

AAM/FF  
FREEPOST MR8 3SS  
Manchester  
M1 9SA

[www.revealinghistories.org.uk](http://www.revealinghistories.org.uk)

**REVEALING HISTORIES**  
REMEMBERING SLAVERY





# March 25th 2007 marks two hundred years since the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

**The history of slavery and its abolition is a shared history and one that is relevant to Britain's past and present.**

This bicentenary milestone gives us a unique opportunity to engage with and explore the impact of the slave trade upon Britain's economy, society and culture, and its effects on society today.

By 1730, Britain was the largest slave trading nation. During the slave trade period, British ships transported an estimated 2.8 million African slaves. The North West of England built its new industrialised economy around this trade.

Greater Manchester's historical involvement in the slave trade is one that has been largely unexplored in comparison to Britain's port cities, such as Liverpool and Bristol. However, the economic rise of Manchester and the North West during the 18th and 19th centuries is intrinsically linked with the slave trade and its produce, particularly the cotton consumed by the booming textile industry. The region was also home to a strong and active abolitionist movement.

## REVEALING HISTORIES

seeks to reveal the region's involvement in the slave trade, its social and economic effects and its key involvement in slavery's ultimate abolition.

Eight museums and galleries across Greater Manchester are joining together to commemorate the lasting legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.

Revealing Histories takes a fresh look at the collections of these museums and galleries and the buildings they live in, revealing hidden histories of the region's involvement in the slave trade. The project will also question slavery's contemporary legacy and its relevance today.

Revealing Histories will offer a year of events that will be co-produced by the participating venues and the public. The full potential of this new and exciting project can only be achieved through public interaction. This is a history that is relevant to everyone; it's your history. Events taking place will include discussion and debate groups, citywide tours and creative youth partnerships. To get involved turn to page 10.

### The eight participating venues for Revealing Histories are:

Bolton Museums & Archive Service  
Gallery Oldham

People's History Museum

Manchester Art Gallery

The Manchester Museum

Museum of Science & Industry

Touchstones Rochdale

The Whitworth Art Gallery

For more information visit [www.revealinghistories.org.uk](http://www.revealinghistories.org.uk)

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# bolton museums & archives service

## Spinning Mule (1770s)

This is the only surviving spinning mule made by its inventor, Samuel Crompton. He had developed his spinning mule by 1779, and the application of this machine to industry in the early 1800s helped revolutionise the British cotton industry. The cotton boom had begun. To feed the hungry cotton mills with raw cotton a parallel slave boom occurred on the plantations of the Southern States of America. In spite of the ocean between them, the Lancashire cotton industry and the slave system on plantations of the Southern States were intimately linked. Suddenly slavery isn't something far away and isolated from the production here in Lancashire.



# gallery oldham

## Cotton Cops (1735 & 1885)

This pair of cotton cops is designed to celebrate the long history of cotton spinning in the North West. Although made 150 years apart, both yarns are produced to the same fineness and from the same raw material – American cotton. Oldham mill owner William Mannock donated the cops in 1885. Today it is common to see the cotton industry through the eyes of the mill workers rather than the mill owners. But take a look further down the production line. Who picked this cotton? In 1735 (the date of the first cop) the cotton would have been picked by slaves. The cotton was often brought to England by a ship making the third leg of a triangular journey that had also taken more slaves to the New World.



# people's history museum

## The Slave - print (c.1820s)

This print was produced after the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act but before the 1833 Slave Emancipation Act, by which freedom was granted to slaves throughout the British Empire. The background detail of slaves being brought ashore, working on plantations and suffering punishment, may be a reference to the continuation of slavery in non-British territories. The image of the kneeling slave in chains, though an adaptation of an anti-slavery seal, did not bring the many revolts of black slaves to public attention and reinforced notions of black inferiority.



# manchester art gallery

## Bonbonniere (c.1770)

This tiny, exquisite bonbonniere indicates the high value of sugar in the 18th century. Only large enough to hold the smallest amount of sugared sweets, it is highly decorative and would have been a clear indicator of the owner's wealth. It reveals the contrast between what sugar represented to the original owner of this status symbol, and the enslavement and maltreatment suffered by those who laboured to produce its contents.





