

## CAMD Case Studies – Cultural Diplomacy:

### ***Extraordinary Stories from the British Museum***

Western Australian Museum



*Commonwealth Collections*

The Western Australia Museum and the British Museum have partnered to bring a unique collection of rare artefacts to Australia for the first time, to celebrate the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in October 2011 in Perth.

The exhibition will be filled with some of the British Museum's most important objects, rarely lent to other museums, representing many of the 54 Commonwealth countries. Individually and collectively they tell extraordinary stories about the world's people, who we are and where we've come from – taking visitors on a 1.8 million year journey around the world. Objects to be shown included stone hand-axes from the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania crafted at least a million years ago alongside the Throne of Weapons, a work created by a Mozambique sculptor in the 20<sup>th</sup> century which is made entirely out of decommissioned automatic weapons collected in the wake of the civil war in that country. The exhibition also has examples of buried treasure, featuring a priceless Gold Torque from Celtic Britain and items from a hoard of Byzantine silver objects uncovered in Cyprus.

It is anticipated that the exhibition will signal the beginning of an important relationship between the Western Australian Museum and the British Museum in London which will lead to ongoing collaborations.

See: <http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/bm-exhibition/>