



MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES

PRISM Grant Fund

Annual Report 2004/05



The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is the national development agency working for and on behalf of museums, libraries and archives and advising government on policy and priorities for the sector.

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Introduction

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The PRISM Fund supports the acquisition and conservation of material relating to all fields of the history of science, technology, industry and medicine. It was established in 1973 in response to the growing public concern that technological change was resulting in the loss of all trace of Britain's industrial heritage. Previously the Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund had dealt with this type of material within the limits of its much oversubscribed resources. Since 1973 PRISM has helped over 400 museums and preservation groups in England and Wales acquire or conserve over 2000 objects of industrial or scientific importance.

The Fund aims to support the variety of institutions entrusted with the care of our industrial and scientific heritage, and show the ways in which local and regional collections combine to map the detail of the nation's industrial and scientific past.

The Fund was managed by the National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI) on behalf of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) until 31 March 2003, but since then has been managed solely by MLA. However, MLA continues to take expert advice from the staff of the NMSI as well as other national museums.

There has been no significant change to the scope of the Fund since its inception except for its extension to include conservation projects in the early 1990s. The time may be approaching when a review would be useful in order to evaluate its contribution to the heritage, and to consider whether its scope and the way it is used should be changed to meet current needs. It is worth noting that applications for projects relating to 19th and early 20th century technologies continue to be received in large numbers but only a small number are received representing the technologies of the second half of the 20th century. Why this should be the case is not known but if advances in electronics, materials science, engineering, astronomy and medicine, areas where British scientists and manufacturers made important contributions, are being ignored by museums, then it could be argued that priority should be given to this area of collecting in the future.

PRISM Fund grants awarded during 2004/05

The MLA allocates £250,000 each year to the PRISM Fund. The level of funding has remained the same since 1995, prior to which £500,000 was available each year.

There were 38 grants awarded during 2004/05 (56 in 2003/04), worth £222,495 (2003/04 amount £343,237). The 2003/04 figures include grant applications that were submitted to the NMSI but where no decision on making an award had been made at the time of the transfer of management of the Fund. The total amount awarded in 2003/04 includes grants made from the significant under-spend carried forward from 2002/03.

Acquisitions represent approximately 59 percent of the number of awards (40 per cent in 2003/04), and this accounts for 53 per cent of the total spend (30 per cent in 2003/04).

Summary of PRISM Fund awards and expenditure by category

PRISM Category	2004/05		2003/04	
	Number	Amount (£)	Number	Amount (£)
Archives	5	47,975	7	25,361
Aviation	3	15,353	5	27,196
Buildings	0	0	2	32,500
Horology	0	0	1	6,055
Industry	8	23,997	11	99,874
Miscellaneous	3	14,354	5	15,212
Natural History	6	40,994	3	24,771
Photography	0	0	1	1,700
Rail	4	10,595	4	24,558
Road Transport	4	33,477	10	52,736
Scientific Instruments	1	7,250	4	18,523
Trams	0	0	1	10,000
Water Transport	3	28,500	2	4,750
TOTAL	37	222,495	56	343,237

Summary of PRISM Fund awards and expenditure by type

PRISM Type	2004/05		2003/04	
	Number	Amount (£)	Number	Amount (£)
Acquisition	22	118,361	24	104,361
Conservation/Restoration	15	104,134	32	238,876
TOTAL	37	222,495	56	343,237



Fairey Gannet. © Ian Richardson,
Yorkshire Air Museum

Full list of PRISM Fund grants awarded during 2004/05

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The information for each award includes the ID reference number, applicant organisation, project title and the grant amount. Projects with a GIA reference are those that were initially submitted to the Science Museum but where the grant was offered by MLA (previously Resource: The Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries).



Shark egg case or 'mermaids purse'.
© Grant Museum of Zoology,
University College London
Photographer: Courtesy of Fred Langford

ID 1663

Kempton Great Engines Trust

Conservation of the west barring engine used to help start the No. 6 engine at Kempton

Grant: £2,617.00

ID 1697

Grant Museum of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, UCL

Conservation and re-housing of fluid-preserved specimens

Grant: £4,560.38

ID 1707

Internal Fire Museum of Power, West Wales

Transport of Sirron 'O' Series marine diesel engine from MV 'Balmoral' from Avonmouth Docks to Internal Fire, Ceredigion

