



University
of Glasgow | The
Hunterian

Impact Report 2009/10



Introduction

This report covers our financial year
1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010.

In 2008 the University of Glasgow appointed The Hunterian Futures Group to conduct a wide-ranging review of the role and future development of The Hunterian as a university museum and gallery service. In its final report of May 2009 it concluded that 'As one of the finest university collections in the world, The Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery should be recognised as a valued asset within the University and be an integral part of the University's strategic plan. The University aspires to remain among the world's top universities. The Hunterian should be a feature in this vision, supporting research and teaching and attracting people of all ages to the University thus shaping the way they see it'.

University museums create a powerful and distinctive intellectual offer both to their parent body, to students and to wider civil society. They are uniquely placed to initiate and support experimental

and interdisciplinary activity. Through its distinctive programme, The Hunterian aims to benchmark the role of the modern university museum and gallery, both nationally and internationally, to care for and share its knowledge about its collections. This year saw a dynamic calendar of special exhibitions, new publications and educational events, together with innovative research and teaching activity centred on our galleries and collections. The programme reviewed here creates a firm foundation for our future strategic and creative directions arising from the 2009 Hunterian Futures report.

In December 2009, Ewen Smith retired as Director of The Hunterian. Ewen led the organisation through the very successful bicentenary programme of 2007. I would like to thank Ewen for his immense contribution to the development of The Hunterian and the sector in general. It is a privilege to follow him and to build on the foundation that he and colleagues have laid in recent years. I am looking forward to leading The Hunterian through its next exciting phase of its development, which will begin with the opening of new galleries in June 2011.

Professor David Gaimster
Director
February 2011

'The Hunterian is Scotland's oldest and one of its finest museums, as well as a university collection of major international stature...'

Sir Mark Jones, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum



Public Programme

The Hunterian attracted 162,094 visitors to the Museum and Art Gallery in 2009/10 and hosted a number of key exhibitions. *Edvard Munch: Prints*, a collaboration with the Munch Museum in Oslo, finished its run in September 2009. Featured in the 2008/09 review, and attracting over 20,000 visitors, it proved particularly popular with students and our younger audience.

Amber: Treasures from Poland (February - April 2010) brought wide critical and popular acclaim. Attracting over 17,000 visitors, the exhibition featured some of the finest amber treasures from the Polish national collection. The objects came from the collections at Gdansk and Malbork Castle and provided a rare insight into this important aspect of Polish heritage. The website developed to accompany the exhibition was shortlisted for an international *Museums and the Web* award and was commended for its clear navigation and for presenting information in both English and Polish.

Also of great interest to our visitors was an exhibition on the work of Joseph Beuys, one of the most influential figures in post-war European Art, as part of the *ARTIST ROOMS* touring exhibition. *ARTIST ROOMS* is a new collection of international contemporary art which has been created through one of the largest and most imaginative gifts of art ever made to museums in Britain. The gift has been made by Anthony d'Offay, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Art Fund and the Scottish and British Governments. *ARTIST ROOMS* is jointly owned and managed by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate on behalf of the nation. *Joseph Beuys* opened in April and was a collaborative venture between The Hunterian and the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art (GI).

The Collector's Art (October 2009 – January 2010) provided an opportunity to celebrate the collections of two friends of The Hunterian who have collected works of art with great enthusiasm



for many years. Each has generously proposed that works selected by The Hunterian should, in due course, form part of the University's art collection. The exhibition included works by Joan Eardley, J.D. Fergusson, Kathe Kollwitz, Ian Fleming, Emil Orlik, Barbara Rae and Frances Walker.

Aspects of Scottish Art: 1860 – 1910 offered a further perspective on Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum's key summer exhibition *Pioneering Painters: The Glasgow Boys 1880 - 1900* and illustrated the great diversity of Scottish art in the mid to late 19th century and early 20th century. The initiative provided an opportunity for us to collaborate with our partners at Kelvingrove and we carried out joint marketing and promotion to attract visitors to the City.

