

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Wallace Collection announces £1.2 million new exhibition space to celebrate 200 years since the birth of its founder, Sir Richard Wallace

The Wallace Collection has secured funding to develop expanded exhibition galleries, tripling the capacity of the museum's existing exhibition space and setting the scene for an ambitious programme of temporary, ticketed exhibitions. The new space will enable the museum to explore aspects of its existing collection in more depth and collaborate with other institutions, creating partnerships both within the UK and internationally. This transformative project has been made possible by the generosity of The Linbury Trust, the Wolfson Foundation, and an anonymous major donor, creating facilities that reflect the vision and ambition of the Director and Board of Trustees and the growing number of museum visitors.

The new space opens on 20 June 2018 with an inaugural exhibition marking 200 years since the birth of the museum's founder, Sir Richard Wallace, celebrating him as a great philanthropist and undiscovered cultural luminary. *Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector* highlights for the first time Sir Richard's personal contributions to the Collection we know today, focusing on the diverse and idiosyncratic works of art he acquired and his considerable philanthropic legacy. Featuring over twenty works of art collected by Sir Richard, the exhibition explores his eclectic tastes and highlights some of the unexpected treasures of the museum, ranging from a gold trophy head from the Asante Kingdom to imperial ceremonial wine cups from China and a majestic ostrich figure made by the Augsburg silversmith Elias Zorer.

In 2019, *Henry Moore: The Helmet Head Series* (working title) will be our first paid exhibition, presented in partnership with the Henry Moore Foundation. Moore's powerful sculptures and drawings will be juxtaposed with Renaissance helmets from the Wallace Collection, which he studied while he was a student at the Royal College in the 1920's. Moore took great inspiration from the Arms and Armour galleries at the Wallace and this exhibition will demonstrate for the first time a direct connection between Moore's work and works of art on display within the museum.

This will be followed by a wide ranging programme of both contemporary and old master exhibitions that will present our extensive collections of paintings, sculpture, armour, and decorative arts in a new light.



Dr Xavier Bray, Director of the Wallace Collection, says:

“The Wallace Collection is the greatest gift ever made to the nation and this new space will enable us to shine a light on the immense quality of our works of art and raise the profile of the museum. The exhibition programme at the Wallace will provide an opportunity to get to know our collection in new ways as well as collaborate with other cultural institutions. Thanks to the generous support of three major donors, who have made it possible to extend our exhibition galleries, we will be able to reach our potential as a truly international institution, sharing the museum with a broader and more diverse audience both at home and abroad.”

ENDS

For further press information please contact Eleanor Nimmo on press@wallacecollection.org /
0207 563 9516

Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector - Image Sheet

20 June 2018 - 6 January 2019



Silver Ostrich Statuette
c. 1600, Augsburg, Germany
© The Wallace Collection



Gold Trophy Head
19th century or earlier, Asante Kingdom
© The Wallace Collection



Boxwood Miniature Triptych
Early 16th century, Netherlands
© The Wallace Collection



The Bell of St Mura
11th-16th centuries, Ireland
© The Wallace Collection



Imperial Wine Cups
18th century, China
© The Wallace Collection

Henry Moore: The Helmet Head Series

Spring 2019



Sallet or *Barbuta*
c. 1450, North Italian
© The Wallace Collection



The Helmet 1939-40 bronze (LH 212)
Photo: Henry Moore Archive
Reproduced by permission of The Henry
Moore Foundation

Notes to Editors

About the Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection is a national museum based in Hertford House, an historic town house set just behind Oxford Street in central London.

Our twenty five galleries contain displays of internationally significant art from around the world; French eighteenth century painting, furniture and porcelain with superb Old Master paintings and a world class armoury.

The Wallace Collection is open free of charge, seven days a week. We offer a range of learning activities, research and conservation work to ensure that the museum is protected and can be enjoyed by everyone.

We are partly funded by Central Government, through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), but need to use our resources to raise at least an additional £3 million each year to sustain the museum.

The greatest ever gift to the nation

The Wallace Collection is a family collection in origin. Its works of art were collected between c. 1760 and 1890 by four Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace, the heir of the 4th Marquess. It was bequeathed to the nation by Lady Wallace, in the greatest ever single bequest of art treasures made to the public.

Hertford House in Manchester Square was the main London townhouse of Sir Richard and Lady Wallace. This opulent but domestic setting enables visitors to experience an unusually intimate encounter with great masterpieces.

A national museum

Our collection numbers nearly 5,500 objects with every area containing work of the very highest quality.

The museum is well known for numerous iconic paintings by masters such as Titian, Van Dyck, Canaletto, Velázquez and Fragonard.

