THE WILLIAM SHIPLEY GROUP  
FOR RSA HISTORY

Thursday 1st November 2012

Almost Forgotten: the International Exhibition of 1862

All day conference at the Medical Society of London, Lettsom House,  
11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9EB

9.30 am Registration and coffee

9.50 am Welcome - Nicholas Cambridge, Honorary Chairman, William Shipley Group for RSA History

CHAIR: Prof John Davis

10.00 am South Kensington's Forgotten Palace: the Rise and Fall of the 1862 Exhibition Building - Dale Dishon

10.30am A virtual tour of the 1862 exhibition - Susan Bennett

10.50am Coffee break

11.10am Medals for the Great Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862 - Sir Mark Jones

11.40am Mr Gladstone has the last word: the background to the Society of Arts' 1862 dinner - David G. C. Allan

12.10pm Questions

12.20pm Sandwich lunch

CHAIR: Dr Nicholas Cambridge

1.30pm ‘The progress and present condition of modern art’: Fine Art at the International Exhibition, 1862 - Julius Bryant

2.00pm The Medieval Court at the International Exhibition of 1862 - Max Donnelly

2.30pm Machinery in Motion: The Din and the Spectacle of Progress - John Agnew

3.00pm Tea break

3.20pm The Education Section: an innovation at the 1862 exhibition - Anthony Burton

3.45pm Representation, Rivalry and Transfer: The German States and the International Exhibition of 1862 - John Davis

4.15pm Concluding Remarks: “something biblical about the scene, something Babylonian”- Stephen Wildman

4.45pm Questions

Conclusion

Contact: Susan Bennett, Honorary Secretary, WSG 0790 5273293  susan@bennett.as
Speaker notes:

**John Agnew** worked as a scientist in the NHS. He then took the Birkbeck MA in Victorian Studies. This - among other things - initiated an interest in the working conditions of the ‘factory children’ and the great machines they had to tend and to be protected from.

**Dr David G. C Allan** FRSA (Hon) is the RSA’s Historian and Honorary President of the William Shipley Group for RSA History. An FSA and FRHistS (Emeritus) he has lectured and published on many aspects of the RSA’s history over the years. He continues to wander along ‘the unfenced road’ of the RSA’s influence and activity from its foundation in 1754 to the present day. Recent publications include: *The Society of Antiquaries of London and the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. An account of their shared memberships and interests from the mid-18th to the early 21st centuries; Jubilee Papers from George the Third to Elizabeth the Second*

**Susan Bennett MA** is Honorary Secretary and Editor for the William Shipley Group for RSA History and a Life FRSA. She previously organised a joint two-part conference, with The Victorian Society and the Prince Albert Society of Saxe Coburg, in 2001 on *The Legacy of the Great Exhibition of 1851*

**Julius Bryant** is Keeper of Word & Image at the Victoria and Albert Museum, responsible for paintings, prints, drawings and the National Art Library. He was the V&A's lead curator and editor of the catalogue for the exhibition Art and Design for All: the Victoria & Albert Museum (Bonn and Budapest, 2011) which explored the V&A's origins in the Great Exhibition and in Prince Albert's ambitions for education reform.

**Anthony Burton FRSA** worked as a curator in the V&A from 1968 to 2002. He curated the Library's exhibition programme and looked after two 19th century literary collections, the Dyce and Forster Collections. He was involved in two important 19th century exhibitions, *Victorian Church Art* (1971-2) and *Marble Halls* (1973 - on Victorian secular architecture). After spending sixteen years as head of the V&A's Museum of Childhood at Bethnal Green, he returned to South Kensington to the new Research Department, where he produced two books, *Vision and Accident* (1999), the standard history of the V&A, and (with Elizabeth Bonyngham) *The Great Exhibitor* (2003), a biography of the V&A's first Director, Henry Cole. In recent years, he has been teaching museum history and museology at Kingston University.

**Dr Nicholas Cambridge** MD, MRCS, FSA, FRSA, FLS is Honorary Chairman of the William Shipley Group for RSA History and is currently preparing a paper on Edwin Chadwick’s links with the RSA. He is also Chairman of the Erasmus Darwin Foundation and the Johnson Society of London. He has a special interest in the history of medicine and is Honorary Research Associate in the Division of Biosciences at UCL. He is currently a Fellow of the Medical Society of London and Senior Honorary Secretary. He is a past President of the History of Medicine Section at the Royal Society of Medicine and the Hunterian Society.

**Prof John Davis** FRSA is Professor of History & International Relations at Kingston University, Surrey. His subject area includes international relations, Anglo-German relations, British, German and European history, comparative history, history of thought, and politics. His recent publications include *Britain and the German Zollverein 1848-66* (1997), *The Great Exhibition of 1851* (1999), *The Victorians and Germany* (2007) and he is currently working on *The Zollverein*
Dr Dale Dishon is a Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas at English Heritage. She was previously the Senior Architectural Adviser for the Victorian Society. Her PhD thesis was on ‘South Kensington’s Forgotten Palace: the 1862 International Exhibition Building’ (University of London, 2005). She has published a number of articles on the 1862 Exhibition building and wrote the Oxford DNB entry for the building’s architect, Captain Francis Fowke.

Max Donnelly FSA is Curator of Nineteenth-Century Furniture at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Recent projects have included appearances on the BBC2 series *The Genius of Design* (2010) and an article on Vincent van Gogh and stained glass in *The Burlington Magazine* (September 2011).

Sir Mark Jones FRSE joined the British Museum in 1974 as Assistant Keeper responsible for Medals, and headed that department from 1990. As Director of the National Museums of Scotland (1992-2001) he was responsible for the creation and the display of the Museum of Scotland, the National War Museum of Scotland, the Museum of Scottish Country Life, and the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN) which brought over 200 public collections together to create a national educational resource. From 2001 to 2011 he was Director of the V&A, where he led a ten-year, £120 million programme of renewal of the museum’s buildings and displays, and established a strong programme of design-focused exhibitions, seen all around the world. He has published widely on medals and museums. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, an Honorary Professor at Edinburgh University, and has Honorary Doctorates from Royal Holloway College, Dundee University, the University of Abertay (Dundee) and the University of East Anglia. He was awarded a knighthood in 2010 for services to the arts.

Prof Stephen Wildman FRSA is Professor of the History of Art and Director of the Ruskin Library and Research Centre at Lancaster University. He was a Research Fellow of Queens’ College, Cambridge, where he began a PhD on the 1862 Exhibition, leading to publications on the Medieval Court (in *William Morris and the Middle Ages*, Manchester 1984) and the decoration of the Exhibition building (in *The Craces: Royal Decorators 1768-1899*, John Murray 1994).

LOCATION: Oxford Circus and Baker Street are nearest underground stations. Five minutes walk from either station. The meeting room is on the first floor and there is no lift access.

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