Homecoming Scotland 2009

The University supported the Scottish Government's *Homecoming Scotland 2009* initiative which was inspired by the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns. In addition to the *Burns Medals and Money* display, The Hunterian was the final venue of a major touring exhibition *Zig-Zag: The Paths of Robert Burns* (30 September – 30 November 2009). The exhibition featured treasures from the National Burns Collections including manuscripts of *Auld Lang Syne* and *Tam O'Shanter* and a rare first edition of Burns' first published work.

A full list of Hunterian exhibitions in 2009/10 can be found on our website –

www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian

International Loans

2009/10, as every year, saw The Hunterian lending major works from its collections to prestigious museums and galleries around the world. We were delighted to contribute to the exhibition *Mrs Delany and Her Circle* (September 2009 – January 2010) at the Yale Centre for British Art, University of Yale, New Haven, by loaning Hunter shells and a coral. This exhibition celebrated the life and times of Mary Delany, an 18th century London society figure, famous for her botanical collages, who was part of the fashionable intellectual and society milieu that included William Hunter.

'With its rich collections and excellent exhibition programme, The Hunterian is a major draw for visitors to Glasgow.'

Scott Taylor, Chief Executive,
Glasgow City Marketing Bureau

The Hunterian was also a major academic collaborative partner and the largest lender to *Impressionism and Japonism: Edgar Degas - James Whistler* in Uberlingen, Germany, which marked the 175th anniversary of the births of Degas and Whistler. The Munch Museum, Oslo, took an exhibition of The Hunterian's Whistler etchings. A number of our objects from the voyages of James Cook featured in the internationally acclaimed touring exhibition *James Cook and the Exploration of the Pacific*. The prestigious major exhibition was on display at the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Museum Mile, Bonn, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna and the Historisches Museum, Bern.

With an extensive collections outreach programme, which significantly extends our reach and expands our audience, The Hunterian also loaned important items from our collections to a number of museums and galleries in the UK. We were the single largest institutional lender to Glasgow Museum's landmark exhibition *Pioneering Painters: The Glasgow Boys 1880 - 1900*, later moving to London, where it formed the centrepiece of the Royal Academy of Arts' autumn programme; Durer prints were loaned to the Lady Lever Gallery in Liverpool; and material relating to the Challenger expedition and from the palaeobotany collection were loaned to Paisley Museum for inclusion in their *Celebration of Science* exhibition, part of the Royal Society's 350th anniversary events. The Hunterian was a major lender to *The Glasgow Girls* exhibition, on show in Kirkcudbright then at The Glasgow School of Art.

