

**The BP exhibition -  
I am Ashurbanipal  
king of the world,  
king of Assyria**

8 November 2018 - 24 February 2019

Supported by BP  
Logistics partner IAG Cargo.

The British Museum's shops are delighted to unveil their brand-new retail collections in support of the upcoming new exhibition, The BP exhibition, *I am Ashurbanipal king of the world, king of Assyria*. Products in the new collections range from designer jewellery to home and fashion accessories.



King Ashurbanipal Bag - £10.99  
(exclusive to the British Museum)  
Cotton tote bag featuring an image of Ashurbanipal on a gypsum wall panel relief dating back to 645–635 BC, excavated from the North Palace in Nineveh, Iraq. The wall panel shows Ashurbanipal fulfilling this royal duty by hunting ferocious lions. In Assyria the lion represented all that was wild and dangerous in the world.



Gardens of Nineveh Scarf - £40.00  
Designed exclusively for the Exhibition, this scarf features a design from a wall panel from Ashurbanipal's North Palace showing lush parkland in the vicinity of Nineveh



Replica Ashurbanipal Wall Panel Section - £85.00  
Plaque inspired by a detail from the Assyrian Lion Hunt reliefs excavated from the North Palace in Nineveh, Iraq (645-635 BC). The wall panel shows Ashurbanipal fulfilling this royal duty by hunting ferocious lions. (Exclusive to the British Museum).

Hajer Ghani 'Love' Necklace - £1,000.00  
This stunning 8 ct yellow gold and turquoise necklace has been designed by Hajer Ghani, the daughter of the late Mohammed Ghani Hikmat, an Iraqi sculptor and artist credited with creating some of Baghdad's highest-profile sculptures and monuments. Hajer's mother also is a renowned archaeologist who worked at the Iraqi museum in Baghdad for over 25 years. Hajer is now reviving the history of her late father through her collection, which focuses on using art in her handmade jewellery. The intricate gold design features the word 'love' written in cuneiform. (Exclusive to the British Museum).



Bird and Flower Ceramic Plate by Zeen - £15.99  
Zeen was founded in 2013 as a leading art collection and art design company, based in Tehran. Zeen sources unique retail collections of pieces of art from all over Iran, delicately crafted by contemporary Iranian artists and artisans.

Many of the pieces are exclusive to the British Museum and every purchase supports the British Museum itself. Details of the full range can be obtained from the British Museum Shops' PR Company.

**About BP:**

BP is proud to support the British Museum exhibition *I am Ashurbanipal: king of the world, king of Assyria*, an exciting exhibition that tells the story of the Assyrian Empire under its last, great ruler.

BP's support for UK Arts and Culture spans a period of over 50 years. The company's partnership with the British Museum began in 1996, enabling a diverse range of initiatives including the development of the BP Lecture Theatre. Today support for the Museum is focused on its special exhibitions programme.

BP's long-term partnerships with the British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, Royal Shakespeare Company and Royal Opera House represent one of the most significant corporate investments in UK arts and culture.

BP has a history in Iraq, stretching back to the 1920s when the company helped Iraq locate, produce and export oil from Baba Gurgur in Kirkuk, Northern Iraq. This was the largest oilfield in the world at that time. In 2009, BP became the first international oil company to return to Iraq after a period of 35 years. Today, BP, PetroChina and BOC are working in partnership to develop Rumaila, the third-largest producing field in the world.

In support of our operations at Rumaila, we deliver a sustainable social investment programme for the benefit of our communities in and around Basra, southern Iraq. Our programme is focused on improving health, access to potable water, community infrastructure and vocational training. Aligned with BP's support of arts and culture, in 2010 through the BP Foundation we also provided a significant grant to the Basra Museum which helped to establish the new museum that celebrates the rich cultural history of Iraq.

**About IAG Cargo:**

IAG Cargo is the single business created following the merger of British Airways World Cargo and Iberia Cargo in April 2011. Following the integration of additional airlines into the business, including Aer Lingus, Vueling, bmi and LEVEL, IAG Cargo now covers a global network of over 350 destinations.

