

THE
HUNTERIAN



**THE
HUNTERIAN**
IN 2015

The Hunterian is one of the world's leading university museums.

Founded in 1807, The Hunterian is Scotland's oldest public museum. For over 200 years we have collected across multiple disciplines for research, teaching and learning. We now have 1.5 million objects in our collections.

The Hunterian supports the University of Glasgow in delivering world changing research, raising its international profile and providing a unique and enriching student experience. We present exhibitions driven by academic pursuit, creating and communicating new knowledge through special displays and public engagement events.

The Hunterian is one of Scotland's greatest cultural assets. This report is a snapshot of our achievements in 2015.



ENGAGING AUDIENCES

In 2015, we attracted 183,150 visitors to our public gallery spaces. This was a 7% increase on the previous year - well above the national average for visitor attractions in the UK. We have seen a 69% increase in visitors since 2012.

In 2015 we had two major exhibitions, six research exhibits and six rotational displays across our venues. Our major exhibitions were *Ingenious Impressions: The Coming of the Book* and *Cradle of Scotland*, both showcasing new research from the University of Glasgow and a major draw for visitors from across the country. *Ingenious Impressions* charted the development of the early printed book in Europe and *Cradle of Scotland* explored some of the latest advances, technologies and discoveries in Scottish archaeology.

Research exhibits took place in both the Hunterian Museum and the Hunterian Art Gallery. *The Art of Fiji* showcased key objects donated to The Hunterian over the last two centuries and the stories of the artefacts and their donors; *Lusitania: Torpedoed at Sea* outlined the story behind the medals created in the wake of the sinking of RMS Lusitania; *Trafficking Culture* featured new research into the global traffic in cultural objects; *Duncan Shanks Sketchbooks: The Poetry of Place* celebrated Duncan Shanks's major gift to the University of his entire output of sketchbooks from the past 55 years and *The Kangaroo and the Moose* featured Stubbs' *Kangaroo*, on loan from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

Our new programme of contemporary art displays continued with *The only way to do it is to do it*, curated by students from the joint University of Glasgow and Glasgow School of Art MLitt course in Curatorial Practice and featured post-War American prints alongside new work by contemporary practitioners.

A series of rotational displays added interest for our repeat visitors and featured particular objects in focus and new acquisitions. Highlights included a medal commemorating the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots, a Victoria Cross awarded to a University of Glasgow graduate and a special loan from Drents Museum in The Netherlands titled *Landscape at Rolde, Drenthe*, on loan in exchange for 26 works from The Hunterian to their exhibition, *The Glasgow Boys: Pioneers of Scottish Painting*.

Christmas and New Year opening is now an annual event and this year nearly 900 people visited the Hunterian Art Gallery and Mackintosh House over 3 days, taking a last chance to see our *Cradle of Scotland* exhibition.



ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION

Our innovative public events programme, which attracted 5300 participants in 2015, plays an important part in inspiring our diverse audience to engage with our exhibitions and collections.

The highly successful weekly *Insight Talk* programme continued as well as free tours led by our expert student guides. Events related to our exhibition programme featured lunchtime talks, film screenings, workshops, study days in association with the Centre for Open Studies and a Duncan Shanks *Salon des Refusés* which offered a rare glimpse at items that did not appear in the exhibition. A *Lunchtime Lieder* concert series took place in the Museum as part of the West End Festival as did our annual *Science Sunday* family day as part of the Glasgow Science Festival.

Hunterian Friends

The success of The Hunterian Friends scheme grew again in 2015 with the appointment of a new

Friends Manager, more new members and an expanded events programme. A trip to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum for a curator-led tour of *A Century of Style: Costume and Colour 1800 – 1899* was a particular highlight as was the *Duncan Shanks Curator's Insight* which offered Friends a behind the scenes tour with curator Anne Dulau Beveridge.

Donations from The Friends contributed to the publication of *The Hunterian Poems*, a new anthology of poems inspired by paintings from The Hunterian collections which presents works by 21 of Scotland's best poets including Scots Makars Liz Lochhead and Edwin Morgan and Glasgow's Poet Laureate Jim Carruth.



Night at the Museum Series

This year we attracted a much younger museum demographic by offering two new *Night at the Museum* events. Promotion was achieved through social media and our website. Each evening featured a dramatic light installation to showcase the permanent collections, short presentations on current research, film and image projections, live music performances, poetry readings and access to objects from the collection not normally on display. Student volunteers helped organise, run and evaluate these events which are growing in popularity. Our WW1 Lusitania event attracted over 400 visitors and the St Andrew's Day Exploration and Inspiring Scots event over 500.



GLOBAL IMPACT

The Hunterian is one of the world's great university museums and we have extensive international research networks and partnerships.