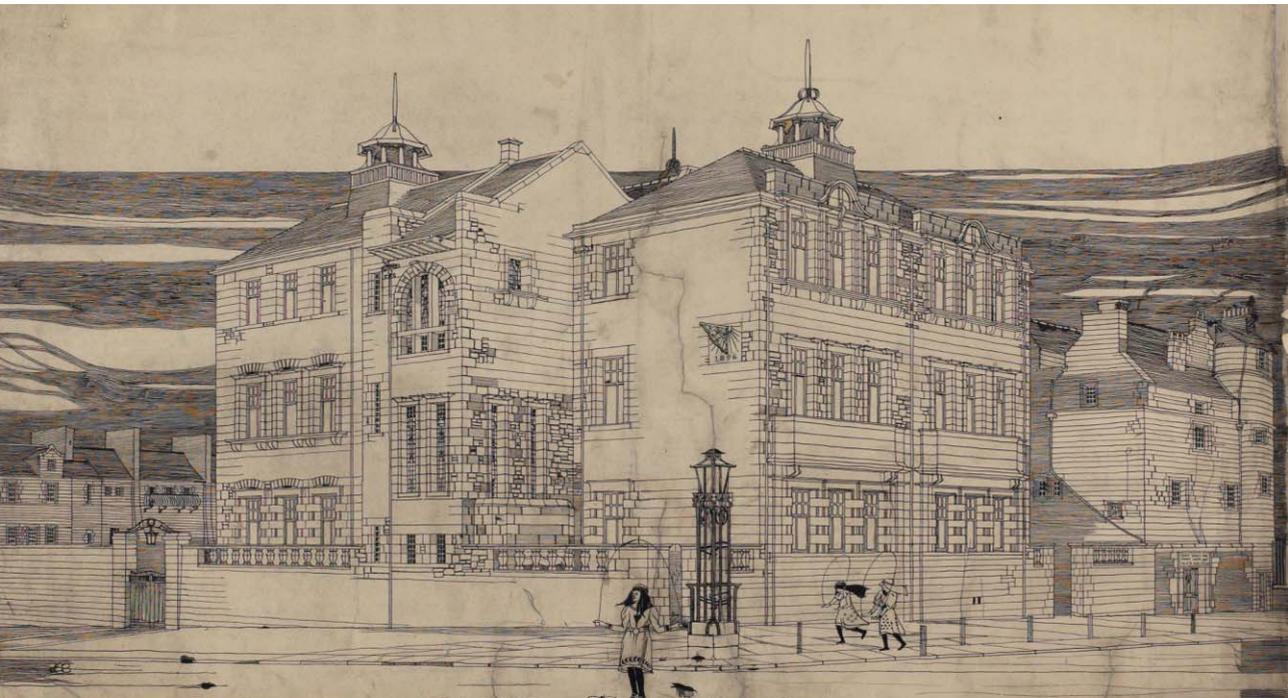
Research

Mackintosh Architecture

The Hunterian attracted a major grant of £650,000 from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), to enable the first major investigation into Charles Rennie Mackintosh's work as an architect. Led by Professor Pamela Robertson, *Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning*, will deliver enhanced understanding of The Hunterian's unrivalled collection of Mackintosh's architectural designs, reinforce The Hunterian's position as the world-centre for Mackintosh studies, contribute to the University's research profile, support the ongoing conservation and management of the Mackintosh built heritage, and enhance world-wide understanding of Mackintosh and Glasgow. The project started in May 2010 and will complete in 2014.

INC Congress

Six hundred scholars from all over the world arrived at the University of Glasgow in August for the International Numismatic Congress 2009. This prestigious event, hosted by The Hunterian, is held once every six years and is the largest and most important conference for the study of coins and medals. Founded in 1891, this was the first time the Congress had come to Scotland. The University's Hunterian Museum is home to the internationally renowned Hunter Coin Cabinet, Scotland's premier collection of coins and medals. The Hunterian had three special exhibitions running alongside the Conference – *Treasures from Dr Hunter's Coin Cabinet*, *Scottish Coins and Burns Medals and Money*. The last of these formed part of The Hunterian's contribution to the Scottish Government's *Homecoming Scotland* initiative.



‘The Hunterian is a beacon of excellence in terms of its illustrious past, its impressive present and its ambitions for the future.’

Duncan Robinson, Director, The Fitzwilliam Museum

Smithsonian Visit

Adrienne Kaeppler, the internationally acknowledged expert on Polynesian ethnography from the Smithsonian in Washington DC, visited The Hunterian to view our examples of barkcloth - a fabric made from the inner bark of particular trees. As part of our internationally acclaimed Captain Cook collection, the 19th century barkcloth collection is one of the most impressive in the world, because of the uniqueness of the specimens, unusual designs and importance in terms of Polynesian and world ethnography. Adrienne also contributed to our popular 10 minute lunchtime talk programme and featured in a podcast on our website. Visiting experts of this calibre help to raise the profile of our collections internationally.

