

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

What's on

March – April 2005

Enjoy your visit

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Open late every Thursday and Friday

More time to explore the Museum. Enjoy a leisurely look at selected galleries and special exhibitions until 20.30. Attend an evening event, relax with a drink or a meal in the splendid surroundings of the Great Court. See page 15 and back cover for details.



Find out more in the historic Reading Room

Expand your knowledge of the objects and cultures in the Museum:

- Books for adults and children
- COMPASS – an interactive multimedia database of the collections
- Ideas for visiting with children

Open daily 10.00–17.30 and until 20.30 on the first Thursday of each month
 Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8838
 Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8113
readingroom@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass

Booking

Unless otherwise stated, book events through the Box Office 10.00–16.45 daily
 Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8181
 Facsimile +44 (0)20 7323 8616
 Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8920
boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
 Book selected events at
www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Website

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

- Up-to-date information
- Online booking
- Explore the Museum's collections
- Subscribe to our free monthly newsletter

Tours, talks and Hands On

Pick up our leaflet about

- Audio tours
- Guided tours
- eyeOpener gallery tours
- Hands On – object handling

For Gallery talks see *What's on* Events diary pages 12–14

What's new?

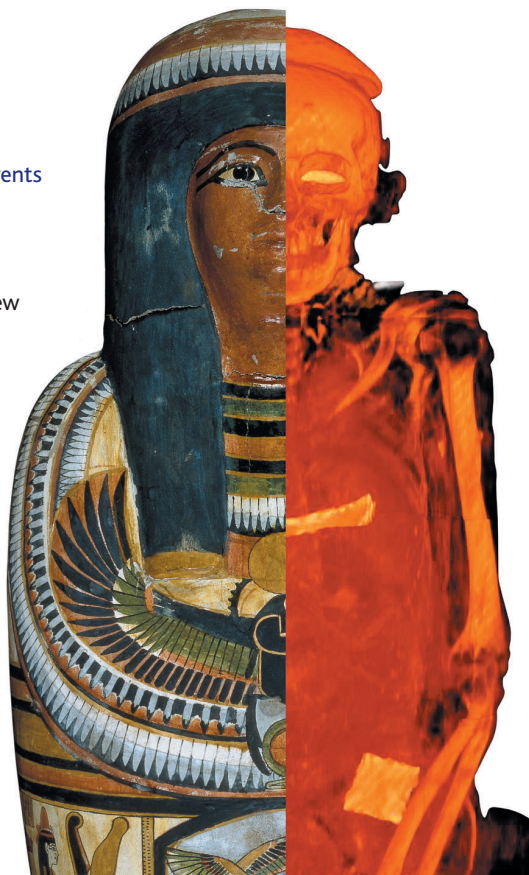
Africa 05, a dedicated series of new exhibitions, events and films celebrating the dynamic heritage of Africa past and present, continues until October. Pick up our *Africa at the British Museum* booklet for more details, including 'Africa around the Museum' free trail.



In association with the BBC



PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGERY COURTESY OF SGI



Exhibitions and displays – for full details pick up our *Exhibitions* leaflet

Special exhibitions

Admission charge

Mummy: the inside story

The BP special exhibition
 Joseph Hotung Great Court
 Gallery, Room 35

Making an Egyptian mummy case

14–16 March

Sign interpreted

5 March, 15.15
 14 April, 14.45



Temporary exhibitions

Admission free

AFRICA 05

Made in Africa – ancient hand tools

The Asahi Shimbun Displays
 Until 3 April, Room 3
Lecture: 7 March

Wealth of Africa: 4000 years of money and trade

Until 26 June, Room 69a
Gallery talks: 10, 16, 24 March, 14, 28 April

Tree of life – contemporary sculpture

Until 28 August, Great Court
Lecture: 18 March

Columbus: Renaissance collector

Until 5 June, Room 90
Gallery talks:
 30 March, 6 April
 Sponsored by the American Friends of the British Museum

Mountains and Water – Chinese painting

Until 28 August, Room 91
Gallery talks:
 2 March, 21 April
Lecture: 10 March

Cutting Edge: Japanese swords in the British Museum

Until 8 May, Rooms 92–94
 Supported by the Peter Moores Foundation
Gallery talk: 11 March

Temporary displays

Admission free

Modernism in Sudanese Art

Until 3 April
 Montague Place entrance

Feasts and picnics: eating and drinking in Islamic painting

Until April, Room 34

The Spinario – the great Italian bronze on loan from the Capitoline Museums, Rome.

