



City of Arts and Science, Valencia

ARCHITECTURE ARCHAEOLOGY ART HISTORY CULTURE HORTICULTURE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE GARDEN HISTORY

# Newsletter July 2013

## CONTENTS

Last Minute

The Nearest Thing to Paradise

Edirne: Once the Capital City of the Ottoman Empire

Snapshot of Morocco

Etruscan Kings to Ottoman Sultans - Cruising with ASA

Riga: A Sophisticated Capital City

Treasures of Pre Inca Civilisations

Along the Orange Blossom Coast - A New Tour

Villa Angelo d'Oro, Rovinj - Feature Hotel

Prof. Frank Sear - Profiling a Group Leader

Sydney, Melbourne and Perth Lectures

Free, Secular & Democratic - Melbourne Exhibition

Stay In The Loop



AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

Anatomy Theatre, Padua, Italy



## Europe: A History of Medicine & Pharmacy

13 September - 5 October 2013

Leaders: Prof. Robert & Christine Clancy  
& David Henderson

Operates  
Alternate  
Years

23 Days: **Italy** Venice (3 nights) • Florence (4 nights) • S Margherita Ligure (1 night) **France** Nice (2 nights) • Avignon (2 nights) • Valence (1 night) • Beaune (2 nights) • Paris (4 nights) **England** London (3 nights)

*I chose this tour as I am very interested in the history of medicine and was intending to have a holiday in Europe. I'm very glad I did. This was my first holiday alone since my husband died a few years ago, so I was a bit apprehensive about this new experience. I found it very helpful being so well looked after, I only had to focus on enjoying the truly outstanding but always pertinent experiences provided. I slowly got to know my travel companions who were friendly but not intrusive and always happy to include the "singles" as well as helping anyone experiencing difficulties.*  
Sue, Tour Participant 2011

Cathedral, Syracuse, Sicily, Italy



## The Wine Dark Sea: Southern Italy and Sicily

29 September - 20 October 2013

Lecturer: Prof. Frank Sear

22 Days: Sorrento (3 nights) • Salerno (1 night) • Trani (2 nights) • Savelletri di Fasano (2 nights) • Lecce (1 night) • Reggio di Calabria (1 night) **SICILY** Taormina (2 nights) • Syracuse (2 nights) • Agrigento (2 nights) • Palermo (5 nights).

*Our recent ASA trip to southern Italy & Sicily was magnificent. This was due to a wonderful selection of sites to visit exemplifying the various civilizations and their remnants in this part of the world. It was also due to the excellent commentary and preparation. Travelling with ASA is truly the best.*

Templar-Convento-de-Cristo, Tomar, Portugal



## Silver Coast & Golden River: Art, Architecture and Culture of Portugal

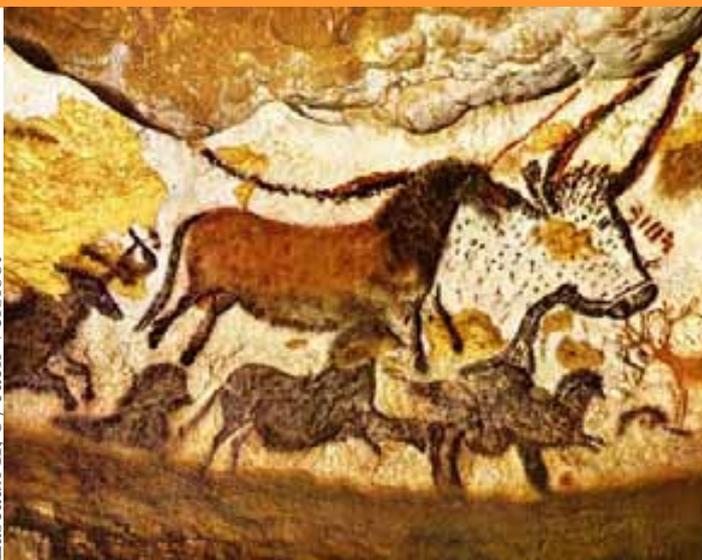
6 - 24 September 2013

Lecturer: Dr John Wreglesworth

Explore the distinctive history of fascinating Portugal

*Beautiful scenery, friendly people, lots of castles, churches, convents and cobbled streets. I'm neither "into" religion nor wars but I am "into" beauty and human relationships. As far as the beauty aspect - exquisite craftsmanship and the scenery was great. I enjoyed the many stories of the historical characters.*  
Tour Participant 2011

Lascaux II, by Jack Versloot



## **Cultural Landscapes of the Midi Pyrenees & the Dordogne**

**25 September - 10 October 2013**

**Leader: Christopher Wood**

Tour through one of the most scenically wonderful regions of France, dominated by the lovely river valleys of the Lot, Tarn and Dordogne. Visit prehistoric caves, medieval fortified towns and castles, Renaissance châteaux and gardens and Romanesque churches.

Cusco, Peru



## **Peru: More than Machu Picchu Part I: Lima to Arequipa Part II: Arequipa to Cuzco Part III: Cuzco to Machu Picchu**

**NEW  
TOUR**

**22 October - 19 November 2013**

**Leader: Dr John Wreglesworth**

From the lively capital of Lima, the northern coastal pre Inca civilisations and the enigmatic Nazca Lines to the deepest canyon in the Americas, the highest lake (Titicaca) and the majestic grandeur of Machu Picchu: this is Peru. See the white city of Arequipa and floating islands of the Uros people on Lake Titicaca, journey across the Andes and through the Sacred Valley, this is a spectacular country of such diversity.

Isfahan Lotfollah, by A Edwards



## **Iran: Art and Culture of the Persians**

**23 October - 12 November 2013**

**Leader: Christopher Wood**

**Guest Lecturer: Iain Shearer**

Explore Iran's cultural and architectural heritage and the dynamic fusions of indigenous and imported motifs over time. The tour is a visual feast, a vivid and rich tapestry of mountains and deserts, peoples, art and architecture.

## **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE in 2013 and 2014**

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## 'The Nearest Thing to Paradise'... according to F. Scott Fitzgerald

"One has the most exquisite things that nature can offer", Friedrich Nietzsche said of the French Riviera. True, one has panoramas, stunning coastlines and beaches, impressive hills, and trees and gardens that are absolutely glorious, but one also has writers, scores of them, who were drawn like magnets to this sunny, and beautiful part of France. For 700 years writers have visited or resided, have been inspired by the landscapes, have desperately tried to improve their health and have died and been buried in the south of France.

