MEMBER EVENTS Continued

MACBETH AND THE NORTH BERWICK WITCH TRIALS
Jon Kaneko-James
Tuesday, 12 April 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members’ Room
The London Library member Jon Kaneko-James examines the allusion to the trials, the influence on Shakespeare of the sensational pamphlet News from Scotland and the resonance between the character of Macbeth and James’s real-life attempted usurper, Francis Stewart, 5th Earl of Bothwell.

CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM TOUR
Tuesday, 19 April 2016
5.30pm – 7.30pm
Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX
Free for members
Visit the only surviving Charles Dickens’s home preserved in its Victorian finery. The evening will begin with drinks, followed by a tour of the elegantly furnished townhouse, taking in a collection that includes rare editions and original manuscripts.

SOME LIKE IT VERY HOT: THE VICTORIAN TURKISH BATH
Malcolm Shifrin
Tuesday, 7 June 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members’ Room
Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street. Photo: Siobhan Doran
Dickens’s home preserved in all its Victorian finery. The evening will begin with drinks, followed by a tour of the elegant townhouse, taking in a collection that includes rare editions and original manuscripts.

So let’s begin with the bath and its impact on popular culture through the decades.

LONDON, 1750: THE YEAR OF EARTHQUAKES
Andrew Robinson
Tuesday, 21 June 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members’ Room
In 1750 England was shaken by earthquakes which damaged buildings in central London, including the towers of Westminster Abbey. They also created panic among Londoners. A rumour that the city was about to be destroyed caused an evacuation of the capital by the wealthy, and a spate of religious sermons and tracts urging repentance. But the natural philosophers of the Royal Society were fascinated and began the scientific study of earthquakes, and so seismology began in stable England, not in seismic Italy, Japan or California. Writer Andrew Robinson tells the history of British earthquakes and describes what happened in London in 1750 in the words of witnesses.

Andrew Robinson is the author of more than 25 books on the arts and sciences. His most recent book, Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations and Civilization, will be published in April 2016.

ROSES AND RAIN: THE LIFE AND WORK OF JAMES ELROY FLECKER
Heather Walker
Tuesday, 5 July 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members’ Room
Writer and journalist Heather Walker discusses her 2006 book Roses and Rain, the biography of poet, novelist and playwright James Elroy Flecker. She will discuss Flecker’s life and work, from his career in the Levant Consular Service and marriage to Greek poetess Helle, to his attempts to overcome ill-health, homesickness and lack of money and establish himself as a writer. Walker’s research provides an insight not only into Flecker’s short life but also the lives of his contemporaries including Rupert Brooke, Ronald Fehlb and Lawrence of Arabia.

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