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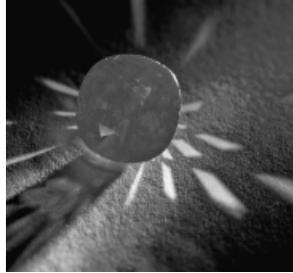
Her Imperial Highness
Princess Takamado

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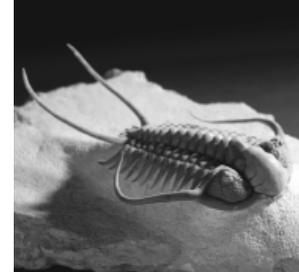
NEW ACQUISITIONS 2005/2006

The following objects were among those acquired in 2005/2006 through the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, a \$49.7 million fund bequeathed by the late Louise Hawley Stone for the purchase of objects and the production of Museum publications. Louise Hawley Stone's support of the ROM spanned over 50 years and included serving on the Museum's Board of Trustees from 1968 to 1972.



Burmese Ruby

The Natural History Department's gem collection recently acquired a fabulous 5.12 ct Burmese Ruby. This gemstone's "Pigeon Blood Red" colour is the epitome for Ruby, seen only in the finest Burmese stones. Not only has it filled a gap in the collection, but its glowing presence will dazzle visitors.



Spiny Trilobite

This spectacular trilobite fossil, *Paraceraurus excull*, Ordovician Period (approximately 450 million years old), Wolchow River, Saint Petersburg, Russia, measures 15 cm in total length, including tail spines.



Figurine of a Standing Male Votary

Terracotta, Crete, Middle Minoan period, about 2000–1700 BC. Height: 16.5 cm. Votive figurines, such as this solid, handmade example, were left as offerings by worshippers at mountain top sanctuaries.



Mummy Cover

From Luxor, Egypt. 986–964 BCE. Painted wood. Mummy covers were used as a "lid" for the linen-wrapped body before it was enclosed in a similarly painted coffin. It is the only mummy cover in our collection and therefore a welcome addition.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE DIRECTOR AND CEO

In fiscal year 2005/2006, the Royal Ontario Museum proudly delivered the first promises of the multi-year Renaissance ROM expansion project. The public opening of ten new galleries on December 26, 2005 represented the first completed stage of the project, executed on time and on budget.

The redesigned galleries in our heritage buildings were warmly received by our visitors and the critics alike. They re-introduced our patrons to some of our most important and well-regarded collections, those of East Asia and Canada's aboriginal peoples, now prominently located on the renovated main level. They also introduced important collections rarely before seen by the public, such as those of Japan, Bronze Age Aegean and Cyprus.

Sensitive renovations revealed the original architectural power of the ROM's historic buildings, retrieving forgotten vistas, restoring generous volumes and admitting long-lost natural light. A pleasing contemporary design language unifies the new displays: spacious glass cases, comfortable gallery lounges, improved sightlines and signage, updated colour schemes with clean white walls, and a greater density of objects very simply displayed.

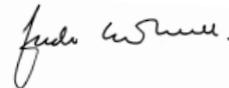
This was the highlight of a very busy year for the Museum. As construction of the upcoming *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal* progressed, the ROM continued its regular operations, welcoming the public, school groups, and guests at exhibitions, programmes and special events throughout the year. Planning for operations in the new building grew more detailed, including the new retail and food and beverage services to be offered. Our new logo, redesigned Web site and new brand were effectively launched with the new galleries. Having successfully addressed

Renaissance ROM's budget and scheduling challenges, we are especially pleased to note the continuing success of the Renaissance ROM Campaign.

The success of these first Renaissance ROM galleries has raised the public's interest in the *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*, set to open in mid-2007. With confidence, we turn to completing the *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal* and raising the balance of funds needed from the public and private sectors.

The ROM is pleased to be a signature project within the broad revival of Toronto's cultural institutions. We are grateful to the Government of Ontario for providing additional funding for the major cultural infrastructure projects in March 2006, including a welcome \$12 million for the ROM's second phase. Now we look forward to the federal government's announcement of matching funds.

Finally, we note that this Annual Report covers a unique nine-month fiscal year for the ROM, the period from July 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, as we switch to a new fiscal year-end that corresponds with that of the Ontario Government.



Jack Cockwell
Chair of the Board of Trustees
Royal Ontario Museum



William Thorsell
Director and CEO
Royal Ontario Museum

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ROM GOVERNORS AND THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After the last beam of the *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal* was bolted into place in early July 2005, the ROM Governors turned their attention to the ROM's restored historic buildings and the opening of ten new galleries within. The unveilings began in November 2005 with the *Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean* and the *A. G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus* and continued through late January 2006 with the *Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan*. Also opened were the *Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art*; the *Gallery of Canada: First Peoples*; the *ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture*; the *Gallery of Korea*; the *Herman Herzog Levy Gallery*; *The Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China*; and the *Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture*.

Thousands of ROM friends and supporters, including HRH Princess Takamado, came to wonder at the beauty of the displays—from technical details of perfect lighting and sleek new cases to the artistry of installation—as well as the lofty, reclaimed spaces themselves, elegantly furnished with gifts from Nienkamper Furniture, Teknion and W Studio for the Renaissance ROM Furniture Initiative.

Fiscal year 2005/2006 saw monumental progress in the Renaissance ROM Campaign, greatly stimulated by the creation of the *New Century Founders* to recognize donors of \$5 million or more to Renaissance ROM. Supporting, guiding and enabling a project equivalent in scope to the ROM's original founding nearly 100 years ago, the *New Century Founders* are seen as playing a leading role in the Museum's transformation. Through March 31, 2006, this important group grew from six to eight members, with an additional gift from Joey and Toby Tanenbaum and a new gift from Shreyas and Mina Ajmera.