Andersonian Research

In the 1880s The Hunterian received the natural history holdings from the Andersonian Museum in Glasgow after its closure. Records of the transfer are vague but new research into the zoological elements of the gift has re-identified a number of specimens in our collections, the most important of which is the large stuffed bluefin tuna, now on display in the Zoology Museum, and thought to be the oldest existing example in the UK. Caught in 1829, news of its capture was reported across the country in the newspapers of the day. Further research will be carried out to reveal more on this extraordinary specimen.

Links with Japan

Thanks to funding received from the Sasakawa and Daiwa Foundations, Monica Callaghan, Head of Education at The Hunterian, and Lesley Richmond, Director of University Archive Services, visited Japan to extend existing international links between the University of Glasgow and Tokyo University and to gain a better understanding of how different cultures use their heritage assets.

Publications

Hunterian curators research and publish widely within their professional specialisms. This year two special publications accompanied our major exhibitions *Edvard Munch: Prints* and *Amber: Treasures from Poland*. Other publications, including periodicals and journals, covered the whole range of our collections, from fine art to fossil fish and coins to medical history. Papers presented at professional conferences also demonstrated the scope of our expertise. A full list of publications is available on our website.



Engaging with our Students

As part of our core mission as a university museum and gallery service, The Hunterian aims to engage with our student body and provide work related learning opportunities. This area is becoming increasingly important to The Hunterian as our new strategy is developed. There were a number of important initiatives in 2009/10.

Access All Areas

The *Access All Areas* project provided an exciting opportunity for a University of Glasgow student to have hands on work experience at The Hunterian. Over a ten week period, second year undergraduate student Barbara Jedrzejczyk worked with the Head of Education and curatorial colleagues to consider how to engage new audiences and how to further improve physical and intellectual access. The project included a review of existing access provision, establishing the range of current disabled visitors and identifying specific access problems.

Hunterian teaching Moodle

Hunterian curator Dr Sally-Anne Coupar offered a module based on our internationally significant coin collection to University of Glasgow honours students from the departments of Classics and Archaeology. Proving hugely popular, it led to the creation of a course *Moodle* where the course details were posted. The University's *Moodle* is a web based virtual learning environment which brings together different forms of e-learning, for example virtual tutorials. Two honours students, Scott Ross and Rachael Egan, had the opportunity to add to knowledge gained on the course when they won fully funded places at the British Museum's *Ancient Coins* week in London.

Student Volunteers

The Hunterian welcomed 29 undergraduate student volunteers this year from University departments including Archaeology, Gaelic and History of Art. The students took part in valuable and much sought after work related learning opportunities, supporting The Hunterian *Ancient Technology* workshops which formed part of the schools education programme.

Multimedia

Jim Devine, Head of Multimedia at The Hunterian, has been seconded to the School of Computing within the College of Science and Engineering. Since April 2010 he has been working on a series of projects with students to enhance virtual access to our collections.

'...an outstanding collection that has been developing and re-inventing itself for over 200 years.'

Mark Fisher,
Britain's Best Museums and Galleries



Caring for a World Class Collection

An MGS (Museums Galleries Scotland) Recognition grant enabled an important research and conservation project to be undertaken on William Hunter's collection of prints. 1400 prints, held together in a number of volumes, have been catalogued, digitised and made available online together with descriptive text providing world-wide access to the collection for the first time. The project is an essential first step towards the first assessment of the scope and importance of Hunter's work on paper collection. An exhibition and accompanying website is planned for later in the year.

The Egyptian mummy, Lady Shep-en-Hor, a popular exhibit at The Hunterian for many years, has received some special attention this year. Recent research by eminent Egyptologist, Maarten Raven from the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, revealed that she was collected by Giovanni Belzoni (1778 - 1824), an important pioneer in Egyptology, and sold by him at the international market in Smyrna (Izmir) where she became separated from her family. The results of an MRI scan, carried out by Dr Iain Robertson, Director of Diagnostic Imaging, Clinical Physics & Nuclear Medicine and John Collins, Clinical Specialist Radiographer, will make our mummy more accessible to visitors, allowing them to see sections of the body beneath her bandages without the need for unwrapping. Prior to the scan, the only images came from an x-ray taken in the 1970s. It is planned that the scan footage will be developed as an online resource.

