

# The Wallace Fountain at Hertford House



Location: The Wallace Collection  
Hertford House, Manchester Square,  
London, W1U 3BN, UK

In the spring of 1959, Sir James Mann, who at the time was the Director of the Wallace Collection, approached the Metropolitan Drinking Fountains Association with a request. He noticed the Wallace fountain at Windsor Terrace, City Road, Shoreditch, London EC1 was not functioning. If the Shoreditch Borough Council did not wish to keep it, Mann requested the fountain be transferred to the front garden at Hertford House, a public museum and home to the world famous Wallace Collection of fine art.

The Shoreditch Borough Council agreed to gift the fountain, possibly manufactured in 1904, to Hertford House as long as the Council incurred no expense and a plaque commemorating the gift was placed on the fountain.

In April 1960, the fountain was installed in the front garden of the museum and was initially painted a dark blue to match the color of the railings. Eventually it was painted the traditional green color of most Wallace Fountains.

The fountain has never been operational at Hertford House. It does, however, stand as testament to the way Sir Richard Wallace was able to combine his love of art with his extraordinary humanitarianism.

Source: The Wallace Collection

