

THE WALLACE COLLECTION ANNOUNCES END OF CONSULTATION ON LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE SERVICES

The Wallace Collection announces today the end of an internal consultation period about potential changes to the Collection's Library and Archive service.

Dr Xavier Bray, Director of the Wallace Collection, said, "Over the last month, we have undergone an internal consultation about the museum's Library and Archive service. I am very pleased to confirm today that the Library and Archive will remain open as before to any researcher, academic, art historian or member of the public who wishes to access information held at the Collection."

Dr Bray commented, "These are unprecedented times. Like many institutions, the Wallace Collection has suffered a precipitous drop in our self-generated income due to the pandemic, and is now facing an uncertain financial future as we weather the next few years. Our visitor numbers have dropped from over 450,000 in 2019 – 2020, to a mere 26,000 in 2020 – 2021; this is a 95% drop in visitors to the Collection. As well as the deep sadness we feel in not being able to share our works of art with the public, the effect of this drop has been a commensurate decline in our income. We will have to make difficult decisions in the future to ensure our financial sustainability."

Although currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Collection's Library and Archive will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. As before its closure in March 2019, its opening hours will be from Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm by appointment.

Dr Bray said, "It has been heartening to hear so many voices who find the Library and Archive at the Collection a valuable resource for research and study. We welcome this support, and hope that they might consider making a donation to help the museum in these challenging times."

For those who wish to make a donation to support the Collection's Library and Archive, please visit: <https://www.wallacecollection.org/support-us/> or contact fundraising@wallacecollection.org

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further press information for the Wallace Collection, please contact Kathryn Havelock or Billy Ward on press@wallacecollection.org / 07483 310811

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Social Media

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About the Wallace Collection

As one of Britain's preeminent cultural institutions, the Wallace Collection is home to one of the most significant ensembles of fine and decorative arts in the world. Highlights include oil paintings from the fourteenth to the late nineteenth centuries by artists such as Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck; princely arms and armour; and one of the finest collections of eighteenth-century French paintings and decorative arts. Visitors can also enjoy superb medieval and Renaissance objects, including Limoges enamel, maiolica, glass and bronzes. Displayed at Hertford House, former home to Sir Richard and Lady Wallace, this outstanding collection is displayed in a manner designed to evoke the lives and tastes of its founders, creating a special ambiance that remains an essential part of its charm.

www.wallacecollection.org