

# Towards Understanding Slavery – Past and Present

How much do you know  
about Glasgow's role in the  
transatlantic slave trade?  
What was the impact of the  
trade on Scotland?



Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us.  
*1 Sam. 7.*



To mark the 200th anniversary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, Glasgow City Council is running a series of events and exhibitions across the city.

## EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

### THE BURRELL COLLECTION

Pollok Country Park, 2060 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow G43 1AT

Phone 0141 287 2550; Fax 0141 287 2597

Text phone 0141 287 0047

#### Mind-Forg'd Manacles: William Blake and slavery

3 November–6 January 2008

The 60 works that form this exhibition show how fundamental the idea of slavery was to Blake's writing and art. Not only did Blake devote great energy towards the abolition movement in Britain, but he also reflected on mental slavery, imposed on individuals by society, state and ourselves.

This exhibition of William Blake's work is drawn from the collections of the British Museum to commemorate the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery. Further details of the programme of events and talks accompanying this exhibition will be available on our website in the autumn.

A Hayward Gallery Touring/British Museums Partnership UK exhibition.

*Urizen in Chains*, from *The First Book of Urizen*, Copy D, 1794, by William Blake

Photo: © Copyright the Trustees of The British Museum



## GALLERY OF MODERN ART

Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AH

Phone 0141 229 1996; Fax 0141 204 5316

Text phone 0141 248 2891



© Graham Fagen, video still, *Downpresserer*, 2007, reproduced courtesy of the artist and doggerfisher, Edinburgh.

#### Downpresserer

Gallery 3, 15 March–28 May

Last year artist Graham Fagen visited Jamaica to research the cultural heritages of Scotland and Jamaica against the background of Scotland's role in the transatlantic slave trade. The title of the exhibition, featuring new photographs and a new video work, comes from the title of a song called 'Downpresser Man' by celebrated Jamaican musician Peter Tosh.

Fagen has said of the work made in Jamaica that, 'It is such visuals and primary experience that form the roots of the exhibition, bringing the "other side" of the story back to Glasgow for the 200th anniversary of the abolition of transatlantic slavery'.

#### Artist's talk: Graham Fagen

March 22, 6.30–7.30pm

Graham Fagen talks about his work, research and exhibition at GoMA to commemorate the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

## GLASGOW LIBRARIES

Citywide

#### Small Island Read

Until end March

This nationwide reading project focuses on Andrea Levy's book *Small Island*. It describes the arrival in post-war Britain of black Jamaican immigrants, the descendants of enslaved Africans, and won the Orange Prize for Fiction, Whitbread Book of the Year, Commonwealth Writers' Prize and Orange Best of the Best. To join in, pick up your copy of the book and a reader's guide at libraries throughout Glasgow. Large print and spoken word editions are available to borrow.



## KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM

Argyle Street, Glasgow G3 8AG

Phone 0141 276 9599; Fax 0141 276 9540

Text phone 0141 276 9500/9511

### PERFORMANCES AND TALKS

March 25

An event to mark the end of recruitment and transportation of slaves – there'll be performances of dance, music, capoeira, and gallery talks.

### TALKS

#### **A Hidden Legacy: Glasgow, Africa and the plantation slaves**

Glasgow was in the forefront of the campaign for the abolition of the slave trade and slavery. But many of Glasgow's businesses, and merchants' and much of the city's wealth, were founded in sugar, cotton and tobacco plantations with workforces of slaves transported from West and Central Africa. This series of lunchtime talks looks at aspects of the city's links with the slave trade.

#### **What slavery? Was Glasgow really involved?**

Kelvingrove Conference Room

19 March, 1.00–1.45pm

Dr Stuart Nisbet, School of Engineering and Science, University of Paisley

Do we understand Glasgow's involvement in the slave trade, and should we really be claiming any credit for ending the trade?

#### **Glasgow and the plantations**

Scottish Identity in Art gallery

23 March and 13 April, 1.00–1.45pm

Tony Lewis, Curator of Scottish History

Connecting objects on display with the slave trade.

#### **Scots in Africa – the struggle for the abolition of slavery**

Kelvingrove Conference Room

20 and 26 March, 1.00–1.45pm

Pat Allan, Curator of World Cultures

A look at the benign relationship between 19th-century Scots missionaries and African people, and the part they played in the abolition of slavery, through objects the missionaries brought home.

#### **The Glassford family portrait – a 'hidden' legacy**

Kelvingrove Conference Room

5 April, 1.00–1.45pm

Fiona Hayes, Curator of Social History

What does this portrait represent? Find out more about our quest to bring the black figure back into the picture – and into Glasgow's history.



Lilac-coloured tamboured muslin day dress, around 1861-65. Raw cotton was exported from the American South via blockade running using Clyde-built steamers.

#### **Clyde-built steamers at war**

Kelvingrove Conference Room

3 and 11 April, 1.00–1.45pm

Kate Tansley, Riverside Museum Project Curator

How the moral, economic and political issues of the American Civil War came to Scotland. As the Union Navy's blockade was depriving the Southern States of food, supplies and arms, the Confederates turned to Glasgow shipyards to provide fast steamers to get through the blockade.