Along with \$12 million in Renaissance ROM phase two funding from the Government of Ontario, other significant gifts were received from Panasonic Canada (\$100,000 for the Japan Initiative), the Ukrainian community (committed to raising \$1 million for the Digital Gallery) and the Renaissance ROM Public Campaign, bringing the total capital funds raised to \$201.5 million and surpassing the original target for the Renaissance ROM Campaign in just under four years.

Just as the new galleries on Philosophers' Walk were opening, the ROM's newest patron group, Young Patrons' Circle (YPC), created a

stir in Toronto's social scene with a number of enormously successful events, raising over \$230,000 by March 31, 2006. Royal Patrons' Circle members, too, continue to generate significant funding for Museum priorities with even larger average gifts again this year, and again setting record levels of annual support.

In its 93 years of experience, the Royal Ontario Museum has inspired the creativity and generosity of a great many people. Numerous families and individuals have played key roles in the building of the ROM. The importance of these ROM builders is now reflected in a new Museum Builders Exhibit in *Samuel Hall* ☺ *Currelly Gallery*—an interactive installation that tells the story of the past century of philanthropy, volunteerism and growth. It incorporates an historic timeline and mini-documentaries about the impact philanthropy has had on the growth of the Museum, honouring the ROM's major volunteers, donors, patrons and organizations that have advanced the work of the Museum through their generosity, including gifts to the collections, endowment gifts, and public partnerships.

Finally and perhaps most importantly for the Museum's future, early in fiscal year 2005/2006 the ROM Foundation took a historic step, reconstituting itself as the Royal Ontario Museum Governors. With a new name, new terms of reference, new guidelines, revised by-law and articles of incorporation, this move strengthens the ROM Governors' role as the Museum's private-sector Board, responsible for the long-term financial health of the ROM. The Board now plays a more direct role in the development of the Museum's strategy, working closely with the CEO in shaping a future vision for the ROM. In a remarkably short period of time, the ROM Governors has emerged as a major vector in the Museum's transformation, closely associated with the success of the Campaign and consolidating its position as a destination board within the city of Toronto.



James Temerty
Chair
ROM Board of Governors



David Palmer
President and Executive Director
ROM Board of Governors

DELIVERING THE PROMISE



Construction and iron workers stand next to the final major beam of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal at the Topping Off ceremony. The beam bears the signatures of construction and iron workers, project engineers, Museum workers and Renaissance ROM donors.

The Royal Ontario Museum recorded another strong year of operations and progress in fiscal 2005/2006. In this fourth year of Renaissance ROM renovations and expansion, the public tasted the first fruits of this massive undertaking, with the opening of the first completed phase of the project in December 2005. The Museum's crisp, new, light filled galleries and public spaces elicited very positive responses both from the public and critics, creating greater anticipation for the upcoming *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*.

The fiscal year began with a successful Topping Off ceremony on July 12, 2005, when the final steel beam of the *Michael*

Lee-Chin Crystal, painted white and signed by patrons, staff, volunteers and construction workers, was hoisted into position high above the future Bloor Street entrance of the ROM. At this time, the Renaissance ROM Campaign had raised \$174.6 million towards its \$244 million total budget goal.

The Topping Off was followed over several weeks by the pouring of the concrete floors, which bound the steel beams more tightly together, and the installation of thousands of brackets that would later support the exterior cladding of the building. The installation of the waterproof, sub-layer of the cladding began in November and continued through the remainder of the fiscal year, so that other work could be started inside the building. The top-most cladding layer of anodized aluminum strips will be one of the final stages in the completion of the building next year.

A great transformation was also occurring inside the historic wings over the summer, as installation of the first wave of galleries intensified. Three important projects were realized for the new Chinese galleries: the famous Ming Tomb complex was relocated to its new space in the southwest atrium, a splendid 13th-century Buddhist wall painting was restored over six months by a team of dedicated conservators, and a life-sized reconstruction of the corner of a Chinese Imperial Palace building was assembled and decorated by a team of artisans from the Beijing Museum of Ancient Architecture. These initiatives were achieved amidst the building of enormous glass display cases and platforms by international specialists, the installation of mechanical systems, and a phased installation of graphics and, last of all, artifacts.

The main floor and entrance of the Museum closed to the public in September, following the successful *Feathered Dinosaurs and the Origin of Flight* exhibition. Until the opening of the new Bloor entrance, visitors will use the south *Loblaws Entrance*. The formation of the ROM Governors was announced, replacing the former ROM Foundation, to strengthen private-sector support for the Museum for its long-term financial health. A new series of

informative weekly advertisements in the Globe and Mail launched on September 17, with the theme “What is the New ROM?”

Through the fall, as the former Canada Court was prepared for the *Gallery of Canada: First Peoples*, the Rotunda’s old admissions desks were removed, its stained glass window restored, its floors and walls scrubbed, and a servery installed in preparation for the future Rotunda Café. *Samuel Hall* & *Currelly Gallery* was opened up and upgraded, with dramatic new displays from various collections and new portals into the future *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*. The *Sir Edmund Osler Gate* opened into the Philosophers’ Walk building, restoring a lost east-west vista that was one of the architectural highlights of the 1933 expansion of the ROM. On the third floor, work was completed for two new galleries that opened to the public on November 3, the *Gallery of the Bronze Age Aegean* and the *A.G. Leventis Foundation Gallery of Ancient Cyprus*.