# the manchester museum

## Manillas or 'ring money' (c.1900s)

These brass manillas would have been exchanged for slaves and used as currency in West Africa. It is stated on one of the rings that its value is one slave. At the height of the Atlantic slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries this currency became the most dominant form used between African and European slave traders. These manillas act as a disturbing reminder of the monetary value placed upon people used as slaves during the time of the transatlantic slave trade and highlight the financial impact the transatlantic slave trade had on British society.



# museum of science & industry

## American Civil War Union patriotic envelope (1861)

From the beginning of the Civil War, both the Union and Confederate states used illustrated envelopes as a form of propaganda. Slavery was a popular theme in the northern Union states. The cartoon and verse on this envelope satirise the willingness of Britain (in the form of John Bull) to ignore the plight of slaves in the southern states. In John Bull's pocket is a document labeled "Manchester", denoting the link between slavery and the Lancashire cotton industry. Take a closer look at the bottom of the image where a slave lies crushed below the kneeling John Bull. The envelope reminds us that the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was only the beginning of the end of transatlantic slavery.



# the whitworth art gallery

## Thomas Hearne's View of St. Christopher's

This is one of eight surviving watercolours commissioned by Sir Ralph Payne, Governor-General and Captain-General of the Leeward Islands, British sugar colonies in the West Indies. Hearne wanted to show the island as a well-defended, well-planned and stable British colony. At the same time the image ignores the inhuman misery of slavery that underpinned the economic and social system. What intrigues most is just how much it reflects and props up the status quo. Slavery is taken as part of the natural order of things. It's extraordinary to think that these works are rather like contemporary company annual reports, celebrating economic success.



# touchstones rochdale

## Flour Barrel (1862)

This barrel was in pieces in a box for many years and was once almost thrown away! It has now been restored and is on display. It links Rochdale to the fight to end slavery. During the American Civil War imports to Lancashire of slave produced cotton from the Confederate states of America declined. This was known as the Lancashire Cotton Famine. Rochdale cotton workers like many others in Lancashire suffered high unemployment and poverty. However, the evidence is that Rochdale people, despite the hardship, supported the Northern States of America in their fight to end slavery. The barrel was sent as food relief by the Northern States to the people of Rochdale to thank them for their support.



# What's on

## Bolton Museum and Archive Service

### Remembering Slavery

Saturday 24th March onwards  
Monday – Saturday, 9am – 5pm, Free

## Gallery Oldham

### Cotton and Slavery

Saturday 24th March  
10am – 5pm, Free, drop-in event

### Oldham Votes exhibition

August 18th – November 17th  
Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm, Free

### Millscapes exhibition

November 17th 2007 – February 3rd 2008  
Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm, Free

## Manchester Cathedral

### Thomas Clarkson – one of the noblest of Englishmen

Monday 19th March, 7:30pm, Free

## Manchester Art Gallery

### Remembering Slavery City Tour

Sunday 25th March & Wednesday 27th June  
1pm – 2:30pm or 3pm – 4:30pm  
Begins and ends at Manchester Art Gallery  
Free, but please book on 0161 235 8888  
or email [magevents@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:magevents@manchester.gov.uk)

### Sugar Trade Secrets

Saturday 21st April  
3pm – 4pm  
Free, but please book on 0161 235 8888  
or email [magevents@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:magevents@manchester.gov.uk)

### Art Against the Slave Trade

Saturday 19th May  
3pm – 4pm  
Free, but please book on 0161 235 8888  
or email [magevents@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:magevents@manchester.gov.uk)

## The Manchester Museum

### This Accursed Thing

Saturday 24th March, Sunday 25th March, Saturday 31st March,  
Sunday 1st April & Monday 2nd April  
12noon, 1:30pm & 3pm each day  
Free, but please book on 0161 275 2648

### Community Open Day

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March, 1 – 4pm each day, Free

## Museum of Science and Industry

### Exploring the Union Envelope

Saturday 24th March & Sunday 25th March  
11am – 1pm & 2pm – 4pm each day, Free drop-in event

## People's History Museum

### Meet the Abolitionists Tour

Saturday 24th March & Saturday 9th June, 1pm, Free

### How Do You Plead?

Sunday 25th March & Sunday 16th September, 1pm & 2:30pm each day, Free

## Touchstones Rochdale

### Revealing Histories Family Events

Saturday 24th March, 2pm – 4pm, Saturday 26th May, 10am – 4pm, Free

### Millscapes Exhibition

March 31st – June 24th, Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm,  
Sundays and Bank Holidays 12noon – 4:30pm, Free

### The Fight to End Slavery a Local Story Exhibition

May 17th – September 9th, Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm,  
Sundays and Bank Holidays 12noon – 4:30pm, Free

### The Fight to End Slavery: The Rochdale Connection

Saturday 2nd June, 2 – 3:30pm  
Free, but please book on 01706 924492.

