

Smyrna: The Eye of Asia
A British Museum Classical Colloquium
In Honour of Charles Sebag-Montefiore

The year 2014 is the 250th anniversary of the setting out the first Ionian expedition, commissioned by the Society of Dilettanti, to the west coast of Turkey. The travellers were to settle at Smyrna, modern Izmir, the home of the Levant Trading Company, traditionally an international centre for foreigners travelling in the Ottoman world. Together with its unscheduled sequel in mainland Greece, the expedition was one of the most important cultural enterprises of the 18th century. It comprised a team of three talented men, the Classical scholar Richard Chandler, the architect Nicholas Revett and the young painter and draughtsman, William Pars. The published record of their experience had far-reaching consequences for modern understanding of Classical Turkey.

Part One: BP Lecture Theatre - Friday 5 December 2014: Two evening lectures exploring the International Spirit of Smyrna in a broader Mediterranean context

Welcome from Lesley Fitton, Keeper, Department of Greece and Rome

17.00 – 17.45 **Professor Cyprian Broodbank** (McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge)

Early civilisations in the eastern Mediterranean and their International Spirit

Questions

Speaker introduction by Ian Jenkins. Senior Curator, Department of Greece and Rome

18.00 – 18.45 p.m. **Dr Philip Mansel** (author and historian) *The Eye of Asia*

Questions

19.00 **Reception, book signing and musical performance**

Part Two: BP Lecture Theatre - Saturday 6 December 2014

9.15– 10.00 **Registration**

10.00 -10.15 **Lesley Fitton** Welcome and Opening remarks

10.15-10. 30 **Ian Jenkins** (Department of Greece and Rome, British Museum) *This Wonderful Day*

10. 30-11.00 **Jason Kelly** (IUPUI Arts & Humanities Institute) *Out and about with the Dilettanti*

11.00-11.30 **Coffee**

11.30-12.00 **Paul Cartledge** (Faculty of Classics, University of Cambridge) *Geographers ancient and modern*

12 .00-12.30 **Alastair Blanchard** (School of History, Philosophy, Religion & Classics, The University of Queensland) *Richard Chandler the Antiquary*

12. 30-13.00 **Robert Pitt** (British School at Athens) *Chandler the Epigrapher*

13.00-13.30 **Discussion**

13.30-14.30 **Lunch**

14.30-15.00 **Lesley Fitton** (Department of Greece and Rome, British Museum) *The Troad*

15.00-15.30 **Kim Sloan** (Department of Prints and Drawings, British Museum) *William Pars – His life and work*

15.30-16.00 **Tuğba Tanyeri Erdemir** (Centre for Science and Society. Science and Technology Museum, Middle East Technical University, Ankara) *A New Species of Human Being*

16.00 **Tea**

16.30 -17.00 **Discussion and concluding remarks**

Throughout the break periods a captioned slide show of William Pars drawings assembled by Celeste Farge will play in the auditorium

Speakers' dinner