The ASA literary tour takes you to what Scott Fitzgerald called 'the nearest thing to paradise'. You will encounter French writers, past and present – see Daudet's windmill which inspired his wonderful *Letters from my Windmill*, enter the prison where Dumas' Count of Monte Cristo was incarcerated, walk the paths that so enchanted Marcel Pagnol, stroll through the cobbled town which shaped Jean Cocteau, and visit places connected with Proust, Colette, Sartre and De Beauvoir, cookbook writer Escoffier, Camus, poets Paul Valéry and Jacques Prévert, Henri Bosco and René Char. There will also be delightful encounters with visiting writers, such as Scott Fitzgerald, Dickens, Somerset Maugham, Ian Fleming, Lawrence Durrell, Dorothy Parker, Graham Greene, Robert Louis Stevenson, Edith Wharton, Chekhov, Peter Mayle and many more. You will enjoy some very special literary experiences – following the path of Robert Louis Stevenson in the stunning Cévennes National Park accompanied, just as he was, by a donkey! You will stay 2 nights in the sumptuous hotel where Scott Fitzgerald stayed while he worked on *Tender is the Night*; and you will learn from expert guides about the local novelists and poets who were so inspired by the stunning landscapes.

The tour is not purely literary. Artistic people tend to mingle and many of the famous writers made friends with painters and sculptors. Jean Cocteau was both artist and writer, Cézanne's best friend was Émile Zola, while Van Gogh's reading of French novelists inspired the landscapes he painted. We will visit galleries and museums connected with Matisse, Chagall, Cocteau, Renoir, Modigliani, Van Gogh and others.

The tour also includes a boat trip along a spectacular gorge, châteaux, forts, windmills, fishing villages, cathedrals, bridges, lovely gardens, a museum about the Resistance, grand villas, and even a game of pétanque. It also includes French food, a subject on which so many writers have waxed lyrical. We will dine at restaurants famed for their literary patrons, will sample local delicacies and learn more about

them. "Oh for a beaker full of the warm south", begged John Keats. We will have just such beakers of local wines, to accompany our cheeses, tartes au citrons, and other delicious foods.

There is a magic about the very words 'the south of France'. Come and experience that magic for yourself. This is a tour for anyone who loves literature, natural beauty and sunshine. You do not need a great familiarity with the authors encountered - Susannah will tell you about their fascinating lives, and introduce you to their works. You will travel with like-minded literary enthusiasts. However, the tour must come with a warning - You will not want to leave!!!

"All the beauty of this Provençal countryside is born of the sun; it lives by light." (Daudet)

2 single rooms  
Just became available

## The Nearest Thing to Paradise:

A Literary Tour of Southern France

8 - 25 September 2013

**Lecturer: Susannah Fullerton,**  
President of the Jane Austen Society of Australia and author.

### Tour Highlights

- Live out the experiences of one of the world's great travel books as you follow the path of Robert Louis Stevenson, accompanied by Modestine the donkey, through the stunning landscapes of the Cévennes.
- Stay in the elegant 5-star Hotel Belles Rives at Cap d'Antibes, immortalised by F. Scott Fitzgerald in *Tender is the Night*.
- Descend into the dungeons of the Chateau d'If, where Dumas' Count of Monte Cristo languished for so many years.
- Enjoy the opportunity to see great art, the homes and gardens of artists, and the landscapes that inspired many famous paintings.
- Fall in love with Hyères, the Riviera's oldest resort town, and home to Edith Wharton and R.L. Stevenson.
- Take an exceptional guided walk through the "enchanted" hills of Marcel Pagnol's *Jean de Florette*.
- Stroll through some of the most beautiful villages of France, such as Lourmarin in the Lubéron ranges.
- Travel through French history, from the Roman occupation to the Resistance of World War II.



Alphonse Daudet's Windmill, Fontvieille, Provence



## Edirne: Once the capital city of the Ottoman Empire

The city of Edirne is an easy two and a half hour bus ride from Istanbul yet surprisingly few travellers include it in their itinerary. In early summer, the journey through soft Thracian hills, dotted with fields of cheerful sunflowers, is as tranquil as the destination itself. Later in the year, the green valleys sparkle in the clear air that allows the traveller to see the four minarets of the Selimiye Mosque from all directions, long before the rest of the historic city comes into view.

This architectural masterpiece, ordered by Sultan Selim II and built between 1569 and 1575, was designed by the great Sinan (d. 1588), architect to the Ottoman court for almost fifty years. The diameter of its dome matches that of Aya Sofya in Istanbul and Sinan himself regarded the complex as his greatest accomplishment. Situated on a slight rise in the town centre, the Selimiye towers over its nearby predecessors: the Eski Cami (Old Mosque) completed by Mehmed I in 1414, almost sixty years after Edirne became the second capital of the emerging empire of the Ottomans (Bursa was the first); and the Uç Şerefeli Cami (The Mosque of the Three Balconies) completed by Murad II in 1447, just a few years before Edirne lost its imperial status when Mehmed II, the 'Conqueror', made Constantinople/Istanbul the new capital in 1453.

Situated at the confluence of three rivers, Edirne lies at the point where today's borders of the Republic of Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria meet in a fertile place, seemingly surrounded by water. The Tunca, Arda and Meriç rivers cut through the Macedonian mountains to the west, give access to Bulgaria to the northwest and the Black Sea in a northerly direction. Historically, the river valleys formed a major crossroads on the routes that connected Europe and Asia. Edirne was a major stopping point for European travellers en route to Constantinople/Istanbul. For many Europeans, their arrival in Edirne – or Adrianople as they knew it – was their first experience not only of the Ottomans and their way of life, but also of anywhere in the fascinating and sometimes fear-inducing world of the Islamic East. Many remarked on the delightful situation of Edirne, noted by both Ottomans and Europeans for its extensive parks and gardens. 'The Country... [was] the finest in the World', observed Lady Mary

Wortley Montagu in a letter written in Edirne on 1 April, 1717. 'Vines grow wild on all the Hills, and the perpetual Spring they enjoy makes everything look gay and flourishing'. The British diplomat's wife spent two years (1716-17) in the Ottoman empire during the reign of Ahmet III (r. 1703-30) when her husband, a prominent English politician, was the ambassador representing the Court of St. James. Her lively commentaries provide insights into life at the court during the extended periods she spent in Edirne during the years immediately preceding the Lâle Devri, the 'Tulip Era' (1718-30).