The year’s highlight was undoubtedly the opening of the first Renaissance ROM galleries in December. A series of festive preview events for donors, the media, staff and volunteers, and ROM Members led to the official public opening on December 26, 2005. The refurbished public spaces and galleries (see list) revealed the tremendous work of the past few years, and were welcomed with much acclaim. The architect himself, Daniel Libeskind, was delighted with the results, heading a long list of admirers.

A redesigned ROM Web site, launching the new logo and brand of the ROM, was accompanied by an intriguing marketing campaign with the slogan “Be Curious”. Thousands of people certainly were, and the ROM’s December attendance was double what had been forecast. Notably, the Renaissance ROM Campaign experienced a notable jump to \$184.1 million raised.

The buzz continued through early 2006 and was increased with a series of Ceremonial Opening events held for individual galleries. The *Gallery of Canada: First Peoples* was honoured on January 18, 2006, with the presence of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario,

James Bartleman, and several Elders and Native Advisors. The Museum celebrated the new *Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan*, in the presence of Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, on January 26. This was closely followed by the Opening of the *ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture* on February 2nd, generously supported by Power Corporation of Canada. The comparable event for the Chinese galleries, held April 6, fell into the new 2006/2007 fiscal year with the change in the ROM’s year-end to March 31. Despite having no special exhibition at the time, the ROM’s 2006 March Break program attracted over 30,000 visitors, another sure sign of the vitality of the new galleries.

Opened December 26, 2005:

Renovated Public Spaces:

The Rotunda
Samuel Hall & *Currelly Gallery*
Learning Centre
Signy and Cléopée Eaton Theatre and Lower Rotunda

New Galleries:

Gallery of Canada: First Peoples
Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Gallery of China
Matthews Family Court of Chinese Sculpture
Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art
ROM Gallery of Chinese Architecture
Gallery of Korea
Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan
Herman Herzog Levy Gallery

Temporary Exhibitions:

Déco Lalique
Korea Around 1900: The Paintings of Gisan

Through the winter, the waterproof cladding of the *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal* became more prominent along the Bloor Street façade, renewing public interest in the progress of construction and the final appearance of the building. Fireproofing of the structural steel, the installation of sub-floors and mechanical/electrical work progressed. Other work accelerated indoors in some areas, particularly in the future *Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall*, immediately below the lobby.



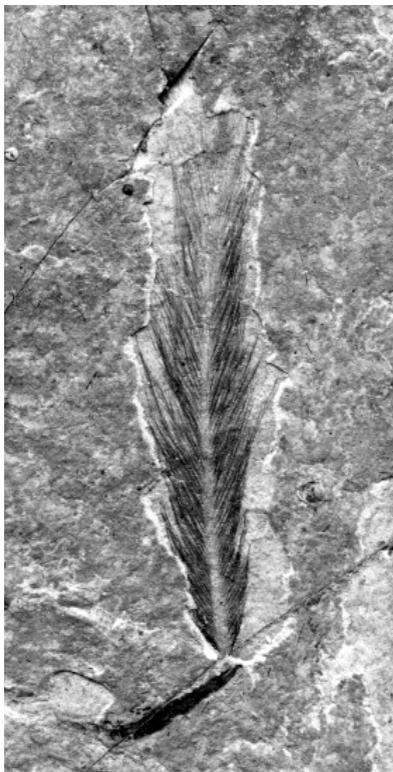
Display case assembly in the light filled renovated Philosophers' Walk wing of the Museum.

As usual, all of this transpired while the Museum was fully operational, welcoming 505,401 visitors in this short, nine-month fiscal year. Many ROM staff members continue to work double-duty on current offerings, while planning and implementing new activities for the next phase of the project. Again this year, the Museum engaged its various publics with a schedule of engaging temporary exhibitions, far-reaching curatorial research, sparkling new acquisitions and publications, unique ROMLife programs, a busy school visits program, extensive volunteer activities, matchless special events, innovative membership initiatives, a bustling hospitality and events business, the eternally popular ROM Friday Nights, and much more, all supported by industrious fundraising and communications. Many of these myriad programs are described in other sections of this Report.

The fiscal year ended with another piece of good news: the March 23, 2006 announcement in the Ontario Budget of an additional \$12 million for phase two of Renaissance ROM, along with additional provincial funding for the city's other cultural infrastructure projects. This brought the Government of Ontario's contribution to Renaissance ROM up to \$42 million, and the total raised from the public sector to \$72 million. Added to the \$129.7 million pledged by the private sector, at the March 31, 2006 year-end the Campaign stood at a healthy \$201.7 million raised for construction costs, plus \$12.5 million for related Museum priorities.

Decidedly, this short final transitional year into the era of the renewed ROM was one of furious activity, milestones reached and promises delivered.

EXHIBITIONS



A Single Feather

Early Cretaceous Period, 125 million years ago
Liaoning Province, China.

This feather is of a plumulaceous form without a tight vein, suggesting that it may have come from a flightless bird. These feathers are used primarily for insulation and display, not flight.

© The Dinosaur Museum (DM), Blanding, Utah

Feathered Dinosaurs and the Origin of Flight

Presenting some of the most spectacular dinosaur and bird fossils ever discovered, this travelling exhibit included more than 34 original fossils recently excavated from the fossil beds of China's Liaoning Province, and a series of full-scale sculptural restorations to illustrate new theories about the evolutionary links between dinosaurs and birds.

March 12 to September 5, 2005

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall

Feathered Dinosaurs and the Origin of Flight was organized and is circulated by The Dinosaur Museum, Utah, USA in association with the Liaoning Fossil Administration Office and the Beipiao City Paleontological Research Center, Liaoning, China.

Presented by Imperial Oil Limited.

Education Partner: Wonder Bread®.

This exhibition has been financially assisted by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, a program of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Culture, administered by the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund Corporation.

