



Precious Cargo: Yorkshire's World Collection Project

Introduction:

The Yorkshire World Collection is made up of 100 outstanding world collections objects drawn from the Precious Cargo partner museums services (up to 15 services in total).

The Yorkshire World Collection reveals the breadth and depth of the region's world collections for the benefit of Precious Cargo project participants and audiences.

The Yorkshire World Collection provides a focus for the development and sharing of regional world collections knowledge, expertise, research and partnerships through Precious Cargo collections focus activity.

Background:

Exhibitions and events themed as Precious Cargo will reveal the region's World Collections in new and creative ways. How have objects, ideas and customs found their way across the world and become 'precious' items of Yorkshire heritage in the process? What are the things that are precious for Yorkshire people? What stories do they tell?

Between now and 2012 a partnership of museums in the region led by Renaissance Yorkshire invites individuals, groups and especially young people to work together to explore these questions. Contributors will select objects from collections, share their own precious things and design exhibitions around them. They will create new public events, art and performances. Together they will tell their own, historical and imagined stories about the journeys connecting Yorkshire and the world and their shared heritage.

Outreach and on-site co-curation activities (workshops, events, courses) will work with collections and participant's own world heritage objects and stories to deliver content for exhibitions and displays and learning and skills outcomes for participants. This activity will open up material from Natural History, Decorative and Visual Art, Roman, Maritime, Social History, Textiles, Archaeology and World Cultures collections. The latter category includes the 13,000 strong collections held by Leeds Museums and Galleries and Bradford's International Collection. Many of the collections featured also have Designated status.

Precious Cargo reveals, tells and recreates hitherto little known stories attached to Yorkshire's World Collections and seeks connections between people, objects and world heritage for an audience of more than 1,000,000 people, significant numbers of whom are new target audience groups (young people and communities).

Precious Cargo is part of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme Stories of the World which is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

Aims

- Yorkshire's world collections are better understood
- Connections between individually-held collections are revealed
- Project staff, teams, partners, participants and audiences have better access to partners' world collections (objects, knowledge, expertise, research and partnerships)

Objectives

- To create a regional image and documentation bank of highlight world collections objects from partner museums (digital and/or online)
- To create a programme of activity facilitating networking and skill and knowledge exchange for collections focus staff supporting regional world collections development and project documentation, exhibitions, interpretation and participation activity
- To look at the world collections objects in new and creative ways through working with artists, communities and young people
- To provide an accessible resource for project participation, learning, interpretation and marketing purposes

Key outputs

- A regional trail across various venues, comprising of selected objects from Yorkshire's World Collections during 2012 – delivered via mobile web and iphone / android mobile platforms.
- Yorkshire World Collections Publication
- A public symposium exploring the research and collections knowledge gained from the programme.
- MyLearning resources for teachers