PRESS RELEASE

Pitt Rivers Museum wins DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund award

The Pitt Rivers Museum is delighted to have been awarded £64,845 from DCMS/Wolfson Foundation’s Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund. The award will enable the purchase of a major new display case in which to exhibit one of the Museum’s most important collections, that brought back from Captain Cook’s voyages to the South Seas in the 18th century.

The Cook-voyage collection has recently been the focus of a comprehensive conservation and research project generously supported by the Clothworkers’ Foundation. The award from DCMS/Wolfson will now allow visitors to see for the first time the newly conserved and re-interpreted Cook-voyage collection displayed in a spacious, well lit and better sited case.

Welcoming news of the award, Michael O’Hanlon, the Museum’s Director, said: “Successive grants from DCMS/Wolfson’s wonderful Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund have enabled the Pitt Rivers to transform the offer it makes to its many visitors. I am especially grateful that a further generous gift from the Museum’s Friends’ organization will help pay for the substantial costs incurred in installing the new case.”

Culture Minister Ed Vaizey said:

“The range of projects being funded is testament to the great variety of wonderful collections and attractions at our museums and galleries across the country. These grants will help improve visitor experiences, benefiting local communities and helping to encourage growth, whilst also inspiring audiences with new knowledge, and I’m delighted that with the ongoing generosity of the Wolfson Foundation we have been able to help fund so many projects.”

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Notes for Editors

• The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of Oxford’s most popular attractions, famous for its period atmosphere and outstanding collections from many cultures around the world, past and present. Admission, exhibitions and events are FREE.

• The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his personal collection of some 25,000 items to the University on condition that a museum was built to house the material, and that a post was created to lecture in anthropology. Today the collection numbers some 600,000 items, and the Museum remains an active department of Oxford University doing and supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology.

• The DCMS/Wolfson Fund, financed equally by Government and the Wolfson Foundation, supports projects which improve the quality of displays, public spaces, collection interpretation and disabled access in museums and galleries across England.

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