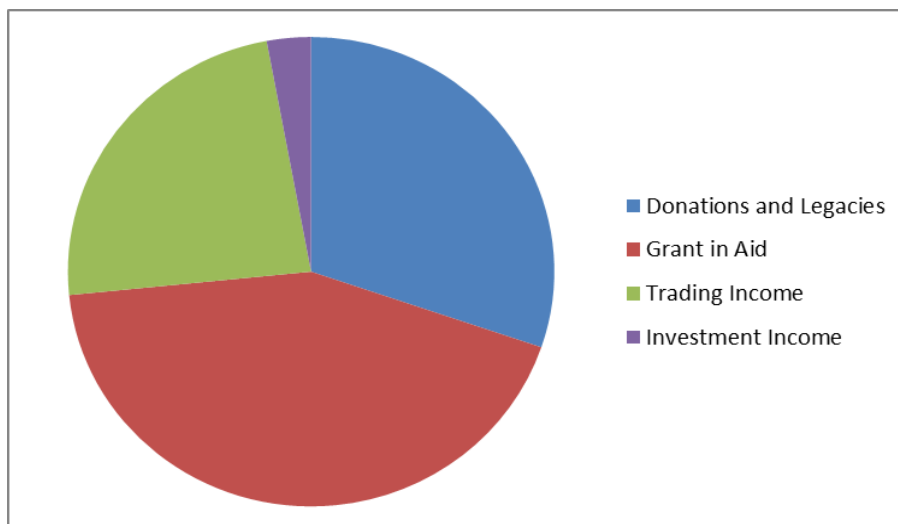
Our princely arms and armour collection is one of the finest in Europe and contains works from Europe, Asia and the Middle-East.

Our galleries also house splendid bronze Renaissance sculptures and superb French eighteenth-century porcelain and furniture of which many items were commissioned by European royalty such as Marie-Antoinette and Catherine the Great.

Investing in the future

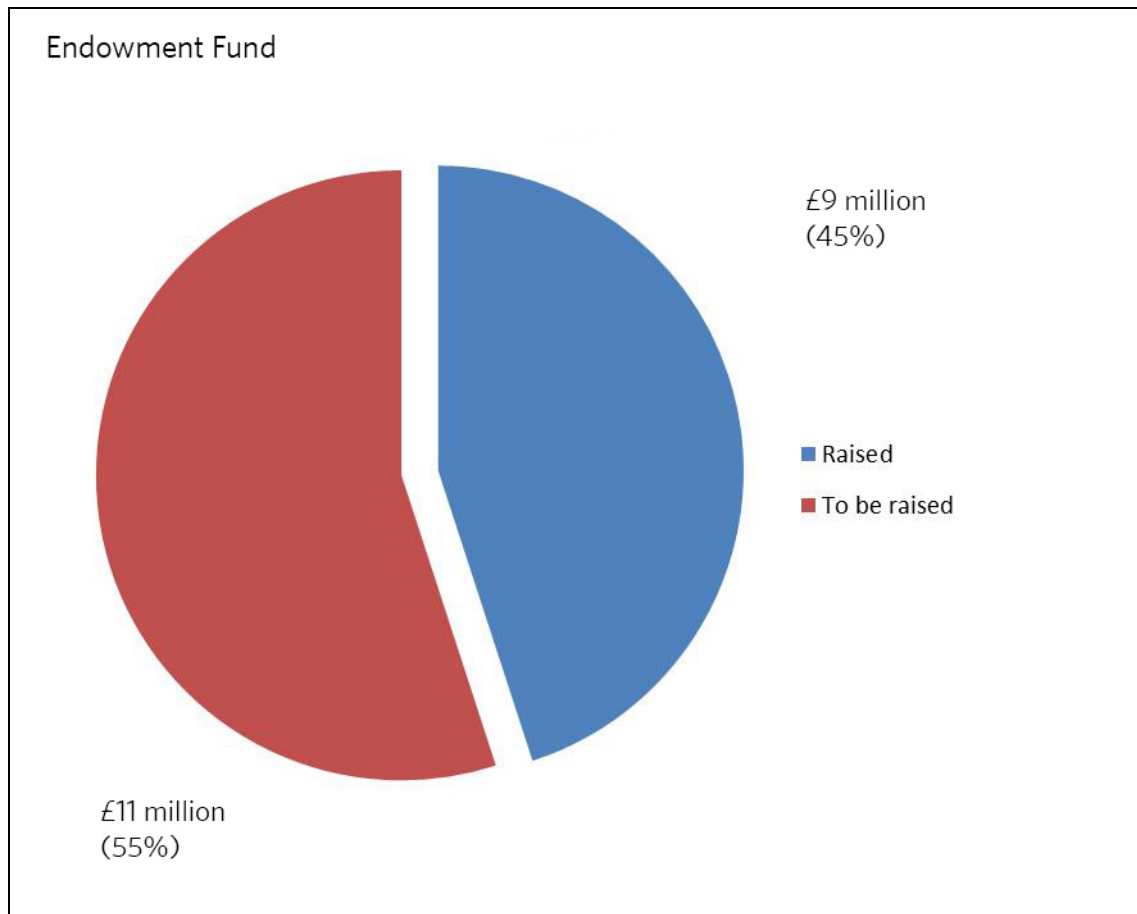
In recent years changes to the funding we receive from Central Government have led the Collection to seek alternative sources of income to ensure that the organisation is financially sustainable. In addition to expanding our commercial activities we have also created an endowment fund.

Income by source 2016-17



A strong endowment will enable the Collection to flourish. It will allow us to share Hertford House and its remarkable contents with a global audience, secure in the knowledge that dedicated resources are in place to guarantee the Collection is available to future generations.

We have been fundraising since 2015, and through donations and capital growth the fund currently stands at £9m. The Campaign aims to have a fund of £20m by the end of 2020.



Generating a crucial source of dependable income for the Collection, a £20 million endowment will produce approximately £1 million a year.

<http://www.wallacecollection.org/>