#### **Neoclassical ideals and flower'd muslins**

Scottish Identity in Art gallery

12 April, 1.00–1.45pm

Rebecca Quinton, Curator of Costume and Textiles

The cotton trade continued beyond the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Find out how this related to the development of the flower'd muslin industry in the west of Scotland.

#### **Gallery talks: Slavery through the ages**

24, 31 March, 7, 8, 14, 15 April, 2.00pm

Join the Education & Access team on a tour through the galleries.

On 7 and 8 April at 2.00pm there will also be free drama workshops for children on the theme of child labour and slavery. A trail on slavery will be available for visitors to use around the galleries.

## PEOPLE'S PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS

Glasgow Green, Glasgow G40 1AT

Phone 0141 271 2951; Fax 0141 271 2960

Text phone 0141 271 2698

#### **The Glassford Family Portrait – A hidden legacy**

17 August–2 March 2008

A project looking at putting the black figure in the family portrait of Glasgow's most flamboyant tobacco lord, John Glassford, back in the 'picture'. Through the portrait, the exhibition explores the legacy of tobacco and slavery on Glasgow.

A programme of workshops for schools and talks will support the exhibition – please visit [www.glasgowmuseums.com](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com) for further information, or phone the museum.





*John Glassford and His Family*, c.1767, by Archibald McLauchlan

### Conservation in Action

You will be able to watch Glasgow Museums' conservators working on the painting in the Looking at Art gallery in Kelvingrove from the beginning of March, prior to the exhibition opening in August. A fascinating insight into the work of the paintings conservators, and into the painting itself.

## PROVAND'S LORDSHIP

3 Castle Street, Glasgow G4 0RB

Phone 0141 552 8819; Fax 0141 552 4744



### The Tontine Heads

6 July, 2.00pm

Tony Lewis, Curator of Scottish History, talks about the history of the Tontine Heads. These carved stone heads can be seen in the St Nicholas Garden at Provand's Lordship, but their original home was the Tontine Hotel and Coffee House, where Glasgow's tobacco lords met.

One of the nine original Tontine Faces which are on display in the St Nicholas garden at Provand's Lordship.

## ST MUNGO MUSEUM OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AND ART

2 Castle Street, Glasgow G4 0RH

Phone 0141 553 2557; Fax 0141 552 4744

Text phone 0141 552 5754

### A Glasgow story...A snapshot of African and Caribbean life in Glasgow

Until 29 July

In the first part of its *Voices from Africa* 2007 photographic project, St Mungo Museum is working with award-winning documentary photographer Roddy Mackay and with Glasgow's African communities to highlight African heritage in Scotland. The resulting exhibition explores the lives of some of Glasgow's newer communities, and gives their experiences of 21st-century Scotland.

### Voices from Africa 2007, Part 2

September–January 2008

We wanted to explore the economic and social legacy of the slave trade, seen today in cultural stereotypes and approaches to African collections in museums. For the second part of our *Voices from Africa* 2007 project, we're working with members of the African community on the reinterpretation of many of the collections in St Mungo Museum. To get involved, or to find out more, please contact the museum. We'll also be commissioning a new artwork as part of this project.

### Faith to Faith – free workshops exploring faith and belief

This year's programme of free talks and discussion opportunities commemorates the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the United Kingdom.

#### Rastafari and Resistance

22 April 2007, 2.00–4.00pm

Explore how this worldwide religion tries to reverse the mindset of 'slave mentality' – a legacy of the slave trade.

#### Economic slavery

20 May 2007, 2.00–4.00pm

Join us in exploring how people of faith, atheists and agnostics all continue to fight for the abolition of debt and economic slavery.

#### Racism on your doorstep

17 June 2007, 2.00–4.00pm

Discussion on how anti-racist groups work towards challenging inequalities, promoting equal rights, and combating racism in Glasgow.



## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2007**

### **Slavery 2007 – The African perspective**

A celebration of West African culture and its transatlantic links.

Throughout the city we'll be running a programme of talks, tours and events on the West and Central African cultures most heavily affected by the impact of slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries.

For information on the Arts Development programme of events, please phone Harminder Berman on 0141 287 9848; email [harminder.berman@cls.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:harminder.berman@cls.glasgow.gov.uk).

Glasgow Museums will be looking at the interpretation of African objects in Glasgow Museums' collections as well as running talks, gallery tours, object handling sessions and traditional storytelling using puppets. Please visit [www.glasgowmuseums.com](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com) for further information in the autumn.

For information on events throughout the month in Glasgow's libraries, please phone Moira McCall on 0141 287 2805.

## **FOR SCHOOLS**

### **Towards Understanding Slavery**

Free workshops for pupils in Primary 6–Secondary 6  
St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art

In this interactive workshop pupils discover Glasgow's hidden slave trade story. The workshop encourages pupils to explore modern issues to do with human rights and crimes against humanity. To book please phone the Museums Education Service on 0141 276 9505/9506.

Front cover image:  
from the lid of a 19th-century Ladies  
Emancipation Society donation box.  
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