14 March–23 April, Room 23
Gallery talks:
 22 March, 8 April

What's next?

Other exhibitions coming soon include:

Summer 2005

Kabuki Heroes

David Milne Watercolours: Painting toward the Light

Autumn 2005

Forgotten Empire: the world of ancient Persia

Samuel Palmer: vision and landscape

Science Week

Science Week: Made in Africa

11–18 March

Join curators, scientists and conservators from the British Museum for events on the theme of Africa. Come and see curators making an Egyptian mummy case in the Great Court from Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 March from 11.00. Watch and talk to a conservator at work on ancient Coptic textiles from 10.00 to 12.30 on Friday 18 March, meeting in Room 66. Gallery talks about artefacts from the African continent take place every weekday from Friday 11 March to Thursday 17 March, see diary for titles and locations.



Benin plaque, 16th century, Nigeria

Lectures and workshops

AFRICA 05

Made in Africa

Monday 7 March, 13.00

Stone tools were the first technological invention: without them we might not have the internet or mobile phones. Jill Cook, curator, explores the African origins of human innovative genius.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Admission free, no pre-booking

Tree of Life

Friday 18 March, 13.00

British Museum curator, Chris Spring, tells the inside story of the making of the Tree of Life, a sculpture made out of weapons commissioned by the British Museum and Christian Aid. He draws on his experiences in Mozambique and shows a short film about the project and the artists.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Admission free, no pre-booking

Africa in the British Museum

Monday 4 April, 13.00

In this illustrated lecture Ben Burt, author of *Africa in the world, past and present: a museum history* (British Museum Press) looks at Africa's place in world history through the Museum's galleries. A history of Africa's relationships with other regions which have shaped the modern world.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre

Admission free, no pre-booking

Chinese landscape painting – new readers start here

Thursday 10 March, 18.30

Professor Craig Clunas

An introduction to Chinese landscape painting, traditionally the most important subject in Chinese painting as well as the most popular. This accompanies the British Museum special exhibition *Mountains and Water*. Craig Clunas is Percival David Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

BP Lecture Theatre

£5, concessions £3

300 places

Also book online



CHRISTIAN AID / DAVID ROSE

Stone carving workshop

Saturday 23 April,
10.00–17.00

You will be introduced to tools and materials (limestone) and will work on a relief carving taking inspiration from sculptures in the Museum. Participants are encouraged to arrive with ideas and sketches of projects to undertake. You will be working outside and are advised to wear old clothes.

British Museum, Colonnade

£30, concessions £20

15 places

Run by Arts Express

Courses

Sexuality and gender in Native North American Culture

12 Monday evenings
from 4 April, 18.30–20.30

How have sex and gender differences been implicated in broader economic, political and social processes throughout American Indian history? This course looks at art objects alongside archaeological, historical and anthropological data.

Clore Education Centre,
Sackler Room

£82, concessions £43

Tutor: Massimiliano Carocci

Book through Birkbeck:

Telephone Carol Watts

+44 (0)20 7631 6652

ce.watts@bbk.ac.uk

Creative writing

10 Thursday mornings
from 14 April, 11.00–13.00

This course, in collaboration with the Workers Education Association, will use the Museum's collections as inspiration for new writing. Weekly exercises will generate new writing and course members will share their work. We will look at examples of contemporary writing and discuss techniques in poetry and short stories. Suitable for beginners.

Clore Education Centre,
Claus Moser Room

£100, BM Friends £90,

concessions £60

15 places

Tutor: Karen Kuehne

The Far East on screen

12 Thursday evenings
from 14 April, 18.30–20.30

Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia all have a long history of filmmaking. Here we examine South-East Asian cinema in relation to nationhood and modernity, the Chinese diaspora, colonisation and folk entertainment.

