

Silver of the Stars

The *Silver of the Stars* exhibition brings together two stunning collections of contemporary silverwork: *Silver of the Stars* (which also lends its name to the entire exhibition) and *The Millennium Collection for Bute House*. An international touring exhibition, *Silver of the Stars* makes its Canadian premiere at the Royal BC Museum after presentations in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Commissioned by the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh, the *Silver of the Stars* exhibition features 24 pieces of silver (10 in the *Silver of the Stars* collection and 14 in *The Millennium Collection for Bute House*), ranging from a delicate, diamond-studded teapot to a medieval-style absinthe goblet to a whimsical, nature-inspired fruit bowl.

THE SILVER OF THE STARS COLLECTION

To mark its 550th anniversary, the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh created the *Silver of the Stars* collection to celebrate the inspiration and innovation at the heart of Scotland's people.

Each of 10 celebrities, including Sir Sean Connery, Billy Connolly and Ewan McGregor, partnered with one of 10 Scottish silversmiths to create elaborate drinking vessels. Based on the theme "a drink with a close friend," the celebrities' answers to a series of questions became the inspiration for the finished silverworks: the motorcycle handlebars on Ewan McGregor's coffee pot and mug are reminiscent of a world-journey McGregor once made, and novelist Ian Rankin's desire for a reflection of Scotland's industrial past comes across in a drink tray modelled after the famed Scottish Forth Bridge.

THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION FOR BUTE HOUSE

The Millennium Collection for Bute House is a selection of "working" silver made for use at the Scottish First Minister's official residence. Created between 1999 and 2000, the 14-piece set celebrates the re-establishment of Scotland's Parliament after an absence of nearly 300 years.

When the collection is not being used at Bute House, the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh tours it around the world to promote the design and craft skills of Scotland's silversmiths.