In 2015 The Hunterian hosted an international university museum strategic exchange meeting which resulted in a bid for a Leverhulme Trust International Network to support the development of collections and object-led research and teaching initiatives. This will mean the establishment of international exchanges between partner staff and associated postgraduate students, and International Summer Schools.

Supported by a Royal Society of Edinburgh Research Workshop grant, The Hunterian has developed a major research collaboration with the Yale Center for British Art to mark the Tercentenary of the birth of William Hunter in 2018. The resulting exhibition and academic programme in Glasgow and at Yale will bring the collections of The Hunterian to wide international attention. Coinciding with the 2018 Hunter Tercentenary, a collaboration with Harvard University Art Museums will highlight the parallel Enlightenment developments in pedagogic collecting across the colleges and universities of Scotland and North America.

The Whistler Group, led by The Hunterian, hosted an International Whistler Scholars Colloquium, funded by the Lunder Foundation in June 2015 with delegates coming from the UK, US, Australia and Europe.

International Loans Programme

Our extensive loans programme creates a global audience for Hunterian collections. Twenty four paintings, including works by Crawhall, Guthrie and Hornel are highlights in *The Glasgow Boys: Pioneers of Scottish Painting* which opened at Drents Museum in the Netherlands in September 2015. Six objects from Captain Cook's voyages feature in the *Arctic Ambitions* exhibition on show at the Anchorage Museum of Art and Washington State History Museum in the United States of America. The first major retrospective of James McNeill Whistler's work, an exhibition which toured several major cities in Japan and concluding in 2015, was significantly enhanced by over 60 from Hunterian collections. The exhibition attracted 140,000 visitors.

In 2015,
1.7 million
people visited exhibitions,
featuring items on loan
from The Hunterian,
at some of the
world's finest
museums
and galleries.

INSPIRING STUDENTS

In supporting high quality teaching and learning and world-leading research, The Hunterian has developed a new student offer over the last few years. This has been recognised for its innovation on a national and international stage.

Cross-disciplinary work related learning opportunities are offered to students at all levels of study, including collections based research, catalogue development, market research, and educational and public engagement activities.

In 2015, 67 students (51 undergraduate and 16 postgraduate) were engaged as MUSEs (Museum University Student Educators), supporting a programme of gallery tours and public engagement events. In addition, we recruited 40 student volunteers to support our new *Night at the Museum* events specifically. MUSEs offered 1,878 tours in 2015, almost a third more than last year.

The Masters programme in Museum Studies has been developed for those wishing to pursue a career in the cultural heritage sector. In 2015, twenty students on the programme elected to take the Hunterian Exhibition Development course giving them an insight into collections management, communication and marketing, administration and museum education in the context of developing a special exhibition or gallery display. A new course *Curating the Sciences* was launched in 2015, offered as part of the MSc in Museum Studies.

University colleagues increasingly recognise the benefits for postgraduate researchers who participate in our Hunterian Associates Programme. Associates (postgraduate researchers from any discipline) propose a project combining

collections-based research with public engagement. This leads to a mutual benefit of gaining new perspectives on their research, and new interpretations of Hunterian collections, as well as enhancing public engagement activities. Examples of projects include gallery talks and tours, podcasts, web based exhibitions, installation and interpretive performance. In addition to individual project-based events, there is a lively showcase event for all the projects each autumn. 2015 was significant in extending the disciplinary reach of the programme to include the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences.

33 students on a range of postgraduate courses benefited from credit bearing placements with The Hunterian in 2015, while Hunterian staff supervised an additional five voluntary internships – work-related learning in support of Graduate Attributes.

Since 2014 The Hunterian has become a critical partner in the delivery of the joint Glasgow School of Art / University of Glasgow MLitt course in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art). A key component of the programme is the staging of an annual student-led exhibition. In 2015 *The Only way to do it is to do it* celebrated the experimental practices of Black Mountain College and its legacy through post-War American prints.

In 2014/2015, 1763 students were enrolled on courses using Hunterian collections. Programmes ranged from biology, zoology and earth sciences to Critical Studies and Technical Art History.



In 2015 we had
1763 students
 on courses involving museum
 collections.
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 (Museum Student Educators)
 delivering gallery tours and
 supporting our public
 programme.
1,878 gallery tours,
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EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE

The Hunterian carries out a vibrant programme of research which casts light on our collections as well as contributing to the research impact of the University of Glasgow. Collections research directly informs and shapes our public galleries, special exhibitions, publications and programming.

Hunterian Visiting Research Fellow

The Hunterian launched the William Hunter Visiting Research Fellowship Programme in early 2014, encouraging research engagement with its collections by national and international scholars. We welcomed our first Fellow in 2015. Dr Dominik Huenniger from the Lichtenberg-Kolleg at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is researching connections between the 18th century entomologist J. C. Fabricius and William Hunter which will be a significant contribution to the William Hunter Tercentenary exhibition and publication in 2018.