The Bird Connection

This original ROM installation complemented the Feathered Dinosaurs travelling exhibition. The origin of birds and their relationship to dinosaurs were explored in this family-friendly exhibition using large, striking dinosaur skeletons and mounted bird specimens.

March 12 to September 5, 2005

Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall



Field Scene

Ink and colour on paper, 119 x 72.4 cm, Korea, ca. AD 1900
This is a rare example of a work by Gim Gisan with a landscape as background, executed in the literati painting style developed by the elite dilettante artists of China and Korea.

Déco Lalique

Celebrating renowned French artist René Lalique, this exhibition included over 60 remarkable glass pieces by Lalique and other manufacturers influenced by his style. Most objects were from the ROM's holdings, now arguably the largest and most representative of Lalique glass in any North American museum.

December 26, 2005 to January 28, 2007

European Temporary Exhibition Gallery

Korea Around 1900 – The Paintings of Gisan

Inaugurating the redesigned Herman Herzog Levy Gallery, the exhibit showcased the colourful genre paintings of turn-of-the-20th century Korean artist Gim Gisan, along with a number of related artifacts from the ROM's renowned East Asian collections.

Exhibit Sponsor: Samsung Electronics Canada

December 26, 2005 to October 29, 2006

Herman Herzog Levy Gallery

Views of Our Future

Dedicated to the architecture of Renaissance ROM, the ROM's expansion project, this evolving exhibition presented architectural models, working drawings, gallery designs, and computer-generated gallery views.

Ongoing

Renaissance ROM Gallery

REACHING OUT

The ROM reached out to external audiences last year in number of ways. The ROM's community-based programs were enjoyed by a total of 323,035 visitors.

Travelling Exhibits

Official Mover of the Travelling Exhibitions Program:
AMJ Campbell Inc.

Enjoyed by more than 178,689 visitors, ROM's various travelling exhibits were on display in 17 communities, including locations in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. These portable showcases of Museum collections included long-time favorites such as *Bats of Ontario*, *Northern Owls*, and *Egypt: Gift of the Nile*, and three newer exhibitions: *Ornamenting the Ordinary: Crafts of South Asia* (sponsored by Metro Label Company Limited), *Iroquois Beadwork: Through the Voices of Beads* (supported by The Ontario Trillium Foundation), and *Hands on Nature* (made possible in part through a contribution from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage).

Dinomobile

Dinomobile Sponsor: AMJ Campbell Inc.

This impressive sixty-foot museum on wheels and one of the ROM's most popular travelling exhibits, the Dinomobile was enjoyed by approximately 19,660 visitors. Hosted by a wide variety of Ontario venues—museums, malls, fairs, schools and community organizations—highlight bookings included the July 1, 2005, Canada Day Festivities at Queen's Park, the Gravenhurst "Dockside Festival of the Arts", and the Beaverton Fall Fair.

School Case and Resource Box Program

More than 128 institutions, primarily schools, booked the ROM's Edukits, the "museum in a suitcase". A total of 118,342 students used these hands-on, object oriented educational kits based on the common core curriculum and built on the ROM's expertise and collections.

Starlab Mobile Planetarium

Family Programming Partner: Old Navy

The Starlab mobile planetarium fascinated a total of 2,850 visitors by projecting images of the solar system and various constellations at 24 different venues across the province.

GTAA Exhibition Program

Travellers to Toronto Pearson International Airport's Terminal 1 had the opportunity to view museum-quality exhibits organized by the ROM as part of the ongoing Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) Exhibition Program.

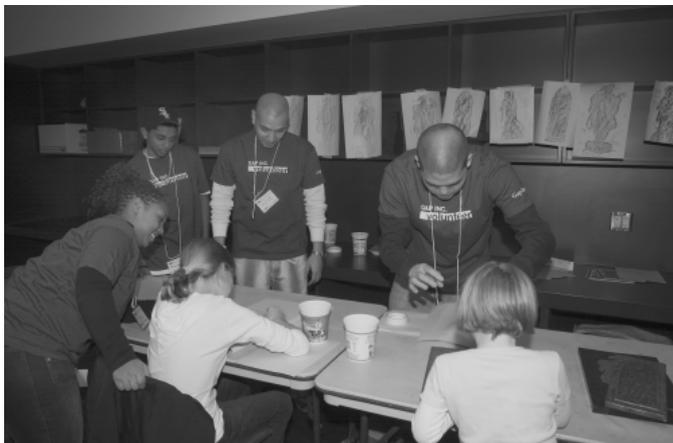
Coffee and Tea: The Cup That Refreshes, an exhibit from the ROM's collection of tea- and coffee-related paraphernalia from Europe, North America, China and Japan.

Circa 1955/2005: Domestic Landscapes in Modern and Contemporary Canada, a display of domestic consumer goods from the 1950s to the present day, from the collections of Toronto's Design Exchange.

Victorian Wheeling: The Bicycle Era in Canada 1819-1901, early bicycles and related objects from the collection of author Glen Norcliffe, an avid cyclist and collector of early bicycles.

Bushplanes: A Canadian Story, the history of bushplanes in opening the Canadian north and protecting Ontario's forests, from the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre.

PROGRAMMING



During March Break, kids enjoyed special activities throughout the Museum.

ROM for the Holidays

Fun activities that complemented our new permanent galleries were available to visitors during the annual ROM for the Holidays program, which ran from Tuesday, December 27, 2005, to Sunday, January 8, 2006. More than 36,000 people enjoyed the special programming designed for families, including origami, Chinese calligraphy and First Nations' pastimes.

