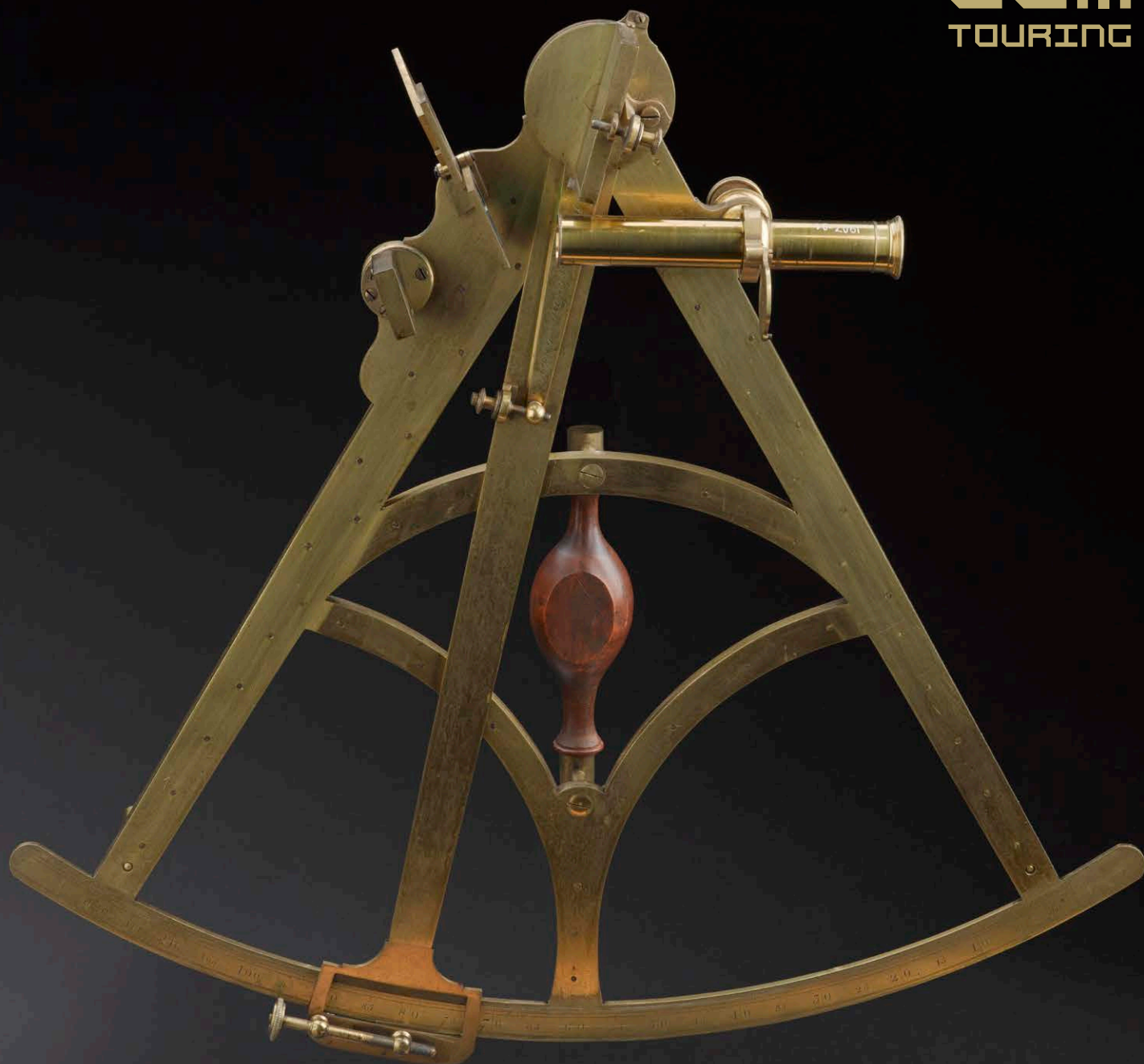


SCIENCE
MUSEUM
TOURING



SCIENCE & SPLENDOUR
TREASURES FROM THE COURT OF KING GEORGE III



Now available for hire



A CENTURY OF REVOLUTION AND DISCOVERY



The Enlightenment was a philosophical movement that dominated intellectual life in the 18th century. This was a period of enormous change – nations underwent revolutions, the industrial era was born, global trading networks were expanded, while explorers discovered new lands.

