



# British Museum

The origins of the British Museum lie in the will of the physician, naturalist and collector, **Sir Hans Sloane** (1660–1753)

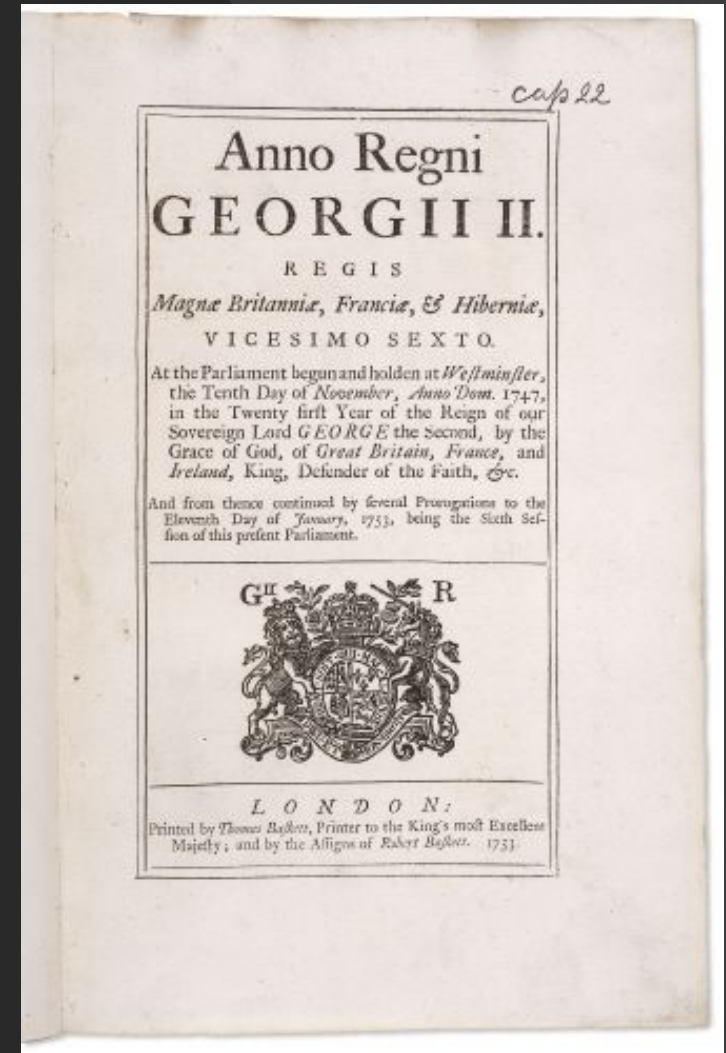
Over his lifetime, Sloane collected more than 71,000 objects which he wanted to be preserved intact after his death.

The founding collections largely consisted of books, manuscripts and natural specimens with some antiquities (including coins and medals, prints and drawings) and ethnographic material.



# Foundation

On 7 June 1753, King George II gave his Royal Assent to the Act of Parliament which established the British Museum. **The British Museum Act 1753** also added two other libraries to the Sloane collection, namely the Cottonian Library, assembled by Sir Robert Cotton, dating back to Elizabethan times, and the Harleian Library, the collection of the Earls of Oxford.



**The British Museum Act**



The British Museum was the first of a new kind of museum – national, belonging to neither church nor king, freely open to the public and aiming to collect everything.





# The Great Court of The British Museum

Designed by Foster and Partners, the Queen Elizabeth II Great Court transformed the Museum's inner courtyard into the largest covered public square in Europe. It is a two-acre space enclosed by a spectacular glass roof with the world-famous Reading Room at its centre.







**Inside The Great Court**



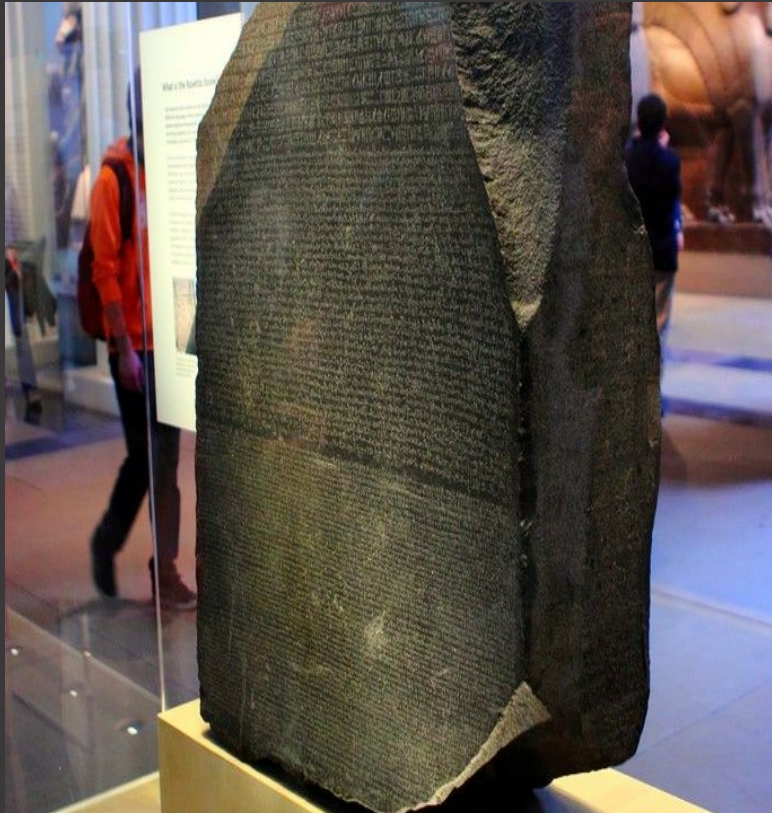
# Museum collection

With a collection of around 8 million objects preserving human history, culture and art across almost 2 million years, the museum is a treasure trove for anyone interested in the history of humankind.





Here is some best from museum collection...



**Rosetta Stone**



**Egyptian Mummies**





**HOA HAKANANAI'A**



**THE ELGIN MARBLES**





Chinese Ceramics



Panteon Sculptures



# British Museum Reading Room

Opened in 1857, the Reading Room was in continual use until its temporary closure for renovation in 1997. It was reopened in 2000, and from 2007 to 2014 it was used to stage temporary exhibitions. It has since been closed while its future use remains under discussion.







Book stacks built around the reading room were made of iron to take the huge weight and add fire protection. There were forty kilometres of shelving in the stacks prior to the library's relocation to the new site.



# Conclusion

This is an iconic museum and a must see while in London. Museum building is spectacular and spacious. Great collection of art , artifacts , sculptures, etc from every corner of the world.