March Break

Family Programming Partner: Old Navy

During March Break, the visitor experience was enhanced with a variety of free programming. Designed to promote curiosity and hands-on learning, participants could handle specimens

from the ROM's Natural History departments (Earth Sciences, Palaeobiology and Life Sciences) and activities from the ROM's World Cultures departments. There were also displays and activities from New Media Resources and Library and Conservation staff. Exceeding expectations, overall attendance from Friday March 10 to Sunday March 19 reached 38,091 visitors, which included over 7,000 members, and peaked on Friday March 17 with 10,556 visitors.

School Visits

Upgrades to the Learning Centre Labs were completed in October 2005 and the re-opening of *Samuel Hall* & *Currelly Gallery* greatly eased access to the *Learning Centre*. The *Loblaws Entrance* was refitted and new procedures developed to accommodate the entry of schools and the general public in the same space. July to March attendance was 56,518, up slightly from the same period last year. With the opening of the new galleries a variety of new topics were offered along with some old favourites. Feedback from visiting teachers was positive: "I want to tell you how impressed I am with the programs that are offered... without fail each visit has been excellent."

Summer Club

Generously Sponsored by: Imperial Oil Foundation

Summer Club 2005 had another successful season, with close to 1,400 children registering in 72 museum-themed courses. Over 50 courses actually sold out, with a full enrollment of 20 or more children. The dynamic staff team of 54 experienced Instructors and Assistants was enhanced by the contribution of over 5300 volunteer hours. Participants continued to enjoy unique learning opportunities like behind-the-scenes visits to curatorial departments and access to the ROM's extensive teaching collections. New programs that received enthusiastic reviews included Explorers and Expeditions, Actor's Studio,

Flight of Fancy and Gadgets and Gizmos. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive, with comments like “ROM Summer Club is a treat for our daughter and us. She loves attending and we love sharing her creations and stories at the end of each day!” and “I was bowled over by the quality of this camp!”

Saturday Morning Club and March Break Camp

Generously supported by the Philip and Berthe Morton Foundation

Enrollment was up substantially from last year, with a combined total of 253 participants enrolled in the fall and winter sessions, compared to 198 last year. March Break Camp was extremely popular this year, with all of the programs offered sold out. Registration for the week totaled 227 participants. In SMC, new programs like “Battlefield ROM”, “Blast from the Past” and “Clay Motion” have attracted a lot of positive attention, while long-running courses such as “Dungeons & Dragons” continue to sell-out every session. This winter, instructors and children enjoyed exclusive “before hours” visits to the newly opened galleries and the feedback from parents of long-time participants regarding the renovations was extremely positive.

ROMLife

New courses were added to introduce people to the ROM's new galleries, including Silk Roads, Art in the Aegean Bronze Age, Sketching in the New Galleries, Photography with Available Light, and The World of Tea. Lecture events included two Theatre events supporting the *Déco Lalique* exhibition, one by Dr. Peter Kaellgren, and another sponsored by Bonhams London featuring their top two speakers, Mark Oliver and Eric Knowles, both of BBC Antiques Roadshow fame. ROMlife courses enjoyed strong attendance. Connecting for Singles continued in an off-site location due to space renovations yet continued to attract a large proportion of first time participants each month.

ROM Friday Nights

In its seventh season, ROM Friday Nights remained very popular with families and young people with its free general admission, discounted tickets to special exhibitions and programmed offerings. In this nine-month fiscal year, 96,834 people participated in this unique program, developing a new group of loyal ROM supporters.

ROM Sundays

Presenting Sponsor: Sun Life Financial

Winter Sundays in 2005 were again enlivened by musical concerts, classic films and family entertainment, offered free with admission. From Baroque to New Music, the fifth season of ROM Sundays also presented Meet the Artists receptions after each public performance.

Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery

The *Hands-on Biodiversity Gallery* remains a consistent favorite with visitors, with the efforts of the staff and volunteers being a key part of this success. Over 90 volunteer facilitators are currently active in the gallery, each volunteer contributing 4 hours or more a week. Our Volunteer team is made up of recent graduates and students studying Biology, Environmental Science, Medicine, Museum Studies and Education. Volunteer expertise also includes retired professionals, doctors and teachers.

Visitors continue to be amazed by the Bee Hive and the Touch Tables remain extremely popular and engaging. Comments include: “I love learning about the Queen Bee”, “I had a really fun time learning about bugs and leaves”, and “I like the extreme hands-on-ness of the museum”. In addition to its regular offerings, Hands-On Biodiversity hosted the launch for Robert Bateman’s Art and Writing contest for kids, National Wildlife Week events and partnered with Environment Canada to install a Bengal Tiger display, intended to draw visitor attention to the issue of the trade of endangered species.

CIBC Discovery Room

Visitors are drawn into the *CIBC Discovery Room* by the extremely popular interactive Dino Dig, the Maiasaur skeleton and other related dinosaur material. The friendly and informative team of 90 volunteers, each contributing 4 or more hours per week, are able to share their extensive knowledge with visitors.

Feedback has been highly positive, and combined with high attendance, indicates strong visitor demand for Discovery elements in the ROM in the future. As well as the hundreds of “very cool” and “awesome” phrases written in the comments book, visitors have also said “I think having live insects is a fantastic way to teach and relay information to observers”, “This is so good I am going to become a member” and “I love digging for dinosaur bones”.

Planning for the new, permanent *CIBC Discovery Gallery* on the second floor, Northwest wing has begun; the design team began meeting in January 2006.

Department of Museum Volunteers

The Department of Museum Volunteers (DMV) is the umbrella under which approximately 30 committees or sections operate. Currently, the DMV has 623 members, of which 463 are active volunteers. It is estimated that during 2005/2006, the DMV donated 65,000 volunteer hours, with a value of \$2 million, to the Museum.

