

MUSEUMS & RESTITUTION

International conference

The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester

DAY 1: THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2010

9.15-9.45, Conference Room

Registration and coffee

9.45- 10.00, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Welcome and introduction

Nick Merriman (Director, The Manchester Museum), **Kostas Arvanitis** and **Louise Tythacott** (Conference convenors)

10.00-10.45, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Key speaker (Chair: Nick Merriman, The Manchester Museum)

Tristram Besterman (Writer, adviser and mediator on museums and cultural issues). 'Crossing the line: cultural equity and the sustainable museum.'

10.45-12.30, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Overviews: power, politics, authority (Chair: Helen Rees Leahy, University of Manchester)

Maurice Davies (Head of Policy and Communication, Museums Association): 'The UK's inconsistent policies on return – politics, power and influence'

Jonathan King (British Museum): 'Exchange and return: cultural relations and anthropology at the British Museum'

Conal McCarthy (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand): 'Decolonising museums: the poetics, politics and pragmatics of restitution in New Zealand museums.'

Eleni Korka (Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism): 'The true merit of voluntary return of cultural property.'

12.30-1.45, Conference Room: LUNCH

1.45 –3.15, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Reflections on returns (Chair: Laura Peers, Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford)

Neil Curtis (Marischal Museum, University of Aberdeen): ‘Repatriation and Museums in Scotland: Who Benefits?’

Kokie Agbontaen-Eghafona (University of Benin): ‘After restitution what next? An appraisal of public attitude towards the museum and museum objects in Benin City, Nigeria.’

Maureen Matthews (University of Oxford): ‘Repatriating agency: animacy, personhood and agency in the repatriation of Ojibwe artefacts.’

1.45 –3.15, Martin Harris Centre, G16a Seminar Room

Digital, visual and knowledge repatriation I (Chair: Kostas Arvanitis, University of Manchester)

Sophia Sambono (National Film and Sound Archive, Australia): ‘Restitution of intangible cultural heritage from an Australian audiovisual archive.’

Catherine Moore (University of Kent): ‘Mimesis and recognition – the flash of the past in the present? The Powell-Cotton film archive in contemporary Namibia.’

3.15 –3.45, Conference Room TEA

3.45 – 5.30, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Local and national power relations (Chair: Piotr Bienkowski, University of Manchester)

Bryan Sitch (The Manchester Museum): ‘We want you back again: the unsuccessful campaign to repatriate Lindow Man’

Demelza Van der Maas (VU University Amsterdam): ‘Debating the restitution of human remains from Dutch museum collections: the Case of Urk.’

Eava-Kristiina Harlin and Anne May Olli (Norwegian Sámi museum): ‘Repatriation – political will and museums facilities.’

3.45 – 5.30, Martin Harris Centre, G16a Seminar Room

Second World War spoliation (Chair: Sharon Macdonald, University of Manchester)

Reesa Greenberg (Art historian and museum consultant): ‘Restitution exhibitions and identity politics: a case study of displaying art and artifacts stolen from Jews during the Second World War.’

Ines Katenhusen (Leibniz Universität Hannover): ‘A box in the basement. On the works of Kasimir Malevich loaned to the Hannover Museum.’

Michael Franz (Koordinierungsstelle Magdeburg): ‘The Internet database www.lostart.de as an international service mean for museums.’

6.00-7.00, Martin Harris Centre: RECEPTION and FILMS

7.30, Manchester Business School: DINNER

DAY 2: FRIDAY 9th JULY 2010

9.00-9.30, Conference Room

Registration and coffee

9.30-10.15, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Key speaker (Chair: Conal McCarthy, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

Piotr Bienkowski (Cultural, heritage and museums consultant, writer and researcher): 'Authority and the power of place: exploring the legitimacy of authorised and alternative voices in the restitution discourse.'

10.30-12.00, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

The Parthenon Marbles (Chair: Tristram Besterman, Former Director, The Manchester Museum)

George Vardas (Research Director of Australians for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures): 'Who is afraid of the British Museum?'

Tor Einer Fagerland (Norwegian University of Science and Technology): 'The Parthenon Marbles: national and global heritage in today's Europe.'

Kalliopi Fouseki (Open University of Cyprus): 'Displaying the Parthenon Marbles in the new Acropolis Museum: public perceptions within and outside the museum's walls.'

10.30-12.00, Martin Harris Centre, G16a Seminar Room

Digital, visual and knowledge repatriation II (Chair: Malcolm Chapman, The Manchester Museum)

Hein Vanhee (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium): 'The idea of digital restitution: reflections on digital cultural heritage as a political concept and practice.'

Astrid Knight et al. (University of British Columbia): 'Forging a Partnership: Developing the Reciprocal Research Network.'

Friederike Krishnabhakdi-Vasilakis (University of Wollongong, Australia): 'The virtual museum of the Pacific: a digital ecosystem for a new museum environment.'

12.00-1.15, Conference Room: LUNCH

12.15-1.00, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Question & answer session (Organiser: David Glasser, Ben Uri Gallery)

Discussion on museum responses to the protocols of Washington, Prague and the latest legislation.

1.15-3.00, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Africa and India (Chair: Zachary Kingdon, National Museums Liverpool)

Frederick Asher (University of Minnesota): 'Where Laws and Ethics Don't Always Meet: Restitution of Indian Art'

Aoiswarjya Kumar Das (National Museum Institute, New Delhi): 'Politics of restitution of cultural properties: A south Asian dilemma.'

Charlotte Joy (University of Cambridge): 'The empty museum: contestation over world heritage in Djenné, Mali.'

Johanna Zetterstrom (University College London): 'Reanimating cultural heritage in Sierra Leone: a search for the "source community".'

3.00-3.30, Conference Room: TEA

3.30-5.00, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

North America (Chair: Louise Tythacott, University of Manchester)

Helen Robbins (The Field Museum Chicago): 'In consideration of restitution: understanding and transcending the limits of repatriation under NAGPRA.'

Sita Reddy (Smithsonian Institution): 'Re-claiming culture: intangibles in museum restitution and repatriation.'

Laura Peers (Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford): 'Giving back: First Nations perceptions of restitution in two recent research projects.'

5-5.45pm, Kanaris Lecture Theatre

Conference closing session and discussion led by Maurice Davies (Museums Association)