



## Dear IATM Members,

I wanted to reach out to you before our busiest period is upon us to invite you to our conference "**The role of the artefact in 21st century museums**" in Scotland this September 25 - 28th.

We at the Board have worked with the Scottish national museums to create a great conference with a host of speakers from member museums and invited guests who will discuss the importance of the artefact and its role in a twenty-first century setting to museums like ours.

We all face a multitude of pressures as we deal with aging collections, shrinking budgets and a new type of visitor. So how do we face these challenges? Do we operate our collections, how do we preserve collections of modern materials with unique challenges and what are the pitfalls? In presenting our stories and collections - how do we embrace a digital visitor experience - what is the role of the museum and how do we remain at the forefront in attracting audiences when there is so much competition for leisure pursuits??

In response we have designed this conference to give us a forum to speak specifically to our genre of museum and not to present generalities that fit all genres of the museum world.

You can find **further information**, [hotel suggestions](#) and the [online registration form](#) at our website: [www.iatm.museum/conferences/](http://www.iatm.museum/conferences/)

The conference will start at the 25<sup>th</sup> September at 18:30 in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and will end about 17:30 in Edinburgh.

And do not forget that you still have the opportunity to get involved in the programme by submitting a paper.

Our hosts are:

- [National Museum of Scotland](#)
- [Riverside Museum](#)
- [National Museum of Flight](#)
- [Glasgow Museums Resource Centre](#)

So I enjoin you to come to Edinburgh and Glasgow this September and over the course of three days connect with your colleagues to find solutions and exchange ideas. It will be one of the best investments you could make this year. The International Association of Transport Museums is your association and we work to bring you the best speakers who will present viable options addressing our issues while challenging us to reach beyond and develop as museums.

So please mark your calendars and join your colleagues in Edinburgh this September.

Sincerely,

Stephen Quick  
President of IATM