Sultan Ahmet III was born and raised in the sprawling riverside palace at Edirne during the period when the sultans had abandoned the constrictions of life in the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, preferring the opportunities for hunting, relaxation and lavish parties at the Edirne. Little remains today of the royal complex to the north east of the town, but local authorities have begun some restoration of a bathhouse, the huge kitchen complex and a tower that once housed the royal treasury as well as providing extensive views over the palace gardens from each of its seven storeys, topped by an octagonal room with a marble fountain in its centre and a carved and painted wooden walkway attached to the exterior.



Edirne Mosque Roof

The palace site is an evocative, if neglected, reminder of Edirne's politically and culturally significant past. In 2004 the European Council recognised the restoration of the nearby Bayezid II Mosque and Hospital complex (built 1488) with a prestigious museum award. For four hundred years patients were treated with music therapy and the aroma of rosewater distilled in the neighbouring Edirne Palace gardens. Much damage was inflicted by the advances of the Russian imperial army in 1877, and in the Balkan conflict of 1913, but today Edirne celebrates, and increasingly preserves, its cultural heritage. Its lively population, that includes gypsies, Jews and followers of the Baha'i faith, welcomes those travellers who stay to enjoy its low-key atmosphere of an authentic Ottoman past.

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By Dr Susan Scollay

## Ottoman Palaces & Poetry: Istanbul, Edirne, Bursa & Beyond

5 - 16 September 2013

Lecturer: Dr Susan Scollay

Short  
Program

**12 DAYS:** Istanbul (4 nights) • Edirne (1 night) • Assos (2 night) • Bursa (3 nights) • Istanbul (1 nights)



Edirne Bridge

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## Snapshot of MOROCCO

Morocco nestles in the far northwest corner of Africa, bounded to the west by the Atlantic Ocean and to the north by the Mediterranean. Along the Atlantic littoral lie fertile plains in which the great imperial cities of Fes, Meknes, Rabat and Marrakesh are to be found. To the north, east and south of these plains rise a series of mountain ranges which create an arc around the lowlands. In the north, the Rif mountains fringe the Mediterranean seaboard, to the east the Middle Atlas stretch along the border with Algeria, and then in the south, the soaring heights of the High Atlas and Anti-Atlas serve as bastions guarding the approach to the great Sahara desert which borders Morocco in the south.

Morocco stands at the juncture of the Mediterranean, African and Arab worlds, and has acted as a bridge between them. At the same time, her geographical self-containment has enabled her to develop a distinct identity influenced, but not overpowered, by her neighbours. The indigenous peoples of Morocco, the Berbers, have rarely been subjugated by outside forces. Phoenicians and Romans settled in northern Morocco but left little trace of their presence. The ruins of the Roman city of Volubilis stand alone as testimony to the Roman era. When the Visigoths swept across North Africa from Spain in the fifth century AD, they passed through Morocco, but did not occupy the country. When Byzantium regained control of North Africa after the Visigothic century, Byzantine presence in Morocco was limited to the Mediterranean coast. Christianity similarly made little headway among the Berbers. In the seventh century AD, the newly Muslim Arabs entered Morocco and, aided by the Berbers, continued into Iberia, creating the western wing of an Islamic empire stretching as far as Central Asia and India in the east. The Arabo-Berber community which developed resisted all subsequent attempts to conquer it until the twentieth century. Morocco was the only part of the Arabo-Islamic world which did not become part of the Ottoman empire. In 1912, however, the country succumbed to western colonialism and became a French Protectorate until its independence in 1956.

Today, Morocco possesses a rich artistic and cultural heritage which displays a remarkable continuity with the past. The tour explores the dynamics of this continuity, and the different influences which have created Morocco's unique historical and cultural inheritance. The three most important elements in the formation of Morocco's cultural identity were the Arab conquests and subsequent Islamisation of the Berbers; Morocco's interaction with Muslim Spain, known in Arabic as al-Andalus; and the connections between Morocco and sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition to Islam, the Arabs brought the Arabic language to Morocco, connecting the Berbers to the rich Arab civilisation of the Middle East. They also brought a tradition of urbanism which contributed to the development of the great cities of Morocco. Islamisation and urbanisation created a dynamic interplay between desert and city; between tribe and state; and between rural Berber and urban Hispano-Arab culture.

Morocco's dialectic with Spain began when the peninsula was conquered by Arabo-Berber forces in the early eighth century, subsequently becoming the centre of Islamic civilisation in the west under the Umayyads of Córdoba. The most famous Berber dynasties of Morocco, the Almoravids and Almohads, both ruled in Muslim Spain, adding their religious ideals and architectural forms to Hispano-Muslim culture. In turn Nasrid Granada exported its poetry and decorative styles to Morocco, creating the 'Andalusian' decorative form which graces both palaces and madrasas (theological colleges) from the fourteenth century onwards. When Granada fell to Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492, ending the Muslim era in Iberia, Muslim and Jewish refugees moved to Morocco, carrying with them their culture which further enriched Moroccan civilisation.

Morocco's connection with sub-Saharan Africa was quite different, but nonetheless important.

The two regions were linked by the trans-Saharan caravan trade: Morocco exported the products of the Middle East, including Islam, to Africa and imported gold and slaves. Gold enriched and empowered Moroccan dynasties, while the black slaves added a rich African thread to Moroccan culture, particularly in the south.