Publications

Hunterian staff contribute to a wide range of publications including catalogues and journals and present at international conferences and symposia. Notable publications in 2015 include *The Poetry of Place : Duncan Shanks's Sketchbooks and the Upper Clyde* by curator Anne Dulau Beveridge, Duncan Shanks, Chris Allan and Duncan Macmillan; *Roman and Medieval Coins Found in Scotland* by senior curator

Dr Donal Bateson and N Holmes; and *William Hunter's World: The Art and Science of Eighteenth-Century Collecting* featuring articles by Hunterian curators and edited by retired curator Geoff Hancock, Professor Nick Pearce, Richmond Chair of Fine Arts at the University of Glasgow and Hunterian Deputy Director Mungo Campbell.

Key Partnerships

Four of our exhibitions in 2015 were partnerships with University of Glasgow departments, including our major exhibitions. *Ingenious Impressions* was a collaboration with Special Collections in the University Library and *Cradle of Scotland* with the University's Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot Project (SERF) based in the Department of Archaeology. *Trafficking Culture* highlighted research into the illicit trade in cultural objects, a partnership with the University's Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice. *Single Pixel Cameras*, our Science Showcase in 2015 focused on cutting-edge research into computational imaging and light-based technologies by the Optics Group within the University

of Glasgow School of Physics and Astronomy. A related events programme opened up this complex topic to the wider public.

External partnerships were also a key feature of our work in 2015. *Cradle of Scotland* was a joint exhibition with Perth Museum and Art Gallery and *The Art of Fiji* was the result of a three year Arts and Humanities Research Council project jointly hosted by the Sainsbury Research Unit at the University of East Anglia and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. *The Kangaroo and the Moose* exhibition was part of the Traveller's Tails project – a joint initiative between The Hunterian, Royal Museums Greenwich, The Horniman, The Grant Museum of Zoology at UCL and the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Whitby.

Research Loans

A significant research loans programme, especially in the sciences, saw over 3100 items on loan to institutions locally, nationally and internationally.



The Hunterian collections are a rich resource for local, national and international researchers. In 2015, we received **2,753 research enquiries and visits**, up 64% on the previous year. Hunterian staff carried out over **544 teaching hours** and there were **448,155 page views** of our online collections search.

BUILDING COLLECTIONS

The Hunterian is home to one of the finest university collections in the world.

The original collection bequeathed by Dr William Hunter has grown substantially and The Hunterian collections now encompass over 1.5 million items. We acquired 332 new items in 2015.

Eardley

A new acquisition, Joan Eardley's *Seated Boy*, went on display in the Hunterian Art Gallery in June this year. Allocated to us under the Cultural Gifts Scheme, The Hunterian was the first Scottish Gallery to benefit from the scheme. *Seated Boy*, painted in 1955, adds significantly to our existing representation of Eardley's work and is an extremely important addition to our collection of Scottish Art.

Sunflower Andirons

The Hunterian is now home to a pair of exceptionally rare gilded brass andirons, purchased with support from the Alexander and Margaret Johnstone Endowment fund, the Art Fund, the Monument Trust, National Fund for Acquisitions, the Flora Kennedy Bequest and the Iris Foundation, New York. Described as 'one of the most important creations of Anglo-Japanese metalwork' the Sunflower andirons are of great significance because of their artistic importance, rarity and relevance to The Hunterian collections. This set is one of

the finest surviving pairs and the only pair in a public collection outside North America. The Sunflower andirons have direct links with James McNeill Whistler and will be incorporated into our permanent Whistler display, providing a new focus for research and teaching.

Hogarth

New research has revealed that a recent acquisition made by The Hunterian may be an early work by English painter, engraver and satirist William Hogarth (1697-1764). Painted on domestic pine panelling, it illustrates a scene from Samuel Butler's 17th century satirical poem *Hudibras*; the same scene appears in Hogarth's engraving *Hudibras Triumphant*. The significance of this research is far reaching. If accepted, an oil painting will be added to Hogarth's oeuvre which predates his earliest known work, *The Beggar's Opera* of 1728 by some four years.

Coins and Medals

An extremely rare medal commemorating the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to

Henry Lord Darnley in 1565 was purchased in 2015 with the generous assistance of the Art Fund. Also added to our numismatics collection were Medieval coin hoards from Galston and Cambusnethan, a rare find of a rare penny of King Stephen found at Carnwath and an Alloa beggar's badge, allocated to The Hunterian through Treasure Trove.