A three-year project to conserve and re-frame an important group of late 19th century posters by Toulouse-Lautrec, Carlos Schwabe, Mackintosh, the Macdonald sisters, and J. Herbert McNair, was completed, thanks to support from Museums Galleries Scotland.

The Hunterian has an important collection of facsimile paintings of Egyptian tomb scenes made by the Rev. Colin Campbell, an alumnus of the University of Glasgow, in the early 1900s. The second and third phases of the Campbell Egyptian Tomb Paintings project were conducted this year. Together with the paintings already conserved in phase one, the project will create the facsimile reconstruction of an entire chamber of the tomb of Menna, one of the best preserved of the small 18th Dynasty elite tombs in the Theban necropolis. This will be a unique resource for the teaching of Egyptology in Scotland and will be extensively used by the University's School of Education (Adult and Continuing Education).



'The Museum's world renown is amply justified by both the quality and importance of its collections...'

Neil McGregor, Director, The British Museum

Revealing Hidden Collections

A £200,000 grant awarded to University Museums in Scotland (UMIS) by the Scottish Funding Council has funded a collaborative initiative which will develop a new publicly searchable web portal. The portal will promote access to Scottish University museum collections and will allow users to find objects in almost all of those collections, via a single website. It will be launched in 2011. The Hunterian's involvement has resulted in the creation of summary collection level description records covering all 1,000,000 plus Hunterian objects. Assessment of condition and documentation status for the entire collection was carried out at the same time, making Documentation Assistants Shan Macdonald and Rachel Jennings likely to be the first people to have seen all The Hunterian collections since they were first catalogued in 1813.

Key Acquisitions

A previously undocumented portrait of Charles Rennie Mackintosh was successfully purchased with support from the National Fund for Acquisitions and the Art Fund. Drawn by Francis Newbery, Headmaster of the Glasgow School of Art, the drawing shows Mackintosh holding plans for his masterpiece building, the School of Art.

Five paintings from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were gifted to the Ethnography collection. The paintings, made in 1972 by Priest Legesse, are on goat skin and feature brightly coloured folk scenes.



Communicating our Knowledge

Social Media and Hunterian iPhone app

The Hunterian is now on Facebook and Twitter and 2009 saw the launch of a new application for iPhone and iPod Touch. Available for free on the iTunes store *The Hunterian - 12 Star Objects* invites users to explore objects from the collections and contains links to further materials online, updates on permanent displays, exhibitions and events. The app has been downloaded by some 4,200 users to date, has been presented at a number of conferences and reviewed by many online sites.

Working with the BBC

52 objects from The Hunterian collections now feature on the BBC *A History of the World* website, launched following the BBC Radio 4 Series *A History of the World in 100 Objects*. Objects from the British Museum and museums across the UK are used to tell a history of the world. By July 2010, the website had been visited by 3.9 million people.

The Hunterian is also offering three new *Relic Trails*, based on the BBC series *Relic: Guardians of the Museum*. Developed in partnership with the British Museum and shown on CBBC, children race against time to uncover the secrets of a famous object. All three Hunterian *Relic Trails* are challenge-based treasure hunts, designed to help visitors make the most of their visit.

Wikipedia Day

In February 2010, The Hunterian took part in the first ever *Britain Loves Wikipedia* event. The aim was to increase the number of photographs available to illustrate Wikipedia articles and to inspire new articles. The day involved curators, researchers and students working together to exhibit some special objects not currently on display. Some of the students involved produced a podcast of the event.