Clore Education Centre,
Claus Moser Room

£82, concessions £43

Tutor: May Adadol Ingawanij

Book through Birkbeck:

Telephone Carol Watts

+44 (0)20 7631 6652

ce.watts@bbk.ac.uk

The art of Pacific performance

12 Thursday evenings
from 14 April, 18.30–20.30

The vibrant history of dance and ritual performance in the Pacific is reflected in the artefacts held in institutions like the British Museum. We will draw on these collections, video and discussions with Pacific performers to explore the art and meanings of performance.

With a focus on Polynesia.

Clore Education Centre,
Sackler Room

£82, concessions £43

Tutor: Jennifer E Newell

Book through Birkbeck:

Telephone Carol Watts

+44 (0)20 7631 6652

ce.watts@bbk.ac.uk

Exotic passions: the meeting of Orient and Occident

12 Thursday evenings
from 14 April, 18.30–20.30

This course will trace the mutual fascination of Orient and Occident evidenced in their material exchanges. We will cover artistic and cultural interactions between Asia and Europe from the medieval to the contemporary period, exploring how the appeal of the exotic has shaped their material cultures.

Clore Education Centre,
Studio

£82, concessions £43

Tutor: Renate Dohmen

Book through Birkbeck:

Telephone Carol Watts

+44 (0)20 7631 6652

ce.watts@bbk.ac.uk



PHOTO: BENEDICT JOHNSON

Study days and sessions

Classics day

Saturday 5 March, 10.30–17.30

A day of talks, discussions and gallery visits on themes related to Ancient Greece and Rome. Anyone with a love of the Classics or who wishes to broaden their knowledge is welcome to attend.

BP Lecture Theatre

£29, senior citizens £18, those on benefit £10

300 places

Contact: The City Literary Institute
Information +44 (0)20 7430 0545
Booking +44 (0)20 7831 7831

Assyriomania

Thursday 17 March,
10.00–13.30

Lectures explore the passionate interest, in the 18th and 19th centuries, in the world of Ancient Assyria. The literary sources which sustained an interest in this 'lost civilization' are discussed. The context involves archaeological discovery and includes the Cult of Styles, Greek, Roman, Etruscan, Indian and Egyptian, in the fine and decorative arts. Includes handling of Assyria-inspired objects.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre
£18, BM Friends and concessions £15
30 places

Tutors: Henrietta McCall & Hilary Williams

Haunted: the past in South-East Asian Cinema

Saturday 9 April, 13.00–17.00

An opportunity to see the Thai ghost film *Nang Nak*, a domestic blockbuster and an international hit. A lecture and discussion follows the screening.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre

£15, concessions £10

150 places

Also book online

Tutor: May Adadol Ingawanij

Book through Birkbeck:
Telephone Carol Watts
+44 (0)20 7631 6652
ce.watts@bbk.ac.uk

David Roberts and Louis Haghe

Saturday 9 April, 14.00–16.00

David Roberts, famous for his views of the Middle East, was supported by Louis Haghe, the lithographer, in creating his successful series of views which have become so familiar. We look at the method of productions and the amazing endeavours which grew out of their travels.

Clore Education Centre,
Sackler Room
£15, concessions £10
25 places
Tutor: Hilary Williams

Performance

Living under One Roof

Friday 22 April, 19.15–21.00



A dramatic series of monologues about the celebrations and tensions of a disparate group of West Indians living under the same roof.

Based on the life experiences of three characters, we follow their journeys from the Caribbean in the 1960s and their subsequent lives in Birmingham. Followed by an interactive discussion.

Writer/Producer Lorna Holder

Director Horace Ove

A Full Spectrum Production

BP Lecture Theatre

£5, concessions £3

Also book online



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

Full Spectrum Productions



An evening with Alan Bennett

Tuesday 5 April, 18.30–21.00

Enjoy the wit and wisdom of Alan Bennett as he treats you to his readings. This event is preceded by drinks and followed by a buffet reception. A charity fundraising event hosted by Councillor Harriet Garland, Mayor of Camden.

