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SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON
Book online at www.sal.org.uk/events

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

23 February (1-2.00 pm)
'The Camera & the King: Photographing the Excavation of Tutankhamun's Tomb'

22 March (1-2.00 pm)
'Denim: Fashion's Frontier'

26 April (1-2.00 pm)
'Royal Gold & Royal Rubbish: Metal-Detecting & the Anglo-Saxon Palace at Rendlesham, Suffolk'

31 May (1-2.00 pm)
'Glastonbury Abbey Excavations 1904-79: Reassessing the Medieval Monastery'

BOOK A TOUR FOR £10
Join us for coffee, tea and biscuits and a morning tour of our historic apartments.

- 23 February
- 26 April
- 22 March
- 31 May

Image: Detail of the cover of *Glastonbury Abbey Archaeological Excavations 1904-79* by Roberta Gilchrist, FSA, and Cheryl Green.

women's short story competition 2016

1st prize: £2,000 for unpublished short stories of up to 2,000 words on any subject

Judge: Michèle Roberts
Closing date: 14 March

www.mslexia.co.uk/shortstory
0191 204 8860
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MEMBER EVENTS *Continued*

MACBETH AND THE NORTH BERWICK WITCH TRIALS
Jon Kaneko-James
Tuesday, 12 April 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members' Room

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* follows its protagonist's fall from trusted retainer to insane and degraded usurper, and celebrates the role of James VI's adopted ancestor Banquo and the inevitable victory of rightful kingship. However, there is another story within the well-known plot. During the scene when the witches first appear there is a reference to a fraught and bloody phase of James's kingship, the North Berwick Witch Trials of 1591. **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 London family home of literary great and former London Library member Charles Dickens, the house where Dickens wrote some of his best-loved novels, including *Oliver Twist*. As part of The London Library's 175th anniversary celebrations, we invite you to step back in time to 1837 and experience



Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street. Photo: Siobhan Doran. Photography © Charles Dickens Museum.

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.

Please note the tour includes walking up stairs, with very limited lift access. If you have any mobility problems, please inform us when you book and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

SOME LIKE IT VERY HOT: THE VICTORIAN TURKISH BATH
Malcolm Shifrin
Tuesday, 7 June 2016
6pm – 7.30pm
Members' Room

Malcolm Shifrin brings to life the hidden history of the Victorian Turkish bath, the dry hot air bath that sprang up in hundreds of establishments across Britain, Ireland and beyond in the second half of the nineteenth century. The talk, based on Shifrin's book *Victorian Turkish Baths* (2015), will trace the rise and decline of this popular

Victorian institution (more accurately called the Irish-Roman bath) and include an account of the world-renowned Jermyn Street Hamman, famously used as a short-story setting by Trollope and, until it was destroyed in the London Blitz, a mere stone's throw away from The London Library. Historian and former librarian Malcolm Shifrin has written extensively on the history and sociology of 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 and stirred 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 Hellé, 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 Firbank and Lawrence of Arabia.



Andrew Robinson's *Earth-Shattering Events: Earthquakes, Nations and Civilization* (2016).