The most visible volunteers are the members of the touring section – the Museum Guides, Les Guides du ROM, the Gallery Interpreters and the Meeters and Greeters. Sixty Museum Guides offered 33 complimentary scheduled tours weekly. In addition, they provided paid group tours, some in Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese. In preparation for the new galleries, many Museum Guides were involved in scriptwriting and training their colleagues. Les Guides du ROM offered four scheduled tours in French each week and provided additional group tours upon request. Eighty-seven Gallery Interpreters,

wearing red lab coats went out seven days a week into the galleries to provide an interactive hands-on experience to ROM visitors. In anticipation of the opening of the *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal*, two training courses were completed during the past year. The Meeters and Greeters, who help direct visitors to the galleries of their choice, grew from 30 to 43 volunteers.

A significant number of volunteers belong to committees that foster special interests and raise money for their galleries of choice. The Bishop White Committee (Far Eastern) raised \$66,500, which is held in the Far Eastern Endowment Fund for the future curatorship of the *Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan*. The Friends of the Canadian Collections organized special events and as their first donation gave a rare Inuit bow connected to the mystery of the John Franklin expedition. Among the events hosted by the Friends of Textiles and Costume was an evening with British designer Zandra Rhodes that raised \$8,500 for the Burnham/Brett Endowment Fund for Exhibitions in the new *Patricia Harris Gallery of Textiles and Costume*.

At this year's 16th Annual Decorative Arts Symposium, *The History of Dining*, 240 participants listened to experts and scholars from the ROM and around the world. A profit of approximately \$16,000 was realized. The ROMTravel Section organized seven international trips. As every participant is asked to give a donation to the ROM, ROMTravel not only provides a valued service but as well helps the museum financially. ROMbus provided 11 local bus day trips. Also locally, ROMwalkers gave 39 free walking tours, which attracted 3,000 people. ROMwalks, now in its 26th year, was the proud winner of Heritage Toronto's Award of Merit. If this is not enough, ROM Reproductions, an independent committee under the umbrella of the DMV, was able to present the ROM with a cheque of \$150,000.

The DMV donated over \$200,000 to the ROM for research and acquisitions and is proud to report that to date it has contributed \$1,258,000 towards Renaissance ROM.

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH



Rick Winterbottom, recipient of the important Gibbs Award, sorting gobies during a field expedition in the North Pacific island nation of Palau. Gobies are a family of fish containing more than 2000 species.

RENAISSANCE ROM

In 2005/2006, ten magnificent new galleries were completed, including seven showcasing the ROM's outstanding East Asian collections from China, Japan and Korea, and the 10,000 sq. ft. *Gallery of Canada: First Peoples*. These galleries are populated with nearly 5,000 of the finest objects in the ROM's collections, ranging from a palace building to tiny jades, and a freight canoe to arrowheads. Many of these collections have not previously been on display or have been out of public view for decades. The curatorial teams have completed design development, object selection, and case layouts for our *Michael Lee-Chin Crystal* galleries and are engaged in final text editing and selection of graphics. Installation of these galleries will begin in 2007. In this process, over 25,000 objects and specimens slated for exhibit are being tracked through an innovative in-house database system, more than doubling the number of artifacts on permanent display. Concomitantly, 5,000 of the most significant objects were selected for high quality photography to be added to the ROM's on-line image bank.

COLLECTIONS

To enhance management of its collections, the ROM completed the first step of a division-wide database initiative. Over twenty individual collections and registration databases were converted to a common format in preparation for moving to a relational, integrated database system. This initiative has enhanced the museum's ability to access digital records across collections, track artifacts, and manage the ROM's huge inventory of six million objects and specimens.

In 2005/2006, several important objects and collections were acquired, many in support of the new galleries. Twenty two collections or individual objects were purchased, all of which will be on display. Highlights include: significant samples of the famous Tagish Lake and Murchison meteorites, both of which

are unusual in containing organic compounds which may hold the key to unravelling the origins of life on Earth, the building blocks of which may have been seeded from space; a six-carat ruby gemstone; a suite of superb fossil Trilobites; a stunning painted wooden mummy cover; an original Blackfoot war-record robe, one of only 12 pre-contact war robes known to exist and the only one housed in North America, purchased with the aid of a Movable Cultural Property grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage; and a beaded panel bag collected by Paul Kane that is featured in one of his sketches in the *Gallery of Canada: First Peoples*. Many collections and individual objects were received by donation. Ninety four gifts or donations were approved, including 643 objects plus one large collection of 5,387 butterfly specimens. Finally, 21,642 specimens and objects were acquired through fieldwork, the highlight being a large collection of fishes from the South Pacific collected by Dr. Richard Winterbottom for his research on evolution and biogeography of Pacific fishes.

RESEARCH

Fieldwork

Curators conducted fieldwork and research in 30 countries spanning the globe, from Patagonia, Argentina to the Palau in the South Pacific, and from Siberia to Laos to Australia. In keeping with the ROM's dual mandate to study world cultures and natural history, projects ranged from archaeological digs in Sudan, China, and Peru, to the history of couture fashion in France and North America, to studying the conservation biology of red knots along their migration routes from the Northwest Territories through Connecticut and on to Brazil and Patagonia. Though seemingly eclectic, the ROM's field research is at the cutting edge of studies elucidating the complex history and development human civilization, the evolution of life on earth, and the physical processes that drive deep earth history.

Research

Development of galleries dominated staff efforts in 2005/2006. Nonetheless research remained a core curatorial activity. This program provides intellectual content for our galleries and programs and, together with objects themselves, makes the ROM a unique educational resource and experience for our visitors.

