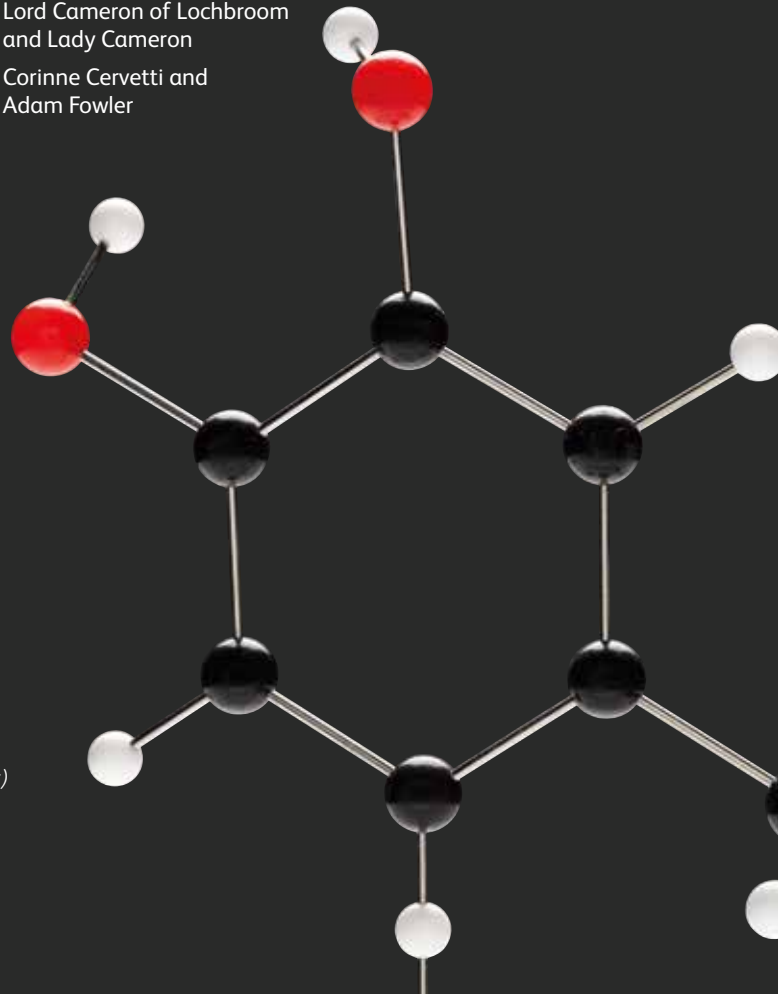
Allander Print Ltd
Artemis Investment Management LLP
Brewin Dolphin Ltd
Diageo
First State Investments
The Miller Group Ltd

Patrons

Alan and Karen Aitchison
Geoffrey and Mary Ball
Patricia Barclay
Malcolm Bowie
Terry Brewis
Jennifer, Marchioness of Bute
Lord Cameron of Lochbroom and Lady Cameron
Corinne Cervetti and Adam Fowler

Douglas and Marjorie Connell
Janice Dickson
Sir David and Lady Edward
Sir Gerald and Lady Elliot
Nick Felisiak
Mr Justice Angus Foster and Dr Fiona Foster
Sir Charles and Lady Fraser
James and Amanda Garden
Gavin and Kate Gemmell
Lord and Lady Gordon of Strathblane
Ronald and Mirren Graham
Lady Grant
Alexander Gray
Ivor Guild
Rosemary Haggarty
Donald Hardie
J Douglas Home
The Earl and Countess of Hopetoun
Flora Hunter
Barrie and Janey Lambie

Molecular model of the hormone adrenaline (pictured right) which will help tell the story of the human body and how it works in the new Enquire gallery.



Roger Lindsay of Craighall
 Duncan and Ellie MacKinnon
 Simon and Catriona Mackintosh
 Fenella Maclean
 Sir Hamish and Lady Macleod
 Chris and Gill Masters
 Alexander and Elizabeth McCall Smith
 Miller and Anne McLean
 Angus McLeod and Campbell Armour
 Professor Malcolm McLeod
 Sir Ronald and Lady Miller
 James and Iris Miller
 Derek and Maureen Moss
 Malcolm and Muriel Murray
 Tom and Susan Murray
 Nicholas and Julia Parker
 Elisabeth Phimister
 Sir William Purves and Lady Rebecca Purves
 Ian Rankin and Miranda Harvey
 Shirley Richardson
 Paul Roberts and Stephanie Donaldson
 The Earl and Countess of Rosebery
 Colin and Hilary Ross
 June Rutterford
 Barry and Helen Sealey
 Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
 Frances and Alan Steel