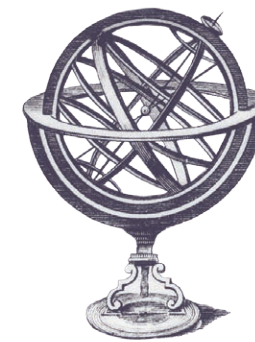
Governments increasingly supported efforts to improve knowledge about the natural world and with this came new scientific discoveries. Similarly, the desire to harness the power of nature to improve efficiency stimulated the design and production of new machines.

Major advances in science and technology included the development of the marine chronometer for finding longitude at sea by John Harrison, the discovery of oxygen by Antoine Lavoisier and Joseph Priestley, Benjamin Franklin and Alessandro Volta's advancements in the study of electricity, the Montgolfier brothers' first manned flight of the hot-air balloon in 1785, William Herschel's discovery of Uranus in 1781, James Cook's exploration of Australia and New Zealand in the 1770s, and James Watt's development of the steam engine in 1776. These would radically change human society and perceptions of the world over the centuries to come.





Image: Astronomical Watch by George Margetts, 1750-1810



THE COLLECTION

Meanwhile in London, instrument-makers were developing apparatus to demonstrate burgeoning scientific theories to wealthy clients either in their homes or at public lectures. King George III was the first British monarch to attend demonstrations of experimental natural philosophy. His genuine interest in science, and recognition of the importance of experiment and demonstration, are clearly reflected in the instruments he collected and commissioned. On ascending the throne at the age of 22 in 1760, George III inherited spectacular apparatus which belonged to his grandfather and father. But he was also keen to build his own collection. In the 1760s George Adams, an exceptional maker of long-standing repute, was commissioned by the king to make a set of instruments, which he accompanied with written courses on pneumatics and mechanics.

These instruments and apparatus form the heart of this exhibition, which is supplemented with additional artefacts from the Science Museum's extraordinary collections. Together, they present a striking illustration of the range of scientific interests in this period, and the skills of London's instrument-makers.

Spanning the political, historical, social and scientific developments of the 18th century, this exhibition of around 100 luxurious objects and artworks maps the rise of science in the Royal Society and the king's court to change the fields of industry, agriculture and exploration, shaping the world as we know it today.