The ROM's renowned Laboratory of Molecular Systematics was renovated and equipped, and the frozen tissue collection space was expanded. The Museum holds the most significant and comprehensive collection of tissue samples in Canada, which are used in comparative genetic studies. The ROM's DNA lab facilities now rival any seen on forensic science shows. They are used to recover and sequence DNA from everything from 4,000 year-old, extinct moas (giant birds from New Zealand) to modern Patagonian fungi, in support of the ROM's efforts to understand and conserve the Earth's biodiversity. Several ROM curators are involved in the international "Barcode of Life" project. The goal of this program is to develop an accurate, rapid, cost effective, and universally accessible DNA-based system for species identifications of all organisms above the level of bacteria. This system will revolutionize access to biological information and will have broad impacts on research policy, pest and disease control, food safety, conservation, and many other areas. Three ROM curators, Drs. Douglas Currie, Jean-Marc Moncalvo, and Allan Baker received grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and Genome Canada in support of their participation in this international research consortium.

In World Cultures, Dr. Chen Shen received a significant award from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to collaborate with Chinese colleagues on a study of Palaeoenvironment and Lithic Technology of the Early Pleistocene in northern China,

funded by the CAS and Wenner-Gren Foundation. In 2005/2006, ROM curators published 53 articles and book chapters in academic publications, and an additional 31 articles in popular journals and magazines intended for the general public.

Funding

The majority of the ROM's research funding continues to be obtained from external sources. In 2005/2006, curatorial staff received a total of \$753,032 in external grant funds from national and international agencies in support of curatorial research. These include grants from NSF, NSERC, World Wildlife Fund, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, BHP Billiton Mining Company, Ecuambiente SA, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropology Research, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, among others. Additionally, curatorial staff received \$602,130 in grants from the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board in support of purchases of specimens and objects designated as Canadian Cultural Property. Curators also received approximately \$165,000 from the University of Toronto in cross appointment monies used to support their research, derived from University teaching and graduate student supervision. Total external support for research and collections from these three general sources was \$1,520,162.

Staff

The ROM has completed the first phase of reorganization of the curatorial division and is now in the second phase to rebuild the curatorial staff. Last year's combination of six former curatorial departments into two, Natural History and World Cultures, resulted in opportunities to fill new positions both in collections management and curatorships. In 2005/2006 we were pleased to welcome to the ROM staff: Dr. Jean-Bernard Caron, Associate Curator of Palaeontology; Dr. Claire

Healy, Associate Curator of Invertebrate Zoology; and Dr. Justin Jennings, Associate Curator of New World Archaeology. Job offers are currently pending for additional curatorial positions in Islamic Decorative Arts, African Anthropology, and Vertebrate Palaeontology which will be filled in 2006/2007. Additionally, job searches are underway for curatorial positions in Mineralogy, West Asian Archaeology, and Textiles, as well as Head of the Library. Rebuilding the curatorial division is paramount to maintaining the ROM's position as Canada's leading international museum, in terms of public galleries and programs, academic and educational excellence, and strengths of collections.

ROM BOOKS

Three new books were published by the ROM this fiscal year. *High Style: The Bernard & Sylvia Ostry Collection in the Royal Ontario Museum* (ROM 2005) showcased the fabulous Art Deco, Art Nouveau, and British Arts & Crafts objects acquired by the Ostrys. The book, authored by Art Deco authority Alistair Duncan, in concert with Ross Fox, Peter Kaellgren, Robert Little, and Brian Musselwhite, garnered critical and commercial success and was awarded an honourable mention in the prestigious American Association of Museums Publications Design Competition. *Déco Lalique: Creator to Consumer*, by Carolyn Hatch, which accompanied the corresponding ROM exhibition, charted the introduction and dissemination of Lalique glass into Canada in the 1920s and 1930s. *Korea Around 1900: The Paintings of Gisan*, by Christina H.Y. Han, complemented the ROM exhibition of paintings by the 19th-century landscape and genre painter Gim Jun-geun (Gisan). The latter two of these works, as 2006 publications, will be eligible for this year's book publishing awards competitions. Projects currently in development include a major work about the history of ROM architecture, a guide to the Renaissance ROM galleries, and a new ROM field guide.

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At the opening gala dinner of the *Prince Takamado Gallery of Japan*, HII Princess Takamado with ROM Director and CEO William Thorsell.

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Donors to Renaissance ROM and other critical areas of need are playing a vital role in keeping the Museum at the forefront of Canada's major cultural institutions. Thanks to their dedicated support, the ROM is dramatically transforming itself to meet the challenges of the future, while maintaining the highest standards for exhibitions, galleries, research, collections care, education, and public programs. The ROM would like to thank the following donors for their exceptional generosity.

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ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET

	As at March 31, 2006	As at June 30, 2005
	\$	[000's] \$
Assets		
Current		
Due from The Royal Ontario Museum Foundation	855	—
Other accounts receivable	2,025	1,911
Inventories	94	120
Deferred exhibition costs and other assets	999	1,030
Total current assets	3,973	3,061
Deferred pension costs	2,217	1,702
Capital assets, net	194,521	147,153
Other assets	1,387	1,241
	202,098	153,157
Liabilities And Net Assets (Deficit)		
Current		
Bank indebtedness	2,208	2,417
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	26,492	17,864
Due to The Royal Ontario Museum Foundation	—	138
Deferred contributions	2,875	6,035
Total current liabilities	31,575	26,454
Long-term debt	40,745	27,544
Deferred capital contributions	130,479	97,046
Accrued non-pension liability	2,502	2,161
Total liabilities	205,301	153,205
Net deficit	(3,203)	(48)
	202,098	153,157

A complete set of ROM financial statements with notes is available upon request.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET DEFICIT