Meteorites

The Hunterian has an extensive collection of meteorites dating back to the beginning of the 19th century. A National Fund for Acquisitions grant has allowed us to purchase a number of rare and unusual meteorite specimens which will help us to further meteorite science, aid public engagement and increase the research value of our meteorite collections. The study of meteorites is a major strength at the University of Glasgow, and Hunterian specimens are regularly sampled for research, teaching and public engagement activities.



WORLD CLASS FACILITIES AT KELVIN HALL

Work is well underway on Glasgow's iconic Kelvin Hall, transforming it into a major cultural destination with few parallels anywhere in the world.

In partnership with Glasgow Life and the National Library of Scotland, and with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the partners, the new facilities at Kelvin Hall will allow much improved access to Hunterian collections for research, teaching and lifelong learning. A state of the art Collections Study Centre, supported by conservation studio, search rooms, conference suite and teaching labs will significantly enhance the University's reputation for collections based research and teaching. A digital portal will help forge new academic and educational practices, while new postgraduate programmes offered by the Colleges of Arts and Social Sciences will be delivered in new teaching and conference spaces. An innovative lifelong learning programme will be offered by the University's Centre for Open Studies, and training and Continuing Professional Development opportunities for those working in the cultural and heritage sector will be established by a new Academy for Cultural and Heritage Skills.

A major task in 2015 has been planning the move of our staff and study collections to Kelvin Hall. Led by the Collections Management team, every member of Hunterian staff has been involved in preparations for the opening of The Hunterian Collections Study Centre in the autumn of 2016 and new office space a few weeks before that.

The decant is a challenging project with 1.5 million objects and specimens, currently in nine different storage facilities, being prepared for the move to Kelvin Hall. A huge programme of documentation, packaging, quarantining and final delivery was started in 2015. The process is allowing us to check all our collections and, as a direct result of the decant preparation work undertaken this year, 15,000 new collection records will have been created. 15% (700 trays) of our Earth Science collections have been packed and are ready for the move.

When laid out flat, Hunterian collections would cover 5 Hampden football pitches –

1.5 million items covering art, archaeology, palaeontology, geology, zoology, entomology, ethnography and numismatics together with University history. The new Collection Study Centre at Kelvin Hall will strengthen and enhance the University of Glasgow's reputation for collection based research and teaching.





AN INSPIRING FUTURE

With our new Collections Study Centre opening at Kelvin Hall in 2016 and our plans to celebrate William Hunter's tercentenary in 2018, The Hunterian has some exciting times ahead.

2015 has seen another tremendous year for our visitors, our staff and our students. The rise in visitors to over 183,000 represents a seven per cent increase on the previous year and sustained growth in the demand for our collections and programmes over the past few years. Our footfall is amongst the highest for a university campus museum anywhere in the world. Our headline exhibitions for 2016 *Comic Invention*, *Skeletons and William Hunter to Damien Hirst* promise to break previous records and have already raised considerable interest in the press and on social media. The Hunterian's reputation for innovation in delivering exhibitions in partnership with other museums, with researchers and with students continues to grow and this practice is setting a new template for collaboration in the museum world.

Professor Pamela Robertson, Senior Curator of Mackintosh Studies and Dr Sally-Anne Coupar, Curator of Archaeology, moved on from The Hunterian in 2015 after many years. Their contribution to our work has been immense and we plan to build on the platform they created as we move into the next exciting phase of our development.

The Hunterian continues to offer a rich public programme despite undertaking in parallel a major capital project that will transform levels of access and utility of our 1.5 m collections for research, teaching and learning. By the Autumn of 2016 the new Hunterian Study Centre and conference facilities at Kelvin Hall will be fully operational hosting a new curriculum of graduate curator, lifelong learning, professional development and public engagement programmes. The scale of the Kelvin Hall development offers further opportunities for The Hunterian to expand its public offer, reach out to new audiences and create a truly world class visitor experience. Inspired by the vision of our founder William Hunter, we are currently working on a scheme, which would re-articulate our galleries and collections at Kelvin Hall as a museum of the Enlightenment for the 21st century. This new museum for the history of knowledge would form a unique and distinctive contribution to the cultural and educational ecology of the city and of the nation. We look forward to discussing our plans and ideas with you over the course of the next twelve months...

David Gaimster,
Director, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow


The Hunterian relied on the support of many individuals, Trusts and Private companies in 2015. In particular we would like to recognise Lyon and Turnbull and Friends of Glasgow University Library, exclusive sponsors of Hunterian Friends and Ingenious Impressions respectively.


We would also like to thank the The Heritage Lottery Fund, University of Glasgow, Scottish Funding Council, Museums Galleries Scotland, Art Fund, National Fund for Acquisitions, Duncan Shanks, Donald Magner, Deborah Bennett, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, The Andrew Tannahill Fund for Scottish Literature, The Pilgrim Trust, The Ferguson Bequest, The Monument Trust and The Hunterian Friends.


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 Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery

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