THE EXHIBITION

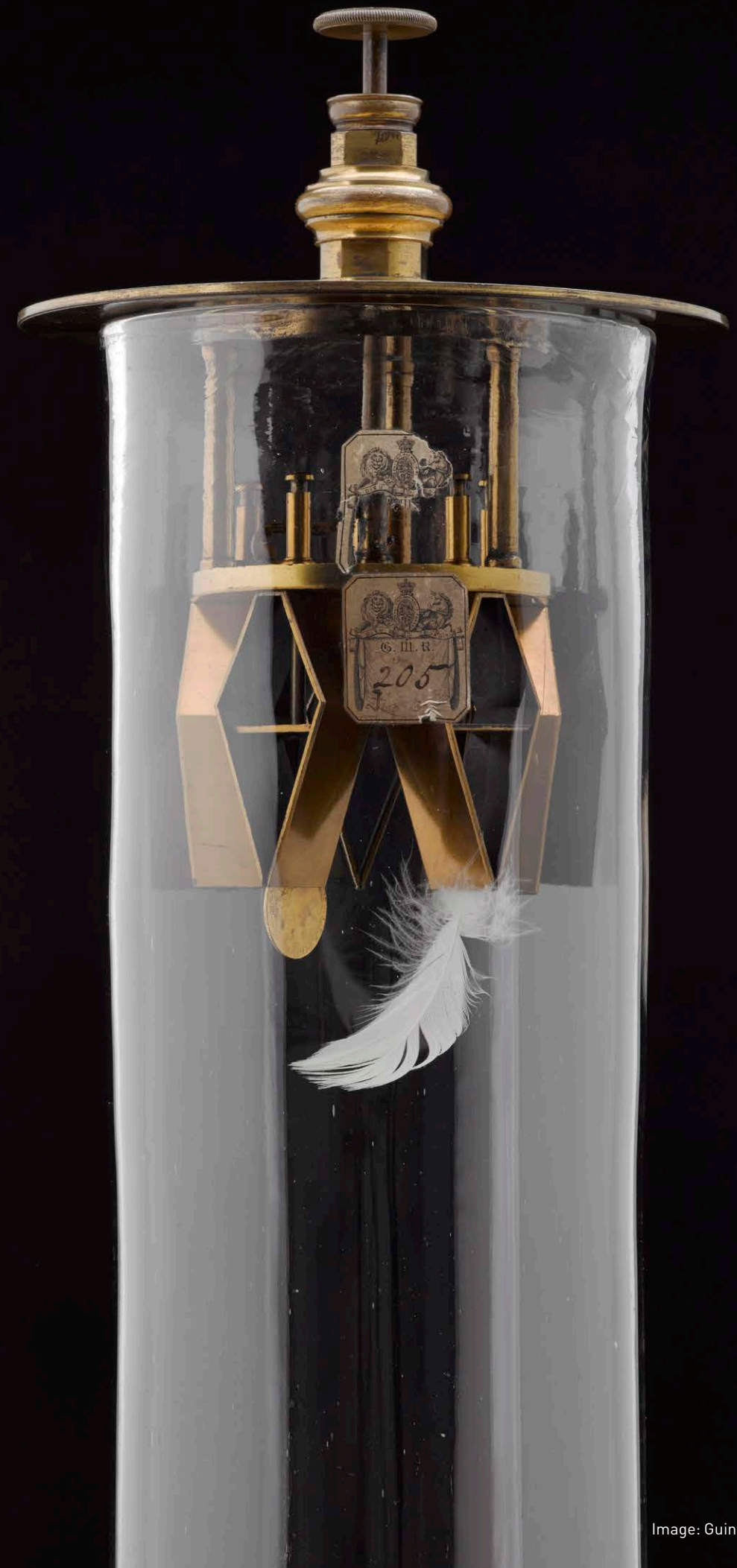
Most of the beautiful objects in this exhibition were made in the mid to late 18th century. They provide a fascinating glimpse of the various areas of scientific interest for people at the time and the intricate craftsmanship of the instrument-makers. As a royal collection it represents not only the personal interests of King George III, but also the wider scientifically minded public enthusiasm for experiment and demonstration fostered by institutions such as the Royal Society.

This is a fully curated collection from the Science Museum, including meticulous research, information and text on all objects, section panels, and suggested themes and narrative.

WHAT THE HIRE FEE INCLUDES:

- Approximately 100 artefacts and artworks telling the story of science and its development throughout the 18th century
- Graphic files and high-resolution images for the production of a catalogue, including an essay from the exhibition's curator
- Press and Marketing Toolkit, including images cleared for press use
- Installation Toolkit
- Collections Care Toolkit, including object handling and cleaning instructions
- Content Toolkit including:
 - Curated text for object labels
 - Curated text for section panels
 - Intro and exit panels
 - Extended labels for highlight objects in each section
 - Alternative content hierarchy with accompanying object list

NB.: This is a curated collection and not a turnkey exhibition.