	Nine-month period ended March 31, 2006	Year ended June 30, 2005
	\$	\$
	[000's]	
Revenues		
Grants	18,658	25,268
Admission fees	2,223	3,024
Museum programs	1,241	1,898
Ancillary services	2,077	4,442
Investment income	39	82
Donations - Gifts in kind	1,184	790
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	2,456	2,400
Other	812	820
	28,690	38,724
Expenses		
Curatorial and collections management	7,838	9,703
Building, security and visitor services	5,689	6,751
Ancillary services	1,858	3,605
General and administration	2,879	2,690
Education and public programs	1,763	2,545
Library and information services	1,794	2,325
Exhibition and gallery development	1,412	1,447
Marketing and public relations	1,590	1,266
Temporary exhibitions	1,619	3,540
Artifacts and specimens		
Gifts in kind	1,184	790
Purchased	1,556	1,626
Amortization of capital assets	2,552	2,684
Other	111	16
	31,845	38,988
Deficiency of revenues over expenses for the period	(3,155)	(264)
Net assets (deficit), beginning of period	(48)	216
Net deficit, end of period	(3,203)	(48)



Gallery of Canada: First Peoples opened on December 26, 2005. This new 10,000 square-foot gallery occupies a prominent location on the main floor of the Hilary and Galen Weston Wing. More than 1,000 objects tell stories of cultural expression, ranging from 10,000 year-old archaeological artifacts to contemporary artwork.

Record of Employees' 2005 Salaries and Benefits

Surname	Given Name	Position	Salary Paid	Taxable Benefits
Baker	Allan	Head, Natural History	\$124,976.56	\$437.06
Barnett	Robert	Vice President, Gallery Development	\$144,256.74	\$504.40
Beckel	Margaret	Chief Operating Officer/Secretary to the Board	\$224,948.85	\$7,919.72
Darling	Christopher	Senior Curator	\$113,110.11	\$384.54
Dickinson	Timothy	Senior Curator	\$102,888.51	\$359.71
Eger	Judith Lee	Senior Curator	\$102,888.51	\$359.71
Engstrom	Mark	Vice President, Collections & Research	\$150,108.94	\$495.43
Graesser	William	Executive Director, Finance	\$117,895.24	\$388.31
Grzyski	Krzysztof	Head, World Cultures	\$124,776.40	\$436.41
Hushion	Anthony	Vice President, Exhibits, Programs & New Media Resources	\$150,828.41	\$502.94
Koester	Christopher	Executive Director, Human Resources & Organizational Development	\$116,045.24	\$388.31
Murphy	Robert	Senior Curator	\$109,300.43	\$382.07
Nicks	Gertrude	Senior Curator	\$106,099.42	\$370.89
Peters	Joel	Vice President, Marketing & Commercial Development	\$150,765.80	\$503.50
Rahimi	Dan	Executive Director, Gallery Development	\$111,779.77	\$390.91
Ruitenbeek	Klaas	Senior Curator	\$102,888.51	\$359.71
Shaikoli	Al	Executive Director, Facilities	\$118,170.24	\$388.31
Shoreman	Michael	Senior Vice President Business & Capital Development	\$188,448.21	\$590.56
Thorsell	William	Director & Chief Executive Officer	\$226,787.82	\$1,856.12
Von Bitter	Peter	Senior Curator	\$111,846.45	\$391.04
Winterbottom	Richard	Senior Curator	\$107,208.54	\$374.79

Front cover: **Michael Lee-Chin Crystal Under Construction**
March 12, 2006

Front Inside cover: **Vase**

Mould-pressed smokey grey transparent glass. Relief decoration with acid-etched mat exterior. American, Verlys of America, a division of the Holophane Glass Company, Newark, Ohio, c.1930-1940.

ROM Collection.

Back Inside cover: **Luminaire**

Mould blown opalescent glass set over a chrome-plated light box. French, Sabino, c. 1930-1940. Donated from the Collection of Bernard and Sylvia Ostry.

Back Cover (clockwise from upper left):

Horses

Painted terracotta, Cypro-Archaic, ca. 600 BC, Height: 21 cm (left); Height: 10 cm (right). Gift of the Dowager Lady Loch.

Man's Painted Caribou-skin Coat

c. 1805, Innu, Quebec-Labrador. Man's summer coat. Skin of tanned caribou, sewn with sinew, designs painted.

Seated Buddha

Gandhara, Northern Pakistan. Grey schist. 2nd century AD, Kushan period. Height: 59.7cm. Width: 43.8 cm. 939.17.14 Purchased with the generous support of the Reuben Wells Leonard Bequest Fund.

Figure, Civil Official

17th century, Ming Dynasty. Stone. Height: 282.5cm. Width at base: 101.5cm. 919.1.31 The George Crofts Collection.

Funerary Amphora

Painted ceramic. Late Geometric, 710-700 BC. Height: 46 cm. Gift of Dr. Sigmund Samuel.

Folding Chair

AD 1580 – AD 1640. Late Empire II. Ming Dynasty
Huanghuali wood; iron fittings with silver inlay; woven seat.
Height: 118.1 cm. Length: 58.4 cm. Width: 46.2 cm. 920.8
The George Crofts Collection

Covered Box with Tray

16th century, Momoyama period, Japan.
Black lacquer ground with gold and silver. Height: 30.4 cm. Length:
37.5 cm. Width: 28 cm.

All photos: Brian Boyle, except for:

Display case assembly (pg. 10), David McKay
Rick Winterbottom (pg 17), Marina Winterbottom
Founders Preview (pg. 25), Jeff Speed
Tomb Raiders at the ROM (pg 30), Sheila Dalton

Royal Ontario Museum

100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C6
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World Cultures | Natural History

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