Innovative Learning and Outreach Initiatives

An £8000 grant from BBC Children in Need allowed us to work with children with vision impairment and their sighted peers on the *Touching Lives* project, which introduced them to our diverse collections. Pre-visit outreach sessions, site visits and follow up activities back in school were all part of the project. This is typical of our special projects which have established The Hunterian as a benchmark for museum education.

Their Past Your Future is an intergenerational project developed by The Hunterian and the University's Archive Services to increase awareness and generate interest in World War 2 by gathering a series of veterans' stories and related archival material. Local secondary schools were heavily involved and online resources for schools and learners of all ages were developed.

Working in collaboration with The Citizen's Theatre and TAG Theatre Company, The Hunterian created a theatrical exploration of Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory. As part of the scientist's 200th birthday celebrations, the production was showcased at The Hunterian in October 2009. This project involved primary 6 and 7 school pupils and introduced them to the travels and theories of Darwin.

Our learning and outreach programme included a collaborative project with Glasgow Life working with ex service personnel. This was a mutually beneficial project which has not only highlighted the beneficial use of collections, it has also worked to improve the quality of life of those involved. The innovative *Glasgow Helping Heroes* and *Combat Stress* partnership provided customised workshops for ex service personnel at six museum venues (Kelvingrove, The Hunterian, Scotland Street School, RHF Museum, Peoples Palace and The Tall Ship).

Our Zoology collections are used extensively in support of our learning and outreach programme. School classes were offered specialist topics this year and University of Glasgow Science Ambassador students brought school children to explore the Zoology collections. The Zoology Museum was also involved in Doors Open Day.

As in previous years, The Hunterian worked with internal and external partners to create an exciting programme to celebrate the importance of black history in Scotland. The programme included lunchtime talks, object in focus displays and temporary exhibitions. *Black History Month* is coordinated by the Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance.

Ferguson Bequest Funded Staff Events

Professor Thomas Ferguson (1900-1977) bequeathed his estate to the University, with the instruction that the money should be used to foster the social side of University life. Funding from the Bequest enabled The Hunterian to host two evenings in the Art Gallery for staff and their families to enjoy the collections.

Budding Curators and Archaeologists

The Hunterian Junior Archaeologist Club had another very successful year. Meeting monthly, they visited Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, the Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch and the Falkirk Wheel. They also visited the Antonine Wall and took part in a simulated archaeological excavation at Kelvingrove.

Working with other Visitor Attractions across the City

As part of the Mackintosh Heritage Group, The Hunterian led the development of scripts for the first ever Mackintosh Trail Bus, which ran over the summer of 2009, and led the delivery of online walking tours. The Hunterian played a leading role in the development of a new Glasgow's Leading Attractions website and worked with other members on a wide range of promotions. The Hunterian was also a lead participant in the city wide Festival Mackintosh 100, celebrating the centenary of the Glasgow School of Art. The Festival received funding from VisitScotland and formed part of Homecoming 2009.

Key Statistics

The Hunterian venues attracted a total of 162,094 visitors in 2009/10.

Despite closure of the main hall for roof works, 60,835 people visited the Museum and enjoyed the story of William Hunter, on display in our entrance gallery.

The Art Gallery saw a 16% increase in visitors on the previous two years, helped in large part by some key exhibitions, most notably *Edvard Munch: Prints* and *Amber: Treasures from Poland*. The total visitors for 2009/10 were 76,918.

Visitors to The Mackintosh House doubled on the previous year, although we were closed for much of 2008/09. In total 24,341 people visited The Mackintosh House with an average of 81 visitors per day.

In the past year we had 181,622 visits to The Hunterian website - an increase of 15% on the previous year. There were 625,847 page views with people viewing an average of 3.45 pages per visit. 78% were new visits and the average time spent on the site was 1.56 minutes.

6,200 school children visited The Hunterian this year, taking a range of classes supporting the curriculum. A further 3,800 people attended educational events inspired largely by our temporary exhibition programme.