SAMPLE FLOORPLAN



Philosophical table



Air pump



Universal microscope



Armillary sphere

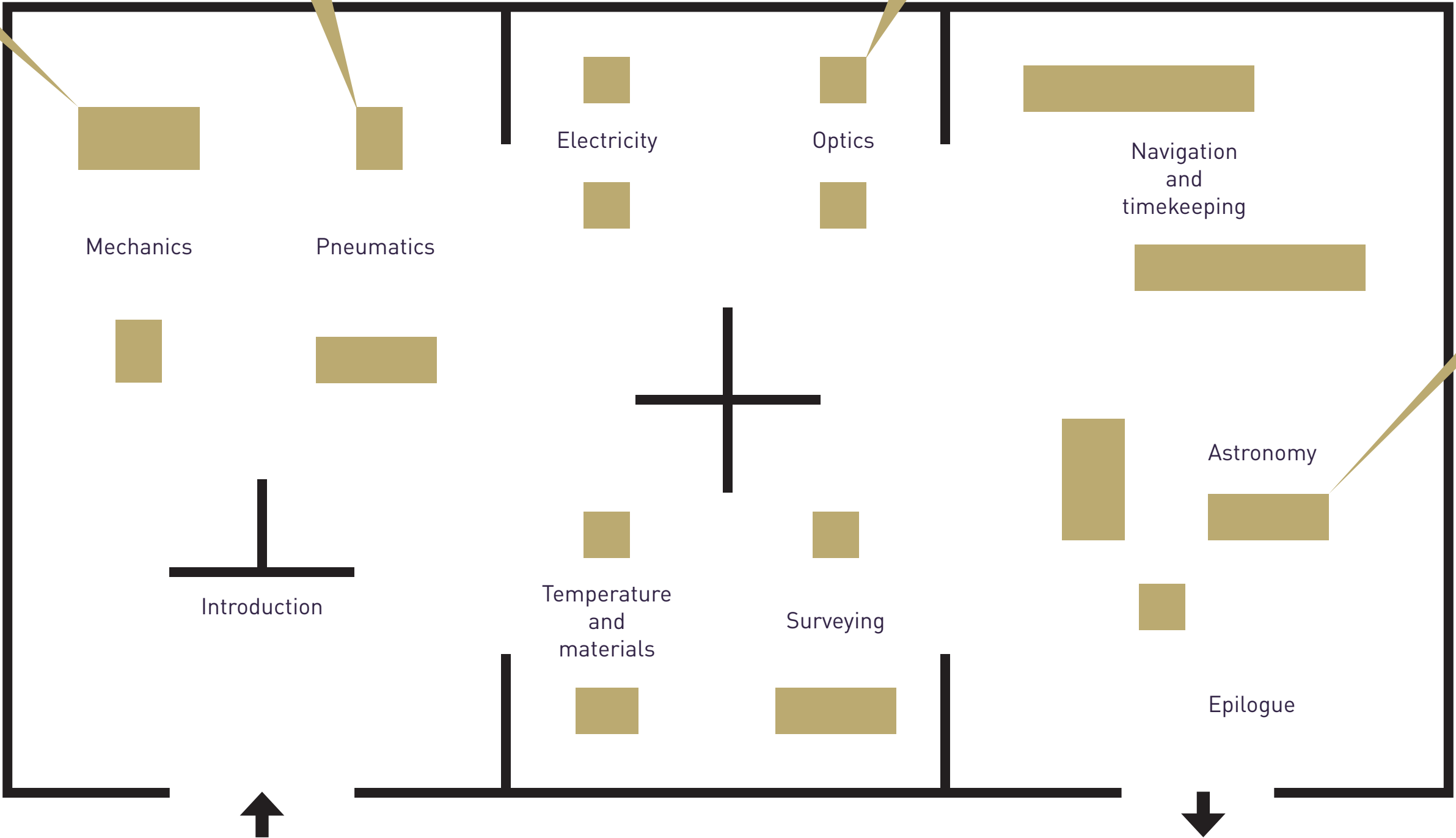




Image: Gallery view of 'Science and Splendour' at the National Science Museum of Korea



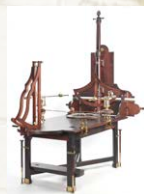
Image: Plate electrical machine, 1770

EXHIBITION SECTIONS

MECHANICS

The philosophical table was the centrepiece of the mechanics course that George Adams created for George III. It was used as a platform for demonstrating the effects of motion, force and gravity.