Since the arrival of the Arabs in the seventh century, and the gradual conversion of the Berbers to Islam, Morocco has been ruled by a series of Arabo-Berber dynasties, most of whom emerged from the countryside to seize the cities. These Muslim dynasties have ruled Morocco continuously from the eighth century to the present day and they have contributed to the development of the cultural landscape in many ways. Their most evident contribution was the creation of Morocco's great imperial cities - Fes, Marrakesh, Rabat, and Meknes - which express in different ways the origins and aspirations of their

## Al-Maghrib al-Aqsa: Islamic Civilisation in Morocco

26 March - 13 April 2014

**Lecturers: Iain Shearer, Islamic expert and archaeologist**

**19 DAYS:** Rabat (3 nights) • Tangier (1 night) • Chefchaouen (1 night) • Fes (4 nights) • Erfoud (1 night) • Tineghir (1 night) • Ouarzazate (3 nights) • Marrakesh (4 nights)



Chefchaouen Fondouk

founders. Fes was founded by the Idrisids and their urban Arab followers from Spain and Tunisia and became a city of high Islamic culture. Marrakesh and Rabat were founded by the Almoravids and Almohads respectively who carried memories of their origins in the Sahara and the High Atlas, and imbued the architecture of their cities with the spirit of the mudbrick fortresses of the deep south. Morocco's youngest imperial city, Meknes, was the capital of the first 'Alawi sultan, a southerner deeply influenced by African culture, who built a royal complex evoking the great palace compounds of ancient Ghana and Mali. In all these cities, jewel-like palaces and religious buildings demonstrate their founders' desire to share the fruits of Islamic civilisation and urban life.

# New Tour Cruise with ASA

## Etruscan Kings to Ottoman Sultans: Rome to Istanbul Aboard the Silversea 'Silver Spirit'

6 - 21 June 2014

**19 DAYS:** Rome (4 nights) • Cruise Rome to Istanbul (10 nights) • Istanbul (1 night)

Join **Professor Frank Sear** on this study tour between the Roman Empire's two greatest cities, Rome and Istanbul. You sail the world of Agamemnon, Odysseus, Herodotus, Thucydides, Virgil, Pliny and St Paul, via Southern Italy and Sicily, the Greek islands of Santorini and Chios, and the magnificent ancient cities on the Turkish Coast, as Frank introduces the abiding richness of Eastern Mediterranean history and culture. His 3-day in depth ASA orientation in Rome, the subsequent luxury cruise and the 2-day ASA Istanbul program distil the march of seminal civilizations – Minoan, Mycenaean Doric, Etruscan, Hellenic, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, medieval and Renaissance – that shaped Western civilization from 2000BC to 1500AD.

Ancient Rome's great Pantheon and monumental baths, medieval churches like San Clemente, great museums such as the Villa Borghese and Villa Giulia and sculptural masterpieces like Michelangelo's Moses (San Pietro in Vincoli), as well as the striking Etruscan tombs at Tarquinia introduce the cruise.

**By day** anchor on crystal shores for full days to explore the ruins of ancient cities like recently reopened Minoan Akrotiri (Santorini), Roman Pompeii and Ephesus, visiting magnificent temples and scintillating churches with rich mosaics, grand antique theatres like breath-taking Taormina, and some of Europe's richest museum collections.

**By night** you enjoy the sun setting over the Mediterranean, lectures and other activities on board the Silverseas 'Silver Spirit' while sailing to the next magnificent destination.



Vista Cabin, Silverseas 'Silver Spirit'

Constantinople was inaugurated by the Emperor Constantine in 330 AD on the site of an earlier city. It was modelled upon the ancient imperial capital of Rome and would initially have looked like any major city of the empire. It was, however, transformed as Christian churches supplanted imperial secular monuments as its key nodal points. After its sacking by the Ottomans, mosques and other Islamic buildings and complexes such as souks supplanted Christian monuments.



Ancient Bar, Pompeii

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## RIGA : A Sophisticated Capital City

*RIGA CITY (pop. 900,000), capital of LATVIA, north-central Europe, on the Daugava River near its entry into the Gulf of Riga. It is a major Baltic port, rail junction, military base, and leading industrial centre. Among its manufactures are machines, ships, and diesel engines. Long settled by Baltic tribes, Riga became (1201) the seat of the Livonian Brothers of the Sword, a German military order dedicated to Christianizing the Baltic region. Riga joined the Hanseatic League in 1282. After the Livonian Order was dissolved (1561) the city passed to Poland (1581), Sweden (1621), and then to Russia (1721). It became the capital of independent Latvia in 1920 and was the capital of the Latvian SSR (1940-91) while the country was forcibly annexed by the USSR. During World War II Riga was occupied (1941-44) by Germany.*

Napoleon called Riga a suburb of London where the traditions of many nations crossed paths. The legend says that once in a hundred years the Devil pokes his head from the water of the Daugava River and asks if Riga is ready. If he hears Yes, the city that is just over 800 years old would inevitably sink into the Daugava. For this reason, Riga must be built continuously and becomes more beautiful each year. If you do not believe this, come and have a look!

A big city in feeling and sophistication, Riga has come to life again after half a century of Soviet domination. Latvians think of their cities as feminine and Riga is an unquestioned lady! The moment you walk her streets you understand why in the 1930s she was known as "The Little Paris of the North". Superb architecture, from the medieval to Art Nouveau, an Old City that rivals Prague, operas and concerts, and active artistic life, smart shops and intimate restaurants, all testify to her being once again a major European capital.

Perhaps the best indicator of Riga's cultural strength is that far from old buildings being torn down to make way for high-rises, they are being lovingly restored. Almost symbolically, one of the first to be brought back to its former glory was the Opera House. Funds may be in short supply, but energy and imagination are not, and Latvians are rightly proud of a lady who celebrated her 800th birthday in the year 2001. For countless centuries the unhurried waters of the Daugava river provided a Baltic access to trade with what is now Russia. Riga was founded in 1201 by German invaders, whose Knights of the Sword built fortresses by the river and founded the Livonian Order. Their sway yielded to that of the

Bishops, who maintained the city as a semi-independent state and Hanseatic town. To this day Riga has magnificent churches and if you take the lift inside the restored spire of St. Peter's Church, you will step out on to a viewing platform with spectacular views of a township that runs from medieval houses and fortress towers to late 19 century Art Nouveau facades. Running out from the Old Town, past the Freedom Monument, is the Brivibas (Freedom) Boulevard. In this century alone the Boulevard has been named after Alexander of Russia, Hitler and Lenin! Now it is Brivibas again and you can feel freedom in the air in Riga.

Miraculously the old city (Vecriga) has been neither badly damaged by war nor disfigured by high rise development. Now pedestrianised, it is a delight to explore. Contained between the Daugava river and the park along the Pilsetas Canal, once the line of the city walls, it is a microcosm of architectural development from the 1200s to the 1900s. Doma Laukums is the main square and on summer evenings it is alive with people drinking beer, feasting on barbecued food and enjoying the warm sun.