### Linking Threads: Textile Industrialists and the Art Collection exhibition

July 7th – September 16th, Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm, Sundays and  
Bank Holidays 12noon – 4:30pm, Free

## The Whitworth Art Gallery

### Trade and Empire: Remembering Slavery Exhibition

Saturday 16th June 2007 – May 2008  
Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm, Sunday 2pm – 5pm, Free

### Exhibition tour

Saturday 23rd June 2pm, Free

# Contact details

## Bolton Museums and Archive Service Le Mans Crescent Bolton BL1 1SE

Tel: +44 (0)1204 332211  
Email: [museum.customerservices@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:museum.customerservices@bolton.gov.uk)  
Open: Monday - Saturday 9am to 5pm.  
Closed Sundays.

## Gallery Oldham Oldham Cultural Quarter Greaves Street Oldham OL1 1AL

Tel: +44 (0)161 770 4653  
Fax: +44 (0)161 770 4669  
Email: [galleryoldham@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:galleryoldham@oldham.gov.uk)  
Open: Monday - Saturday 10am to 5pm.  
Closed Sundays.

## Manchester Art Gallery Mosley Street Manchester M2 3JL

Tel: +44 (0) 161 235 8888  
Fax: +44 (0) 161 235 8899  
Email: [magevents@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:magevents@manchester.gov.uk)  
Textphone: +44 (0)161 235 8893  
Open: Tuesday - Sunday 10am to 5pm.  
Closed Mondays, except Bank Holidays.

## The Manchester Museum The University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester M13 9PL

Tel: +44 (0)161 275 2634  
Fax: +44 (0)161 275 2676  
Email: [museum@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:museum@manchester.ac.uk)  
Open: Sunday, Monday & Bank Holidays  
11am - 4pm. Tuesday - Saturday 10am to 5pm.

## Museum of Science & Industry Liverpool Road Castlefield Manchester M3 4FP

Tel: +44 (0)161 832 2244  
Email: [marketing@msim.org.uk](mailto:marketing@msim.org.uk)  
Open: Every day 10am to 5pm.

## People's History Museum The Pump House Bridge Street Manchester M3 3ER

Tel: +44 (0)161 839 6061  
Fax: +44 (0)161 839 6027  
Email: [info@phm.org.uk](mailto:info@phm.org.uk)  
Open: Tuesday - Sunday 11am to 4.30pm.  
Closed Mondays (except Bank Holidays).

## The Whitworth Art Gallery The University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester M15 6ER

Tel: +44 (0) 161 275 7450  
Fax: +44 (0) 161 275 7451  
Email: [whitworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:whitworth@manchester.ac.uk)  
Open: Monday - Saturday 10am to 5pm.  
Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

## Touchstones Rochdale The Esplanade Rochdale OL16 1AQ

Tel: +44 (0)1706 924492  
Email: [touchstones@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:touchstones@rochdale.gov.uk)  
Open: Monday - Saturday 10am to 5pm.  
Sundays & Bank Holidays 12pm to 4.30pm.

Accessible formats and community languages available  
from [info@revealinghistories.co.uk](mailto:info@revealinghistories.co.uk)  
For more information about this project and events,  
go to [www.revealinghistories.org.uk](http://www.revealinghistories.org.uk)



## It's Our History

To join the Revealing Histories mailing list,  
simply complete the form below, cut off and  
send back to us using the Freepost address  
overleaf.

### Keep In Touch

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

- I would like to receive information by Post
- I would like to receive information by Email
- I would like to receive information from other cultural organisations in Greater Manchester

### Get Involved

Throughout 2007 we will be co-producing a series of creative, informative and stimulating events with people of all ages and backgrounds across Greater Manchester. If you would like to find out more simply tick the boxes that interest you:

- Talks, discussions and debates
- Volunteering with events
- Events for school parties
- Interpreting the collections, telling your own stories
- Making films with young people

CUT ALONG HERE

# REVEALING HISTORIES