Stevenson Lecture Theatre
£30

Tickets from:

The Mayor's Office, Town Hall
Judd Street, WC1H 9JE
Telephone +44 (0)20 7974 1989
caroline.bartram@camden.gov.uk



Way of tea

Friday 11 March, 8 April &
22 April, 13.00 & 15.00

A free demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony presented and supported by the Urasenke Foundation.
Room 92

Family events

Please stay with children at all times

Easter Holiday events

29 March–1 April

Drawing: 11.00–16.00 daily

Stories: 11.45, 13.00 &
15.00 daily

What is important in your life? Is it staying healthy and well? Is it keeping your family or your home safe? Explore how different peoples from around the world look after themselves and their loved ones in our drop-in drawing and story sessions in the *Living and dying* exhibition.

Wellcome Trust Gallery,
Room 24

Admission free,
no pre-booking

Family eyeOpener tours

Weekends 5 & 6 March,
2 & 3 April and
Easter 29, 30, 31 March,
1 April, 12.15 & 14.15

Free interactive guided tours for ages 6+. First weekend in the month and during school holidays.



PHOTO: BENEDICT JOHNSON

Big Bash 2005

Tuesday 15 March 2005,
18.30–20.30

Join the Young

Friends of the British Museum for a fun-filled party celebrating the Roman Empire in Africa.

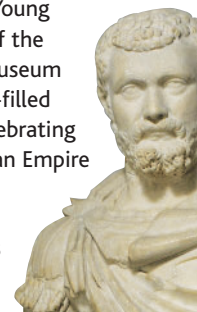
Whether you are 3 or 103,

you will be entertained and enlightened by the evening's activities which include the battle of the gladiators, the opportunity to meet the Emperor Septimius Severus of Libya, and much more.

Proceeds will support the renovation of Room 70, home to the Museum's finest objects from the Roman Empire.

£25 including buffet and refreshments

For further information or to book
Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8566
youngfriends@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk



Films

A season of films to celebrate Africa at the British Museum

Screenings in various formats

The Silences of the PalaceFriday 8 April, 18.30

Alia, an unsuccessful singer, returns to the palace she left ten years previously when Tunisia won independence from the French. In flashback the hidden histories of the women of the palace are gradually revealed through Tlatli's poetic camerawork. Suffused with music, this is a moving and evocative journey of memories.

Director: Moufida Tlatli1994, 127 mins,France/Tunisia, subtitlesStevenson Lecture Theatre£3, concessions £2Also book online*Abouna*, 2002

SOURCE: BFI STILLS, POSTERS AND DESIGNS

Waiting for HappinessSaturday 9 April, 14.30

Seventeen year old Abdullah returns home to a small coastal town in Mauritania after a prolonged absence. A rootless exile with dreams of escaping to Europe, he finds himself alienated in his own community. *Waiting for Happiness* won the major award at FESPASCO, Africa's most important film festival.

Director:Abderrahmane Sissako2002, 95 mins,France/Mauritania, subtitlesBP Lecture Theatre£3, concessions £2Also book online**Abouna**Friday 15 April, 18.30

Set in Chad, this tale of modern African childhood follows two boys searching for their runaway father. Their sighting of him on screen in the local cinema leads to their stealing a reel of film. They are expelled to a strict Koranic school in the countryside where tragedy ensues.

Director:Mahamet-Saleh Haroun2002, 85 mins, Chad/France, subtitlesStevenson Lecture Theatre£3, concessions £2Also book online**Yeelen**Saturday 16 April, 14.30

A spellbinding mythical fantasy set in the ancient Bambara culture of Mali, *Yeelen* tells of initiation rituals through the physical and spiritual journey of a young warrior with magical powers who was abandoned at birth by his evil shaman father. Intriguing, visually stunning and uncompromising.