Elizabethes Ielza Building, architect Mikhail Eisenstein



Old Gun Powder Tower

The Dome Cathedral itself houses one of Europe's finest organs and is a frequent venue for concerts. Look out too for the powder tower (Pulvertornis) of 1330, the old city walls, the Art Nouveau houses on Alberta iela, and Kalkuieļa, which is the Fifth Avenue of Riga. There is an open air art gallery on the garden square and street musicians play. Numerous small bars and restaurants satisfy just about every taste. By contrast the new city stretches out in every direction, although contained by a green belt of forests. Among these woods are the Ethnographic Museum and the vast auditorium of the Mezaparks open-air stage, both worth visiting, especially during festivals.

## Heritage Cities of the Baltic: Vilnius, Kaunas, Riga, Tartu & Tallinn

24 June - 8 July 2014

**Lecturers: Dr Uldis Ozolins &  
Aleksandrs Vigdorciķ**

**Short  
Program**

**15 DAYS: LITHUANIA** Vilnius (3 nights) • Kaunas (2 nights); **LATVIA** Riga (4 nights); **ESTONIA:** Tartu (1 night) • Tallinn (4 nights)

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(8 - 23 June 2014)

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## Treasures of Pre Inca Civilisations

*The following article was written in 2009, when visitors to Peru focused on the archaeological remains of the Inca, and the pre-Incan civilizations to the north of Lima were largely unknown. This situation has changed somewhat in the past 4 years and tourism in the country's north has developed. However, the Moche and Chimu sites of Chan Chan, Caral, Sipan and the Temples of the Sun and Moon attract far fewer visitors than the more famous Machu Picchu. Instead of jostling for photo opportunities with tourists from around the globe, visitors to the north commonly enjoy having vast sites to themselves, and can truly take in the majesty and extraordinary complexity of the pre-Columbian civilisations.*

Nine years ago, a discovery was made about a place called Caral in northern Peru that transformed the understanding of human history in the Americas. To get to Caral you take the Panamerican Highway north from Lima for 112 miles, then turn east along a dirt road. The signpost was so small I missed it, though my guide, Alejandra Cabieses, assured me it had been there. "If you don't know the way it is very difficult," she admitted.

Further on, there was a yellow arrow painted on a rock. Then, before bumping through a battery chicken farm, our minibus had to be sprayed with disinfectant. One hour (and just 15 miles) after leaving the highway we reached the site of one of the oldest civilisations in the world. No one appeared to be at home. We got out and looked around. A desert plain bordering a fertile river valley was dotted with flat-topped pyramids and ringed by the foothills of the Andes. A wind moaned. Those mountains brewed an atmosphere of mystery and loneliness that reminded me of Castlerigg Stone Circle in the English Lake District.

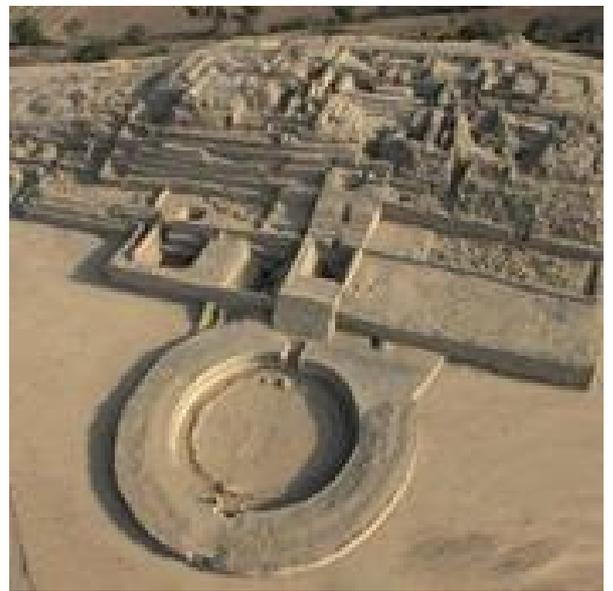
During the 20th century Caral remained unexplored, just one among many ancient sites dotting the coastal strip between Lima and Peru's border with Ecuador in the north. From the pyramids of the Moche people to Chan Chan, the vast adobe city of the Chimu empire, which immediately predated the Incas, succeeding city states had evolved and dissolved. All were fascinating but none was regarded as pre-eminent.

Then, as the 21st century dawned, Caral took centre-stage. In 2000, carbon dating of a bag woven from plant fibres proved that the 163-acre site had been built between 3000 and 2100BC, making it the oldest civilisation on the continent of the Americas and contemporaneous with the pyramids of Giza in Egypt. At a stroke, Caral was rocketed into the archaeological superleague.

This lonely place became a source of national pride – La civilización más antigua de America – and excavations and restoration began in earnest. Pyramids, circular plazas, a round altar and strange monoliths have been revealed. The greatest find so far has been a set of 32 flutes made of pelican and condor bones and decorated with images of supernatural beings. But on this overcast morning Caral's celebrity status was hardly in evidence. As we waited by the empty ticket desk, Alejandra, a tour guide based in Lima, told me I was the first visitor she had brought to Caral in 2008, and it was already June. "Everything about Peru is Inca, Inca," she said. "Everyone goes to Machu Picchu. They don't stay long enough to come up here." She was right. In a week spent among fragments of dead civilisations, haunted by phantasmagoric deities, we met just a handful of tourists. The shape of the trip was neatly chronological, starting with Caral and ending in the city of Cajamarca where the last Inca king was killed by the Spanish in 1532 – and ancient Peru, in its successive manifestations and outlandish beliefs, was made extinct.

The exciting thing about these old cultures is that archaeology is in its infancy in Peru and there is so much still to discover. At Caral, where more than 3,000 people are thought to have lived – fishing and trading, worshipping gods and observing the stars – they are still looking for the cemetery. We, meanwhile, were looking for the ticket seller. When he finally showed up he produced a megaphone and hailed someone to show us round. Dino Augurto appeared walking briskly from a far pyramid he had been working on. He used to labour in the fields near Caral for about \$3 a day. Now he earns \$200 a month as an "excavation technician". And when tourists turn up he becomes an "orientator", walking them round and explaining things. Across an area as big as a small town, Dino led us among the remains of the principal monumental buildings. We felt awed by the scale and sophistication of these stepped pyramids, temples and public spaces. Who were the people who built them? We will never really know. "Our history is in the ruins but the ruins are without history," said Dino. He meant that no written records have been left. The key fact about the Andean peoples before the coming of the Spanish is that they were illiterate, but that didn't mean they were primitive – they simply channelled their creative energies in other ways, often with astonishing eloquence.