Grant: £1,228.00

ID 1769

The Daniel Adamson Preservation Society

Conservation of the hull of the Manchester Ship Can tug 'Daniel Adamson'

Grant: £3,500.00

ID 1821

The Royal Society

Acquisition of portrait of Charles Montagu, 1st Earl of Halifax (1661–1715)

Grant: £10,000.00

ID 1824

Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Acquisition of John Greaves's copy of Archimedes, [Works in Greek and Latin] Opera [Greek text only]. Basel: J. Hervagius, (March 1544)

Grant: £20,000.00

ID 1833

Museum of British Road Transport (Trust) Coventry Ltd

Acquisition of 1923 Standard 'Warwick' tourer motor car

Grant: £5,250.00

ID 1835

Museum of Natural History, Oxford University

Conservation and re-housing of Helicidae collection (molluscs and gastropods)

Grant: £2,320.00



The Doxford marine oil engine at the Regional Museum Store.
© / Photographer: Tyne and Wear Museums



'Progress of the egg' and 'Progress of the chick' by Jan van Rymsdyk (fl.1750–1788) painted in 758/9 pastel on parchment.
© Royal College of Surgeons of England



Standard Swallow 'Ensign' motor car.
© Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust
Photographer: Karam Ram

ID 1843

The Natural History Society of Northumbria

Acquisition of Peter Brown's 'New Illustrations of Zoology' (1776)

Grant: £2,000.00

ID 1844

Tyne and Wear Museums

Conservation of a Doxford marine oil engine (second phase)

Grant: £7,200.00

ID 1845

Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England

Conservation of two paintings showing the embryology of the chick by Jan van Rymsdyk

Grant: £3,454.00

ID 1846

Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust

Acquisition of a Standard Swallow 'Ensign' motor car

Grant: £7,500.00

ID 1847

Cambridge University Museum of Zoology

Acquisition of three fossil specimens of *Westlothiana lizziae*

Grant: £17,918.75

ID 1874

The Narrow Gauge Railway Museum Trust

Conservation of a Forest of Dean plateway wagon

Grant: £850.00

ID 1875

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle

Acquisition of Mineral Specimens from Cumbria

Grant: £1,260.00

ID 1878

Somerset County Museum Service

Conservation and preparation of a fossil Plesiosaur (marine reptile) recently excavated from Bridgewater Bay

Grant: £5,000.00

ID 1886

West Somerset Steam Railway Trust Ltd

Conservation of Great Western Railway first class sleeping car No. 9308

Grant: £2,125.00



Columbian Printing Press manufactured in Edinburgh by D&J Creig c.1870. It was used in Carmarthen by the printing firms of Daniel Lewis, J R Jones and VG Lodwick. © / Photographer: Carmarthen Museum Service

ID 1890

Carmarthenshire County Museum

Acquisition of a Columbian printing press

Grant: £1,750.00

ID 1923

Chard and District Museum

Acquisition of tools and equipment of a blacksmith-wheelwright shop from south Somerset

Grant: £2,500.00

ID 1959

Derby City Museum and Art Gallery

Acquisition of two dioramas of early 20C Ewart Chainbelt Company's workshops with working models of chain conveyor-belt manufacturing machinery

Grant: £900.00

ID 1961

Institution of Civil Engineers

Acquisition of 1828 notebook of Richard Beamish

Acquisition of diary/memorandum book for 1828

Grant: £3,500.00

ID 1984

Yorkshire Air Museum

Conservation of a Rolls Royce 'Olympus' engine (No. CBX103) from British Airway's Concorde G-BOAD

Grant: £500.00

ID 2031

London Transport Museum

Acquisition of a pair of Metropolitan Railway directional signs originally from South Kensington Station, c.1913

Grant: £2,000.00

ID 2080

The Type Museum, London

Acquisition of approximately 18C, 19C and 20C safes and storage cabinets used to store typefounding materials (already owned by the Type Museum) at Stephenson Blake and Co.'s Sheffield factory; and one late 19C matrix striking fly press

Grant: £3,385.00

ID 2081

The Type Museum, London

Acquisition of printing presses and related material collected by the William Clowes, Beccles Company (from the Museum of Print, the Company museum of William Clowes)

Grant: £3,202.00



Fairey Gannet Airborne Early Warning aircraft.
© / Photographer: Yorkshire Air Museum