Director: Suleymané Cissé1987, 105 mins, Mali/BurkinaFaso/France/Germany, subtitlesStevenson Lecture Theatre£3, concessions £2Also book online**Le Franc**Friday 22 April, 18.30

A surreal comedy about a penniless shanty town guitarist in Dakar and his desperate attempts to cash in his lottery ticket. A masterpiece of African storytelling (1994, 45 mins).

The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun

A crippled girl struggling to survive in modern day Dakar's hoodlum dominated marketplace reinvents herself as a newspaper vendor. The score is infectious and the metaphor for global capitalism overwhelming (1998, 45 mins).

Director: Djibril Diop Mambety90 mins total programme,Senegal, subtitlesStevenson Lecture Theatre£3, concessions £2Also book online

Documentary films

To celebrate Africa 05

in partnership with the Royal Anthropological Institute

**The Blooms of Banjeli: Technology and Gender in West African Ironmaking**Friday 4 March, 13.00

The villagers of Banjeli recreated traditional iron smelting techniques for this film which offers fascinating insights on gender relations and the society as a whole. 1988, 29 mins, colour

The Dormant Genius

This TV production by African director Funmi Osoba, tells the story of the Benin brasscasting tradition and discusses artistic prospects for the future.

Director: Funmi Osoba1990, 54 mins, colourBP Lecture TheatreAdmission free, no pre-booking**In and Out of Africa**Saturday 19 March, 13.00

Nigerian, Gabai Baare, is followed from the Ivory Coast to Long Island, USA, as he conducts his job in the transnational trade of African art. Through commercial exchange these art objects are made into commodities.

Directors: Ilisa Barbash andLucien Taylor1993, 59 mins, colourStevenson Lecture TheatreAdmission free, no pre-booking**Gelede: A Yoruba Masquerade**Friday 8 April, 13.00

Among the Yoruba of Western Nigeria and Benin the gelede cult honours the earth spirits, the ancestors and the Great Mother. The festival filmed here emphasises the status of women and placates the potential dangers of their mystic power.

Director: Frank Speed1970, 30 mins**Alagba**

For the Kalabari people of Buguma in the Niger Delta, Alagba is the most important of a cycle of masquerades belonging to the water spirits. A dancer from each clan house, sewn into his heavy costume and wearing a headpiece of feathers, follows the instructions of the drum to approach the thirty three spirit shrines around the town square.

Director: Jane Thorburn1995, 46 mins, colourBP Lecture TheatreAdmission free, no pre-booking**Sogow: Bambara Masks**Thursday 14 April, 13.00

The film follows the research of Malian anthropologist Youssuf Cissé. In the annual masquerades of the Baman (Bambara) in Segou, a village along the River Niger, masked dancers and large puppets in the form of mythical animals dance accompanied by music and songs.

Director: Jean Paul Colley1985, 54 minsStevenson Lecture TheatreAdmission free, no pre-booking

Wooden mask for Gelede masquerade

Visiting with children

For full details pick up our
Visiting with children leaflet

Ask in the Reading Room

Hamlyn family trails free

Six trails to help you explore different parts of the Museum at your own pace.

Available for different ages:

5 and under and 6+.

Supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust in memory of Paul Hamlyn

Ford activity backpacks free

Seven different backpacks full of puzzles, games and other activities to do in the galleries

Family eyeOpener tours free

Interactive guided tours for ages 6+.

First weekend in the month and during school holidays.

Weekends 5 & 6 March, 2 & 3 April and Easter 29, 30, 31 March, 1 April, 12.15 & 14.15

Events programme free

Find out what workshops, performances, storytelling sessions and other events are on today

Art materials free

Borrow crayons, coloured pencils and pads to do your own pictures during your visit

The Museum online free

Explore Children's COMPASS, made possible by the Ford Motor Company Fund, and our Ancient Civilizations websites

Paul Hamlyn children's library free

A wide range of books for all ages

Ask at the Information Desk

Family audio tour £3.50



Join Stephen Fry on the trail of bodies, beasts and board games

Hands On free

Find out where the Hands On tables are today and handle some of the Museum's ancient objects