In 2017 IAG Cargo had a commercial revenue of €1084 million. It has a combined workforce of more than 2470 people over our global network. Its parent company, International Airlines Group, is one of the world's largest airline groups with 551 aircraft. It is the third largest group in Europe and the sixth largest in the world, based on revenue.

For further information on IAG Cargo, please visit the IAG Cargo YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/IAGCargo> or alternatively, visit the IAG Cargo website: <https://www.iagcargo.com>. For media enquiries, please contact IAG Cargo press office in the UK on +44 207 4133000.

**Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme:**

In 2015, in response to the appalling destruction by Daesh (also known as so-called Islamic State, ISIS or IS) of heritage sites in Iraq and Syria, the British Museum developed a scheme which, in the face of frustration and outrage, could offer something positive and constructive. The 'Iraq Emergency Heritage Management Training Scheme', received the support of the UK government, and the Museum was granted £2.9m over five years of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The scheme, which became a pilot project for the Cultural Protection Fund, builds capacity in the Iraq State Board of Antiquities and Heritage by training 50 of its staff in a wide variety of sophisticated techniques of retrieval and rescue archaeology.

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/about\\_us/museum\\_activity/middle\\_east/iraq\\_scheme.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/museum_activity/middle_east/iraq_scheme.aspx)

Follow updates on the exhibition via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

Use #Ashurbanipal and @britishmuseum

For more content about Ashurbanipal, follow the British Museum blog at [blog.britishmuseum.org](http://blog.britishmuseum.org).

High resolution images and caption sheet available at <https://bit.ly/2JGgmwK>

**Retail Product Notes to Editors:**

Please contact the British Museum Company's PR agency for high resolution photography and for any further information. Contact details:

Jo Welch, jo.welch@decoltd.com  
+ 44 (0) 7767 416 092

- The British Museum Online shop:  
[www.britishmuseumshoponline.org](http://www.britishmuseumshoponline.org)

- Reader enquiries telephone the British Museum's Grenville Room shop:  
0203 073 4998

The British Museum Company runs the British Museum Shops, both online and at several locations in the British Museum. These include the Grenville Room, a showcase for the finest and most exclusive products available at the Museum; the Sainsbury's Exhibition Gallery (SEG) shop, a contemporary space dedicated to retailing supporting products for the exhibitions in the SEG; the Great Court Gift Shops; the Collections Shops; as well as the shop in Room 35 which is dedicated to presenting exclusive products related to the temporary exhibitions on display. The British Museum Company produce bespoke products as well as sourcing quality crafts, jewellery, fashion accessories and home wares that complement the world collections of the British Museum.

Contact: 0203 073 4998.

**Exhibition Notes to Editors:**

The BP exhibition *I am Ashurbanipal: king of the world, king of Assyria* runs from 8 November 2018 – 24 February 2019 in the Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery at the British Museum.

Exhibition supported by BP. Logistics partner IAG Cargo.

Open Saturday – Thursday 10.00–17.30, Friday 10.00–20.30. Last entry 80 mins before closing. Tickets £17.00 children under 16 free, concessions and group rates available. Booking fees apply online and by phone.

[britishmuseum.org/Ashurbanipal](http://britishmuseum.org/Ashurbanipal)

+44 (0)20 7323 8181

For exhibition press enquiries please contact:

Nikki Elvin, the British Museum

[Nelvin@britishmuseum.org](mailto:Nelvin@britishmuseum.org),  
0207 323 8394

The beautifully illustrated exhibition catalogue, *The BP exhibition I am Ashurbanipal: king of the world, king of Assyria*, edited by Gareth Brereton will be published by Thames & Hudson in collaboration with the British Museum.

Contact:

Victoria Brown +44(0) 20 7845 5143

[v.brown@thameshudson.co.uk](mailto:v.brown@thameshudson.co.uk)