Highlight objects include:



Philosophical table made by George Adams, 1761–62



Mechanical aowers apparatus

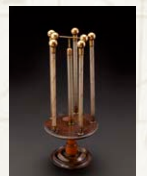
ELECTRICITY

Although understanding of electricity was at a very early stage in the 18th century, interest was increasing and demonstrations received great interest. Intriguing apparatus for demonstrating electrical charge conveys the enthusiasm generated by these early steps into understanding the phenomana.

Highlight objects include:



Thunder house made by George Adams, 1740–70



Electrical chimes

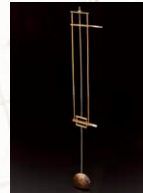
TEMPERATURE AND MATERIALS

Early chemistry was explored through enquiries into the effect of temperature, pressure and moisture using a variety of instruments displayed in this section.

Highlight objects include:



Model Newcomen engine, c. 1720



Compensated pendulum

OPTICS

Different types of microscope, along with different types of telescope, demonstrate the keen interest in lens technology in the 18th century. People were fascinated with observing very small specimens and making observations from a great distance.

Highlight objects include:



Silver compound microscope made by George Adams, 1763



Reflecting telescope made by James Short, 1756–58

PNEUMATICS

The air pump was the centrepiece of Adams's pneumatics course for George III, and represents the great interest in early physics and chemistry. Experiments were conducted to explore the effects of air pressure on different objects, materials and chemicals.

Highlight objects include:



Double-barrelled air pump made by George Adams, 1761–62

ASTRONOMY

Two significant astronomical events in the 18th century were the transits of Venus in 1761 and 1769. They were of great interest to the king, who commissioned the Kew Observatory to enable observations to be made, and supported the expedition of Captain James Cook in 1769 to record the transit from Tahiti.

Highlight objects include:



Armillary sphere made by Jonathan Sisson, 1731



William Herschel's telescope, 1783–85

EXHIBITION SECTIONS

NAVIGATION AND TIMEKEEPING

Improving the efficiency of navigation was a priority for people in the 18th century, when exploration and global trade were matters of increasing importance. The collection shows how traditional navigational instruments were developed, and illustrates the introduction of new instruments which all played an important role in the attempt to find longitude at sea.

Highlight objects include:



Terrestrial and celestial globes made by George Adams, 1766



Chronometer made by John Roger Arnold, 1801–30

SURVEYING

Accurate surveying was a crucial aspect of land management, cartography and warfare in the 18th century. Mathematical knowledge was needed to take measurements, but also to record and represent collected data.

Highlight objects include:



Surveyor's level made by Joseph Jackson, 1735–60



Altazimuth theodolite made by Benjamin Cole, 1731–66



Image: Universal equinoctial ring sundial, 1710–1729



LEARNING OUTCOMES AND TARGET AUDIENCE

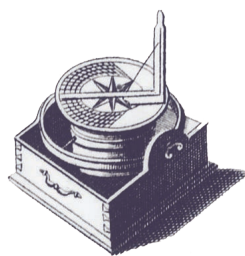


Although this exhibition is suitable for all ages, the following key target audience groups have been identified:

- School groups
- Higher and further education groups
- Independent adults
- Museum and gallery adults
- Young adults
- Science and history enthusiasts

Key learning outcomes:

- Enjoying the artefacts and appreciating the craftsmanship and uniqueness of the objects
- Appreciating the objects' connection to King George III
- Becoming interested in the development of science throughout history
- Recognising the global impact of science in the 18th century
- Appreciating the 18th-century world as one that was expanding through trade, exploration, war and colonisation
- Recognising both similarities and differences between the science of the 18th century and science as we know it today
- Recognising the impact of the past on the present