PHOTO: BENEDICT JOHNSON

Access

For further information

Pick up an access guide from the Information Desk

Telephone

+44 (0)20 7323 8299/8599

Minicom

+44 (0)20 7323 8482 (Information Desk)
or 8920 (Box Office)

Facsimile

+44 (0)20 7323 8616

Email

information@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Visit

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/visit/access

Sign interpreted



Exhibition/film

Saturday 5 March, 15.15 and

Thursday 14 April, 14.45, Room 35

Mummy: the inside story £

Gallery talk:

Tuesday 8 March, 13.15, Room 34

The light of the heavens

and the earth: the lamp in Islamic culture

Gallery talk:

Thursday 14 April, 13.15, Room 68

Africa in the Money Gallery

Performance:

Friday 22 April, 19.15, CEC

Living Under One Roof

Sound enhancement for gallery talks

We offer a sound enhancement system for some gallery talks. Facilitated by the British Museum volunteers. Made possible by support from the British Museum Friends.

Pick up *What's on* in large print from the Information Desk or telephone +44(0)20 7323 8000/8510

Membership

British Museum Friends

Support the Museum and enjoy: special events for members; first views to all new exhibitions; regular mailings on events; subscription to the British Museum Magazine.

Annual subscription £55, concessions or direct debit £50

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8195/8605

friends@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/friends

Young Friends of the British Museum

Enjoy the ReMus magazine, sleepovers in the Museum and other special events.

Ages 8–15

Annual subscription £20

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8605



Shopping

Bookshop

Books and catalogues relating to the collections; north side of Great Court.

Monday–Wednesday 09.30–18.00

Thursday–Friday 09.30–20.00

Saturday 09.30–18.00

Sunday 12.00–18.00

Children's Shop

Pocket money souvenirs;
east side of Great Court.

Monday–Saturday 09.30–18.00

Sunday 10.00–18.00

Souvenirs Shop

Guides and postcards, camera film, stationery,
gifts; west side of Great Court.

Monday–Wednesday 09.30–18.00

Thursday–Friday 09.30–20.00

Saturday 09.30–18.00

Sunday 10.00–18.00

Grenville Shop

Replica sculpture, jewellery, silk scarves and ties;
Shop entrance in the Weston Great Hall at the
Great Russell Street entrance.

Monday–Wednesday 10.00–18.00

Thursday–Friday 10.00–20.00

Saturday–Sunday 10.00–18.00

Eating

Self-service cafés

Gallery Café: hot and cold meals, snacks and
drinks, deli sandwich bar, special children's

counter, Main floor next to room 12,

daily 10.00–17.00

Court Café: sandwiches, soups,
seasonal salad, home-made cakes,

hot and cold drinks, Great Court,

daily 10.00–17.00

Restaurant

Court Restaurant: morning coffee, seasonal
lunch including a two-course set price menu,
afternoon tea, dinners, full wine list,
informal waiter service.

Upper floor Great Court

Bookings +44 (0)20 7323 8990

Saturday–Wednesday 11.00–18.00

(last orders 17.00)

Thursday–Friday 11.00–23.00

(last orders 21.00)

Family picnic area

A picnic-style eating area with vending
machines: at weekends and during school
holidays, families are welcome to use the
Ford Centre for Young Visitors as an eating
area, Lower floor south side Great Court.

Museum opening hours

Saturday–Wednesday 10.00–17.30, Thursday–Friday 10.00–20.30

Closed 1 January, Good Friday and 24–26 December

Museum galleries are subject to a schedule of opening times.

Details of daily openings are available from the Information Desk or

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Great Court opening hours

Saturday–Wednesday 09.00–18.00, Thursday–Friday 09.00–23.00

Closed 1 January, Good Friday and 24–26 December

Booking

Unless otherwise stated, book events

through the Box Office 10.00–16.45 daily

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8181

Facsimile +44 (0)20 7323 8616

Minicom +44 (0)20 7323 8920

boxoffice@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Book selected events online at

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

THE
BRITISH
MUSEUM

Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Telephone +44 (0)20 7323 8000

information@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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