The next day I experienced the full power of this eloquence in the unlikelyst of places. In the neat colonial city of Trujillo, a few miles north of Caral, we stopped at a Repsol garage sited on a busy intersection. Opening a door in a building on the edge of the forecourt, we were invited to descend some basement steps until we were, literally, standing underneath the gas pumps. A young man then unlocked a door to reveal a room crammed floor to ceiling with priceless objects. The Museo Cassinelli, named after the owner of the garage, José Cassinelli, is a collection of 2,000 pieces of pottery (with a further 4,000 in storage) dating from 1500BC to the Inca period. Acquired from huaqueros (looters) over more than 50 years, every piece is original and exquisite, speaking powerfully of the culture it comes from. The most compelling pieces belong to the Moche culture (1st to 8th century AD), which was centred on two vast mud-brick pyramids, now



Top: Caral, Middle: Pots, Next & Bottom: El Brujo Archaeological Complex

called the Huacas del Sol y de la Luna (Temples of the Sun and Moon), just south of Trujillo. The Mochica, as they were known, were the only ancient people who made realistic portraits of themselves, showing a brutal candour that connects across the millennia.

Stacked on Sr Cassinelli's chipboard shelving are ceramic representations of conjoined twins, a man with a nose eaten away by leishmaniasis, another with a cleft palate, a person with Down's syndrome, someone with bulging thyroid eyes, another who looks zoned out on hallucinogens, an amputee with no arms or feet, a sufferer from elephantiasis, a series of three studies of the same face showing the onset of blindness – and much more, including lots of realistic sex.

The canny Sr Cassinelli, now 88, put in an appearance while we were there. "There is no writing here," he said, pointing at the ceramics, "but in each piece there is a message." One possible, intriguing message, given the Mochica's evident fascination with physical imperfection, is that they revered people who were different, rather than stigmatising them. The volume and quality of Sr Cassinelli's collection was so dazzling as to make me momentarily forget how he acquired it. While looting and trafficking in antiquities are serious criminal offences, collecting them is legal, and it is because of this benign double-standard that much of Peru's priceless patrimonio has remained in the country rather than disappearing abroad.

It was the huaqueros of this region who made one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the late 20th century. In 1987, at a place called Sipan, villagers became rich overnight after plundering gold and jewels from a Moche burial site. When the authorities got wind, they unearthed funeral treasures so plentiful and exotic that these funeral tombs of the so-called Lords of Sipan inevitably became known as "the Tutankhamun of the Americas".

Wandering the site, we gazed 20 feet down into the burial pits, where replicas of the finds have been placed: a tomb guardian with amputated feet, a sacrificed llama, the skeletons, the treasures.

All around, the mesa-like, flat-topped hills overlooking the Sipan Valley are actually temples made of mud-bricks, troves of untold treasure awaiting exploration. "And nobody comes here," said Alejandra, shaking her head. "Everybody goes to..." "Machu Picchu," I supplied.

The actual treasures are on display in a museum 20 miles away in Lambayeque. If it seems perverse that the museum is so far from the site, the pieces themselves live up to the King Tut billing. In the most lavish grave, the Lord of Sipan was found with 451 ornaments: gold and turquoise earrings, pectorals made of seashells, half-moon nose clips of gilded copper, gold and silver nose rings depicting sun and moon and a mesmerisingly weird necklace of 10 gold peanuts and 10 silver ones.

You could say that gold and silver destroyed the last of the pre-Columbian civilisations. To visit the place where the old, preliterate Peru died, we left the sea-fogs and fishmeal factories of the coastal desert and turned east off the Panamerican, climbing through irrigated foothills alongside the Chillete river. Past rice terraces in semicircular steps, we reached the ceja de selva, "eyebrow of the jungle", the altitude at which mangos, bananas, castor oil plants and sugarcane grow, and the hallucinogenic San Pedro cacti stand like stubble on the jutting jawlines of the Andean headlands.

Cajamarca is a colonial town sprawled across a mountain plain at an altitude of 9,000ft, high enough to put the squeeze on unacclimatised lungs. The native population lend it an exotic feel. The women wear brightly coloured blouses, lots of petticoats instead of underwear, and marvellous stovepipe hats made of palm leaf with brims with turned-up edges like the Victoria amazonica lily pad.



Royal-Tomb, Museo-Tumbas-Reales-de-Sipan, Lambayeque

Ironically, given the treacherous role of gold in the city's history, an enormous gold mine (the biggest in Latin America) was discovered nearby in the early Nineties. Along with some prosperity, the Yanacocha mine has brought bribery, corruption and even murder to this peaceable place. In such ways does history repeat itself.

In 1532, the Inca king Atahualpa was captured in Cajamarca by the Spaniard Francisco Pizarro. The circumstances, in which many thousand Inca warriors were massacred in a matter of hours by 200 of Pizarro's men, are still a source of pain to the indigenous people. Atahualpa himself was imprisoned in a room in his own palace.

All that remains of the palace is that room, in a side street off the main square. Of classic Inca design, it is the size of a double garage and consists of large blocks of stone with trapezoid niches set in the walls. It is known as the Cuarto del Rescate, the Room of Ransom, because it was there that Atahualpa reached his hand above his head, touched the wall, and promised to fill the room with gold and silver up to that line, in return for his freedom. Nowadays a red line "marks the limit of the ransom".

Atahualpa kept his word; his subjects brought huge quantities of precious objects, which were melted into coins and taken to Spain. Pizarro executed him. "It should be called the Room of Deception rather than the Room of Ransom," said my guide, Jorge.

For the first time in Peru's history, there were words to tell the story. Pizarro wrote that Atahualpa was "a handsome man with an imposing stare". The vision of him stretching up to summon untold treasures with his hand, while his adversary kept treachery in his heart, came easily in this place of cold stones. In that moment, said Jorge, pointing at the line on the wall, "one culture died and another was born".