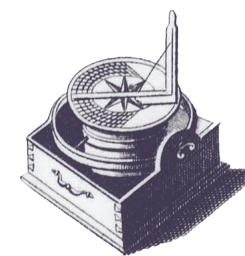
INTERPRETIVE APPROACHES



This exhibition has been developed in a non-linear fashion, which allows venues to pick and choose from the Science Museum's curated content. This display has been developed in line with the 18th-century natural philosophy curriculum:

- Mechanics
- Pneumatics
- Temperature and materials
- Optics
- Astronomy
- Navigation
- Surveying
- Electricity

However, venues have the option to choose from an alternative arrangement which looks at the collection through a different lens and proposes a content hierarchy that explores the social, cultural and political impact of the objects in the collection. This particular hierarchy lends itself well to venues who wish to add their own content to contextualise the exhibition for their own particular audience.



INTERPRETIVE APPROACHES



ALTERNATIVE CONTENT ARRANGEMENT

This second content hierarchy has been curated for venues that wish to use the alternative approach.

Introduction

- Royal patronage and natural philosophy in the 18th century

Classifying nature

- Networks of instrument-makers and learned societies – This section presents an opportunity to introduce the networks of instrument-makers, designers and builders, and the natural philosophers using these devices.
- Classifying nature
 - Exploring the heavens
 - Revealing the microcosm
- Measuring time

Demonstration, investigation and teaching

- Royal education and private teaching – As well as showing the scientific instruments and equipment made for and used to teach the royal family, here one could place objects relating to private teaching and polite philosophy, including objects that could be described as 'gentlemen's novelties'. This could be an appropriate alternative section to discuss the work and collections of:
 - George Adams
 - Stephen Demainbray
- Public demonstration

Expedition, expansion and industry

- Expedition – This section looks at the application of new and improved scientific instruments.
- Expansion – At this time the British Empire was expanding by military-funded ordnance surveys, improvements to weapons and military action.
- Industry – The industrial application of instruments.

SUGGESTED TITLES

As this is an exhibition that can be taken in a number of directions depending on the content hierarchy chosen by the venue, the Science Museum is happy for any hiring venue to choose a suitable title for the exhibition. Here is a list of suggested titles chosen by the Science Museum's curators and communications team:

- *Science and Splendour: Treasures from the Court of King George III*
- *Enlightenment Science*
- *Science in the 18th Century*
- *Science in the Age of Enlightenment*
- *Science and Discovery: The George III Collection*