ID 2140

The Submarine Heritage Centre Ltd, Barrow in Furness

Towards the acquisition of ex HMS Olympus, an Oberon Class submarine
Grant: £5,000.00

ID 2193

Yorkshire Air Museum

Acquisition of Fairey Gannet AEW3 (Airborne Early Warning) aircraft,
Reg. XL502
Grant: £10,000.00

ID 2237

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

Conservation of osteological collection
Grant: £9,935.00



The Welsh Highland Railway Buffet Car is seen here at Beddgelert in 1928.
© Welsh Highland Railway Ltd Collection
Photographer: K A Ladbury

ID 2289

Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent

Acquisition of ephemera (tickets, postcards and photographs) relating to the North Staffordshire Railway and the Stoke Railway Works
Grant: £3,075.00

ID 2291

Welsh Highland Railway (Porthmadog)

Conservation of a 1894 Welsh Highland Railway carriage No. 23 (converted in 1927 to buffet car from first/third composite)
Grant: £5,620.00

ID 2316

University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge

Conservation of Hugh Strickland archive
Grant: £19,400.00

ID 2450

Postal Heritage Trust

Conservation of three BSA Bantam motorbikes, two Morris Minor vans and a Seddon Tractor Unit mobile post office
Grant: £8,925.00

ID 2542

Whipple Museum of the History of Science, Cambridge University

Acquisition of a complex mechanical crank-work planetarium c.1800 (maker unknown)
Grant: £7,250.00



Mobile post office. © Christine E E Jones, The British Postal Museum & Archive Freeling House



Lady Fiona, Lancaster wide-beam canal boat. © The Waterways Trust

ID 2543

British Waterways

Conservation of the 'Lady Fiona', a Lancaster wide-beam canal boat

Grant: £20,000.00

ID 2557

Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester

Acquisition of a collection of bicycles and equipment, including 1868 Boneshaker

Ordinary (Penny Farthing)

Grant: £1,327.00

ID 2583

Yorkshire Air Museum

Transport and restoration of Fairey Gannet AEW3 (Airborne Early Warning)

Reg. XL502 and a Gloster Javelin FAW Mk. 9 aircraft. Reg. XH 767

Grant: £4,853.00

ID 2589

Crossness Engines Trust

Towards the acquisition of a 1913 Hawthorne-Davey triple-expansion steam engine and associated pumps

Grant: £2,115.00

Losses and transfers of ownership of PRISM Fund grant-aided objects during the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005

We have not previously reported losses or the transfer of ownership of objects grant-aided by the PRISM Fund. As there have been several cases since MLA took over the administration of the Fund, we feel it would be useful to formally record them and to include such information in future annual reports.

Losses

GIA/99/0070

Motor Gunboat MGB 60

This vessel owned by the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust was reported destroyed by fire at the Newson's Yard, Oulton Broads where it was undergoing restoration. The vessel had received grants totalling £20,000.

GIA/97/0012

Tachbrook Street Pharmacy

The fixtures and fittings from the Tachbrook Street, London pharmacy were stored by Momart at the warehouse in Leyton and were completely destroyed by fire on 24 May 2004. The objects were owned by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Transfers of ownership

One of the conditions of a PRISM Fund grant is that the administrators of the Fund must be notified of any intention to transfer ownership of a grant-aided object and must approve the transfer or the grant must be re-paid.

Permission to transfer ownership will normally be approved if the proposed owner can demonstrate that it is an appropriate and viable custodian for the object. The owner must be able to properly care for the object and be able to ensure the object will remain accessible to the public. A written assurance that it accepts in full the conditions attached to the original PRISM grant award is always required by MLA.

GIA/209/02

Thames sailing barge 'Dawn'

Permission was granted in May 2003 to transfer ownership of the sailing barge 'Dawn' from the London Borough of Newham to The Dawn Sailing Barge Trust, Maldon.

GIA/97/01

Ruston-Proctor portable steam engine

Permission was granted in February 2005 for Derbyshire County Council to transfer ownership of a Ruston-Proctor portable steam, engine (housed at Elvaston Castle Countryside Museum) to Claymills Pumping Engine Trust Ltd of Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire.

GIA/307/22

Tug Tender 'Calshot'

In May 2004 permission was given for the transfer of ownership of the tug tender 'Calshot' from Southampton City Council to the Tug Tender Calshot Trust, Southampton.

For further information on the PRISM Grant Scheme please contact:

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