George and Moira Stewart
 Ian and Flora Sword
 Ian Tudhope and Lindy Patterson
 Dr Mark Urquhart
 Max Ward and Lady Sarah Ward
 Elizabeth Whitelaw
 Graham Whyte and Sarah Whitley
 Lord and Lady Wilson of Tillyorn
 Eilidh Wiseman
 Bill Zachs and Martin Adam

The American Foundation for National Museums Scotland

Kate and Gordon Baty
 Prudence E Carlson
 Howard and Ursula Dubin Foundation
 Charles A Edwards
 Jeb and Dianne Embree
 Mrs Alexander Hehmeyer
 James E Jewell
 Rev Andrew M Jergens
 David L Kerr
 James B Luke
 William C MacLeod
 Mr and Mrs Robert McCrie
 The Negaunee Foundation
 Walter and Norma Nimmo
 Ellsworth G Stanton III
 Stephen and Ellen Thomas
 Jane Trevarthen-Traub

And all those who prefer to remain anonymous.

We would also like to thank the many people who have provided guidance, expertise and their time in support of the work of National Museums Scotland.

Board of Trustees

Bruce Minto, Chairman
 Professor Christopher Breward
 Dr Isabel Bruce OBE
 Gordon Drummond
 Chris Fletcher
 Dr Anna Gregor CBE
 Andrew Holmes
 Dr Brian Lang
 Lynda Logan
 Dr Catriona Macdonald
 Miller McLean
 Professor Walter Nimmo CBE
 James Troughton
 Iain Watt
 Eilidh Wiseman

National Museums Scotland Enterprises Board

Gordon Drummond, Chairman
 George Edwards
 Bruce Minto
 Dr Gordon Rintoul CBE
 David Spilsbury
 Julie Wilson

Development Board

Malcolm Offord, Chairman
 Colin Dempster
 Michael N Laing OBE
 Lynda Logan
 Bruce Minto
 Professor Walter Nimmo CBE
 Leith Robertson
 Lady Shona D Stewart
 Eric Young

Science and Technology Advisory Panel

Professor Mary Bownes OBE
 Dr Simon Gage OBE
 Professor Jon Oberlander
 Heather Reid OBE
 Dr Ian Ritchie CBE
 Professor Sir John Savill
 Professor Wilson Sibbett
 Professor Chris van der Kuyl
 Professor Graham Wren

The Board of the American Foundation of National Museums Scotland

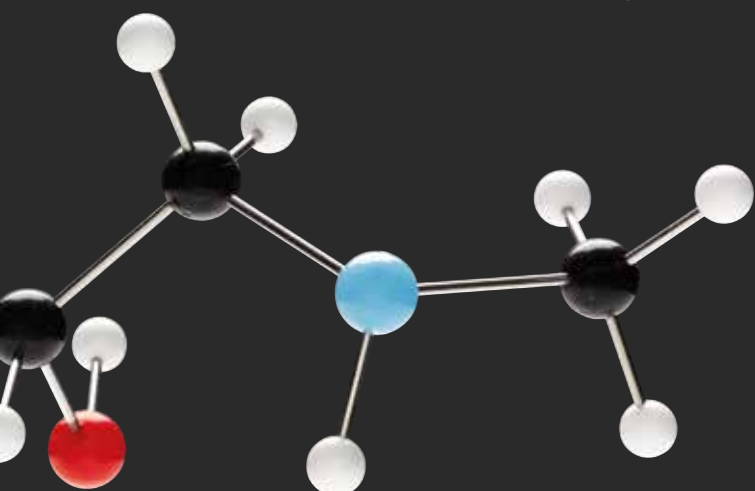
A J C Smith, Chairman
 Christopher R Gow
 Frederick B Whittemore

We would like to record our special thanks to the National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust for their ongoing support of our work.

National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust

James G Ferguson, Chairman	Donald M Hardie OBE
Nigel K Cayzer	Bruce Minto
The Hon Mrs Kathleen Dalyell of The Binns OBE	Martin F Sinclair
Lady Elizabeth Edward	Iain Watt
Jo Elliot	

If you want to know more about ways to get involved and support our work, please contact our Development team on 0131 247 4095 or development@nms.ac.uk



National Museums Scotland
cares for museum collections
of international importance
presenting and interpreting
them for a broad audience.

National Museum of Scotland
National Museum of Flight
National Museum of Rural Life
National War Museum
National Museums Collection Centre

View our full Annual Report and Accounts at www.nms.ac.uk/review

National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF

0300 123 6789
info@nms.ac.uk
www.nms.ac.uk

National Museums Scotland Scottish Charity, No. SC 011130

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