Image: Apparatus for comparing airs, 1761

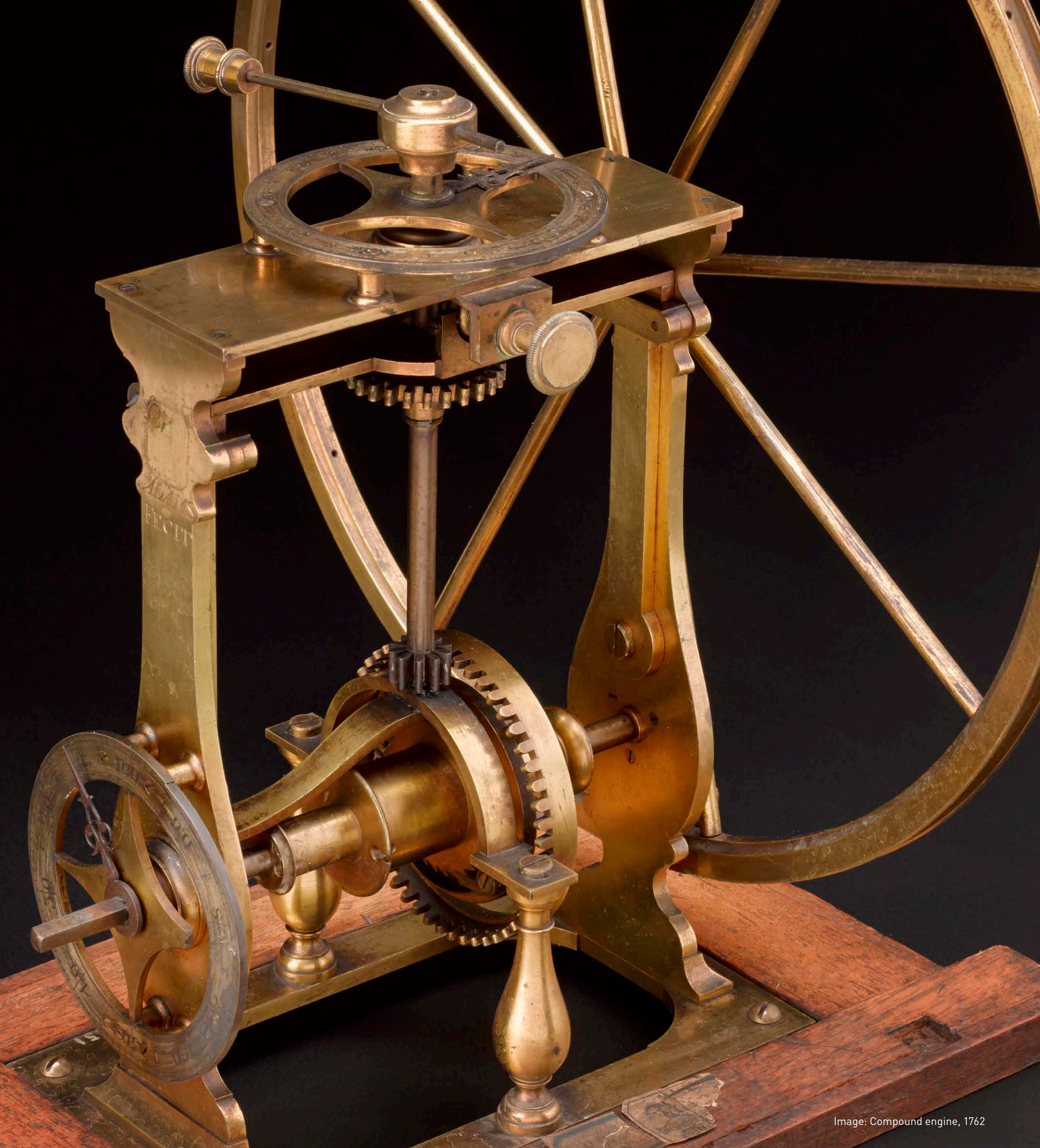
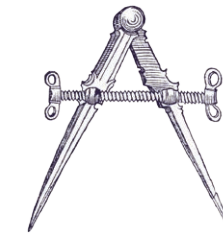