*By Nigel Richardson, Telegraph , UK , 24 Jun 2009*

## Peru: More than Machu Picchu

Lima to Arequipa: Coastal Lowlands & the Unknown North (22 October - 7 November 2013)

Arequipa to Cuzco: Into the Andes (7 - 12 November 2013)

Cuzco & a Journey to Machu Picchu (12 - 19 November 2013)

**Leader: Dr John Wreglesworth**



**28 DAYS:** Lima (3 nights) • Caral (1 night) • Casma (1 night) • Trujillo (2 nights) • Chiclayo (2 nights) • Paracas (3 nights) • Arequipa (4 nights) • Colca Canyon (2 nights) • Puno (2 nights) • Cuzco (1 night) • Cuzco (2 nights) • Sacred Valley (2 nights) • Machu Picchu Pueblo (2 nights) • Cuzco (1 night)

Uros people living on the Reed Islands, Lake Titicaca



# New Tour

## Along the Orange Blossom Coast: Barcelona to Valencia

21 April – 3 May 2014

The eastern seaboard of Spain, incorporating the trading cities of Valencia and Barcelona, has a very different environment, history and cultural orientation to Castile in the centre of the Iberian peninsula. While high mountains and arid grasslands dominate Castile, with its continental climate of cold wet winters and hot dry summers, the east has a Mediterranean climate and vegetation. The region's early settlers, Greeks, Phoenicians, Romans and Arabs for centuries engaged with the wider Mediterranean world. After the 8th c. Muslim invasion of Spain, the traditional cultivation of olives and vines in these lands was transformed by new crops (citrus fruits and rice) enabled by ingenious Muslim systems of irrigation; Valencia's tribunal that settles disputes over water, the most precious of resources, still holds weekly public meetings as it has done since being set up by the Córdoba caliph in 960 AD. The medieval Christian Kingdom of Aragón (incorporating, after 1150, the County of Barcelona) was also thoroughly Mediterranean in its outlook. At their height, medieval Barcelona maintained a huge Mediterranean maritime trade network that stretched as far as Constantinople and was particularly active in North Africa; religious differences were not allowed to hinder the pursuit of profit. At different times the South of France, Sardinia, Sicily, parts of Southern Italy and even Attica came under Aragonese control. Such links had cultural consequences. For example, Languedoc and Provence shared with their Spanish neighbours the art and language of the troubadours.

By the 12th century, the Kingdom of Aragón was expanding at the expense of the Muslims. The Aragonese crown, and the military Order of the Knights Templar, built strong castles to defend territory newly won from Islam. We shall visit a number of these castles, such as that at Miravet, which dominate the heights above picturesque villages.

Conquered in 1238 by James I of Aragón, Valencia also flourished on Aragonese overseas trade. Its fine Gothic buildings, with churches and the spectacular Silk Exchange testify to Valencia's great wealth and civic pride. It was one of the most prosperous cities in Spain for 400 years until the expulsion of over 200,000 *Moriscos* (Muslim converts to Christianity) brought economic dislocation and human misery. The unification of Spain under Charles V and the new orientation towards Spain's American possessions also led to a decline in Barcelona's and Valencia's fortunes. Their Mediterranean coastal locations now worked against them, for they became prey to constant attacks by pirates; when Mediterranean states were weak, endemic piracy was always a problem. This constant threat, however, produced its own



Miravet

architectural culture, seen in the fine castles, fortresses and towers that guard cities and coasts; we shall explore a number of these structures. The cities' stagnation assured them of one other virtue that you will come to appreciate on this tour, for it preserved their historic centres and the marvelous Gothic buildings you will see from later development.

Revival of the cities' fortunes under Charles III, who became monarch after the War of Spanish Succession (1701 – 1716), brought an exuberant Baroque to Spain's

Mediterranean cities. In the late 19th century Spain's Art Nouveau ('Modernisme') has left a gloriously emblematic mark on Barcelona and Valencia as well as on the pretty small town of Reus, Gaudí's birth-place. Barcelona's great Sagrada Familia and its fine urban palaces, Reus' exuberant architecture and Valencia's Mercado Central, with its swirling wrought iron, glittering stained glass and ceramic mosaics, a hymn to the region's agricultural abundance, constitute some of the most significant early modern architecture in Europe. Soon after this, just as France's Côte d'Azur's villages, towns and cities became centres of modernist painting, sculpture, music and literature, so Barcelona and Valencia participated in the growth of modernist art through the work of such artists as Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró. Barcelona's Picasso Museum and Miró Foundation, which we visit, deservedly stand as major European modernist collections.



Santiago Calatrava's ultra-modern Alameda Bridge offers a stark contrast to the historic monuments we have hitherto visited in Valencia. Built over the Túria riverbed, this extraordinary construction is one of Calatrava's most beautiful projects. Born in an outlying part of Valencia, Calatrava, a sculptor, architect and structural engineer, first became famous for elevating functional buildings like bridges and railway stations to the status of fine art. Apart from its fine design, the bridge incorporates many highly innovative features. For example, the steel canopies that mark the entrances to the underground station beneath the bridge can be lowered by hydraulically driven rods, to rest flush with the pavers, completely sealing the station.



This tour will explore the distinctiveness of Barcelona, Valencia and cities towns and villages such as Tarragona, Tortosa, Reus, Montblanc and Miravet, which has been nurtured by their deep relation to the Mediterranean and a strong sense of their own uniqueness. The tour will also indulge in the pleasures of regional cuisine and wines, such as Valencia's *paella*.

## Barcelona to Valencia: Along the Orange Blossom Coast

21 April - 3 May 2014



**Lecturer: Dr John Wreglesworth**

**13 DAYS:** Barcelona (4 nights) • Tortosa (4 nights) • Valencia (4 nights)

This tour may be combined with:

Andalucia: Christians and Muslims in Southern Spain (4 - 19 May 2014)

Garden Masterpieces of Italy & England and the Chelsea Flower Show (4 - 23 May 2014)



# Feature Hotel



## Hotel Villa Angelo d'Oro, Rovinj

Hidden away in the historic pedestrian centre of Rovinj in a lovely little street is the former 17th century Bishop's Palace now the Hotel Angelo d'Oro. The green-shuttered façade is typically Venetian and inside, vaulted ceilings and exposed stone walls create intimate spaces for dining and relaxation. A tiny rooftop loggia offers stunning views over the rooftops.

