

THE BIRMINGHAM LECTURE SERIES 2009



Tuesday 17 February
The Michael Cadbury Memorial Lecture
**BIRMINGHAM AND ITS
WORKHOUSES**
Dr Chris Upton

The workhouse is one of the abiding symbols of the Victorian age: a bewildering mixture of care-home, orphanage, asylum, infirmary and training school. In this lecture, Chris

Upton traces the history of Birmingham's many workhouses, from the humble parish houses of Yardley and Northfield to the sprawling institutions that replaced them, and talks about the conditions and way of the life for the people who lived and worked in them.

Chris Upton is Senior Lecturer in History at Newman University College in Birmingham and a feature writer for the Birmingham Post. He is the author of several books on the history of the West Midlands and is currently writing *Behind the Workhouse Gates: Birmingham and its Poor 1700-1840*.

Tuesday 3 March
RUNNING THE GAUNTLET
Caroline Magnus

Stokesay Court in Shropshire was built by a wealthy glove manufacturer in 1889; when Caroline Magnus moved into the house in 1995, it was an empty shell in need of total reroofing, rewiring and replumbing. In this lecture, Caroline Magnus reveals why and how she took on the challenge of restoring and refurnishing the house, how it came to be chosen in 2006 as the setting for the film *Atonement*, and what it is that makes Stokesay so special.



Caroline Magnus lived and worked in London for twenty years before one day learning without warning that she had inherited Stokesay Court, a magnificent, late-Victorian house set in extensive grounds in south Shropshire. She now runs Stokesay as a visitor attraction and is a regional chairman of the Historic Houses Association.



THE NATIONAL TRUST
AND THE BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Tuesday 17 March
**MATTHEW BOULTON AND THE ART
OF MAKING MONEY**

Dr Richard Clay

In the late eighteenth-century, the dramatic growth of the British wage economy led to a shortage of small change and the production of huge quantities of counterfeit coins and tokens. In this lecture, Richard Clay reveals how Matthew Boulton established an innovative steam-driven mint at his Soho manufactory and, from 1797 onwards, produced millions of forgery resistant coins, which in their quantity

and quality made Birmingham, briefly, the art capital of the world.

Richard Clay is a lecturer in History of Art at the University of Birmingham. He has published widely on visual culture in eighteenth-century Britain and France and is the lead curator for the exhibition *Matthew Boulton and the Art of Making Money*, which opens at the Barber Institute in May 2009.

Tuesday 31 March

THE CHATELAINE AND THE BUTLER

Clare McLaren-Throckmorton and Karl Esterhazie

Clare McLaren-Throckmorton returns to the Birmingham Lecture Series with her butler, Karl Esterhazie, to talk about life at Coughton Court near Alcester and to offer an intimate and often hilarious look at what goes on behind the scenes of an historic country house. Also encompassing their travels at home and abroad, this lecture promises to provide a fascinating insight into the relationship between the lady of the house and her 'right hand man'.

Clare McLaren-Throckmorton read English at the University of Birmingham, has brought up three children whilst pursuing a distinguished career at the Bar, and was appointed QC in 1986. She now devotes herself full-time to the management of the Throckmorton Family Gardens at Coughton Court and the Throckmorton Estate in North Devon.



LECTURE DETAILS

All lectures are held at the Barber Institute of Fine Arts and begin at 7.30pm. Lectures are preceded at 6pm by a finger buffet, including a choice of wine, soft drink or coffee, and a private view of the Barber Institute galleries. Admission is by ticket only.

TICKETS

Lecture and buffet: £15 per ticket or £55 for the series.

Lecture only: £7.50 or £27.50 for the series.

To book, please contact the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS. 0121 414 7333. www.barber.org.uk