

PRESS RELEASE

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

The Pitt Rivers Museum is delighted to have been awarded nearly £40,000 from DCMS/Wolfson Foundation's Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund.

The Award will enable the Museum to commission major new cases in which to display some of its outstanding collection of model artefacts, ranging from temples to *tipis*, from planes to palanquins and from canoes to igloos. The new cases, which will be in period style, will be arranged to form a fresh space in the heart of the displays, where staff can introduce all the collections to the burgeoning number of visitors (last year, the Museum welcomed over 400,000 visitors).

Welcoming the news of the award, Professor Michael O'Hanlon, the Museum's Director, said: "The models which the new cases will enable us to re-display are an intriguing category of artefact, whose importance is only now being appreciated. They offer telling insights into the interaction between the indigenous societies in which many were produced, and the collectors who commissioned them. We are deeply grateful to DCMS/Wolfson's Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund for this further award."

The Museum plans to commission the cases and install them in the Museum in the autumn.

Culture Secretary Sajid Javid said: "The Government is committed to supporting the arts and making sure our marvellous museums and inspiring galleries continue to be accessible to all. Thanks to the generosity of the Wolfson Foundation our cultural destinations in communities across the country are going from strength to strength and remain much loved places to visit and explore."

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation said: "This partnership between the Wolfson Foundation and DCMS is an exemplar of how a charity and government can work together. We are delighted to be funding so many wonderful projects across the length and breadth of the country. The country's museums and galleries continue to be an inspiration."

ENDS

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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 30,000 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 the 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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