Key Supporters in 2009/10

The Hunterian relies heavily on the support of individuals, trusts and private companies to care for our extensive collections and ensure they are widely accessible to our different audiences. In particular we would like to thank the University of Glasgow, Scottish Funding Council, Museums Galleries Scotland, National Fund for Acquisitions, National Art Collections Fund and The Art Fund. We would also like to thank John Denholm and the University of Glasgow's Chancellor's Fund for supporting our exhibition programme and the numerous private donors and volunteers who have contributed to the collections and have helped with our numerous activities.

| Budget Allocation | £ |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Pay | 1,862,000 |
| Non-pay | 134,550 |
| Actual allocation | 1,996,550 |

| Expenditure | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Pay | 1,817,601 |
| Consumables | 165,939 |
| Total expenditure | 1,983,540 |

| Funded by: | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| SHEFC ear-marked | 725,000 |
| Other general funds | 1,271,550 |
| | 1,996,550 |
| Net savings | 13,010 |
| Total | 1,983,540 |

Future Plans

The Hunterian is committed to supporting the University of Glasgow's new strategy *Glasgow 2020: A Global Vision* to enhance its position as one of the world's great, broad based, research intensive universities. We are well placed to make a significant contribution to the University's key objectives:

- To deliver excellent research
- To deliver excellent student experience
- And to enhance global reach and reputation

Great universities hold great collections, which add lustre to the host institution and extra value to the learning experience. We will create a new mission for The Hunterian as a facilitator and contributor to the research and learning objectives of The University of Glasgow and as a cultural asset with national and international reach. To this end, we are focussing on our core mission to care for and develop our collections and share and communicate our knowledge about them.

Nationally 'Recognised' as a collection of preeminent significance, The Hunterian aims to develop as an internationally leading university museum and gallery service. We aim to be among the top university cultural institutions in the world. The Hunterian will benchmark innovation and best practice in the university museum and gallery sector. We will create and sustain new national and international strategic partnerships to support our aims. The forging of a new collaborative framework with Glasgow Life provides opportunities to work more closely with the city of Glasgow and its museums to share access to our collections.

We have exciting plans to transform the reach of The Hunterian in 2011, both to our student body and local community and to our national and international audiences. Following a period of closure due to roof renovations, we will re-launch The Hunterian in June with a new permanent gallery dedicated to the Roman frontier in Scotland, which will establish a first point of enquiry and debate for the Antonine Wall and its material culture.

Our re-launch will create a new and expanded offer to our audience. We will be moving permanently to full weekend openings and regular evening events for the first time, enhancing our biannual special exhibition programme with major international loans and new initiatives in our educational programme, redesigning and upgrading our web presence and founding The Hunterian Friends, which will facilitate and develop closer public engagement and participation in our collections. For our student body, we will create new and exciting vehicles for teaching, work-related learning and professional training around our collections and operations. The Hunterian is forging a new 'street presence'. We look forward to welcoming you in 2011.



The Hunterian

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian is Scotland's oldest public museum and largest collection outside the National Museums. The Hunterian is one of the leading university museum and gallery services in the UK and its collections have been Recognised as a Collection of National Significance.

Built on the pioneering anatomist and obstetrician William Hunter's founding bequest, the collections encompass over one million objects including scientific instruments used by James Watt, Joseph Lister and Lord Kelvin; an outstanding assemblage of Roman monumental sculpture from the Antonine Wall; major natural and life sciences holdings; Hunter's own extensive anatomical teaching collection, one of the world's great coin rooms; unique objects collected on James Cook's Pacific voyages; a major collection of Scottish art; and one of Britain's top graphic art collections.

The Hunterian is also home to the world's largest permanent display of the work of James McNeill Whistler, the largest single holding of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Mackintosh House, the reassembled interiors from his Glasgow home.

The Hunterian continues in its Age of Enlightenment mission to be a central resource for research and teaching in the arts, humanities and natural and medical sciences, attracting scholars and visitors from around the world.

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