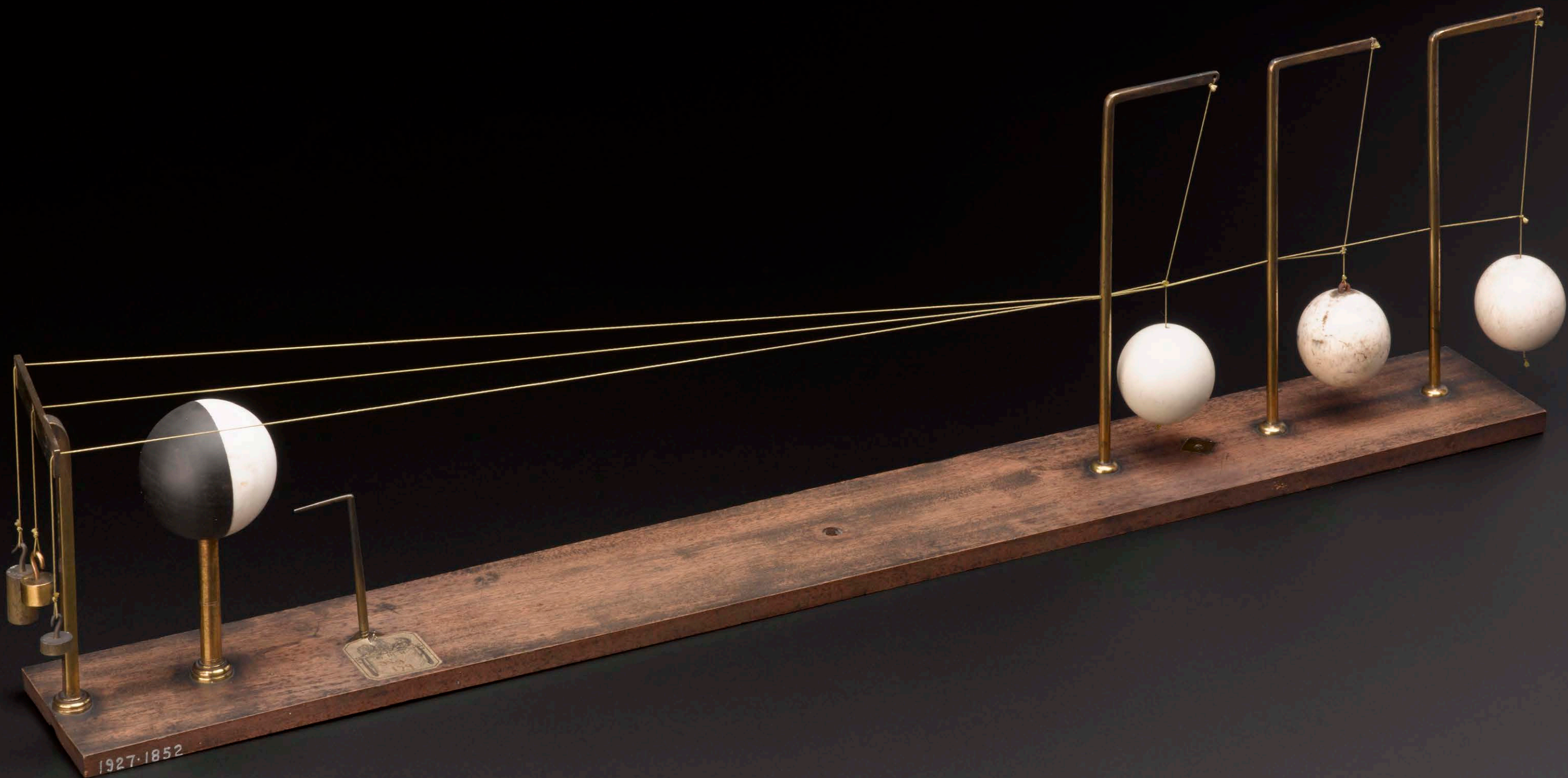
Image: Compound engine, 1762




SPECIFICATIONS

What venues need to be able to provide:

- Approximately 500 square metres of gallery space (size can be varied)
- Staff to assist with the installation and deinstallation of the exhibition
- Minimum UK GIS-spec cases for the display of objects
- Storage space for transport crates
- Insurance
- Transport
- Translations (where applicable) and production of graphics
- Press and marketing





CONTACT

For more information on Science Museum Group
Touring Exhibitions, please contact:
Touring Exhibitions team

Science Museum
Exhibition Road
London SW7 2DD
United Kingdom
+44 20 7942 4011

touring.exhibitions@sciencemuseum.ac.uk
sciencemuseum.org.uk/touringexhibitions

Engravings featured throughout are from trade cards
of Dudley Adams, Fleet Street, London, c. 1800

All images © Science Museum/
Science & Society Picture Library

Cover image: Sextant, 1775-182



King George III Collection touring by kind
permission of King's College London