A member of the "Historic hotels of Europe" this small boutique hotel offers 23 individual rooms furnished with antique furniture, oil paintings and other works of art. The well-appointed rooms offer garden, street and sea views and include air-conditioning. The garden terrace is the perfect place to start your day with a morning coffee or relax in the evening with a good glass of wine. In the warm summer months breakfast is also served on the terrace.

Blue seas, white stone and the green interior make up the colour scheme of Istria, the largest peninsula in Croatia. The heart-shaped peninsula is a hidden garden of beauty with its small, picturesque medieval towns perched on the peaks of its hills emanating peace and gentleness.

From the seaside, this beautiful preserved town of Rovinj is protected by the high rocky coast and walls of the houses built on the cliffs, and from the landside it is sheltered by solid bulwarks. Once you step through the Balbi Arch and enter the old town, you will find yourself in a different time dimension.



Top: Old City where hotel is located , Bottom: Outdoor area

## An Adriatic Journey: From Trieste to Dubrovnik

4 - 19 May 2014

Short  
Program

Lecturer: **Christopher Wood**

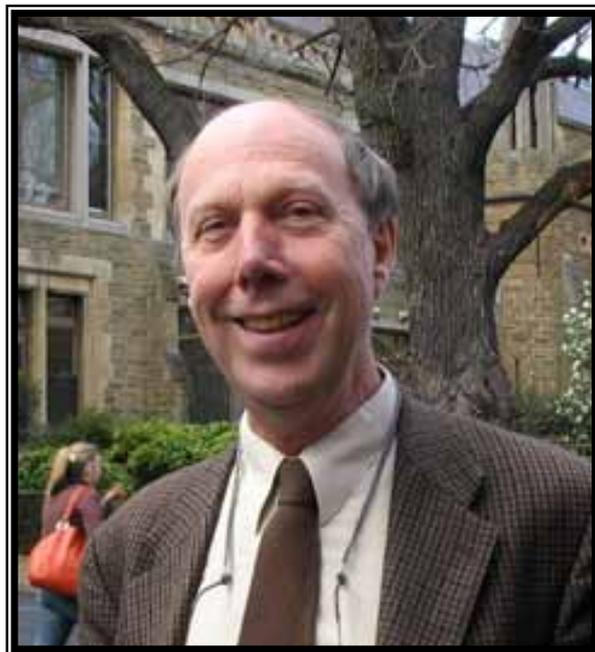
**16 DAYS:** ITALY Trieste (2 nights) • CROATIA Rovinj (2 nights) • Plitvice Lakes (1 night) • Zadar (2 nights) • Split (2 nights) • Hvar (2 nights) • Dubrovnik (4 nights)

Combine with: Hidden Treasures of Rome, Viterbo & Tivoli (8 - 21 May 2013)

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[www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)

## Profile of a Group Leader: Frank Sear

**Emeritus Professor Frank Sear** is a graduate of Cambridge University, where he did both his undergraduate and post-graduate work. As a Scholar at the British School at Rome he did research on Roman Wall and Vault Mosaics and as a Cotton Fellow, he excavated in Benghazi and Leptis Magna, Libya. In 1975 he took up a lecturing position at the University of Adelaide where he taught Classical Archaeology as well as Latin and Greek. He has since been a visiting scholar at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and Hugh Last Fellow at the British School at Rome. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. In 1991 he took up the position of Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Melbourne. He was co-Director of the Australian Pompeii project from 1978 to 1988, and since 1990 has directed the Australian Roman Theatres project, which involved surveying the theatres at Gubbio, Taormina, Benevento and Pompeii in Italy, Jerash in Jordan, and Orange in France. He has written numerous articles on his archaeological work and published a number of books including *Roman Wall and Vault Mosaics*, *Roman Architecture*, and *Roman Theatres*. He has conducted 14 archaeological tours in Italy, Greece, Turkey, the Middle East, Egypt, North Africa, Spain and France.



### Frank is leading:

- The Wine Dark Sea: Southern Italy & Sicily (29 September - 20 October 2013)
- Hidden Treasures of Rome, Viterbo & Tivoli: from Antiquity to the Baroque (8 - 21 May 2014)
- Etruscan Kings to Ottoman Sultans: from Rome to Istanbul aboard Silversea's 'Silver Spirit' (6 - 21 June 2014)
- The Wine Dark Sea: Southern Italy, Sicily & the Aeolian Islands (1 - 23 October 2014)



# ASA Orientation Lecture Series

Explore the world in free public lectures hosted by Australians Studying Abroad. All lectures are illustrated. For all lectures, places are limited and people wishing to attend are advised to book well in advance. We cannot guarantee that you will be able to obtain seats at the door on the day.

**To make a booking** please contact ASA on: (03) 9822 6899, Freecall 1800 645755 (outside Melbourne Metro) or email: [info@asatours.com.au](mailto:info@asatours.com.au)

## SYDNEY LECTURE SERIES

VENUE: Lecture Theatre, The Australian Museum, Cnr College & William Sts

### Sunday 28 July 2013

1.00-1.50pm Iran: Art & Culture of the Persians - Iain Shearer

2.20-3.10pm Mughals, Rajputs & Villages: The Cultural Heritage of North India - Bernard Hoffert

3.20-4.10pm Ottoman Palaces and Poetry: Istanbul, Edirne, Bursa and Beyond - Susan Scollay

### Sunday 4 August 2013

1.00-1.50pm Garden Masterpieces of Italy & England including the Chelsea Flower Show - John Patrick

2.20-3.10pm Great Houses and Gardens of East Anglia - Richard Heathcote

3.20-4.10pm Landscapes & Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence & the Cévennes N.P - John Patrick

### Sunday 18 August 2013

1.00-1.50pm Bhutan: Himalayan Fortress of the Gods - Alex McKay

2.20-3.10pm Islamic Civilisation in Morocco - Christopher Wood

3.20-4.10pm Temples, Monasteries, and Tea Gardens: Sikkim, Darjeeling, Dharamsala and Beyond - Alex McKay



# ASA Orientation Lecture Series

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## MELBOURNE LECTURE SERIES

VENUE: Monash Art & Design Faculty Theatre, Caulfield Campus, Dandenong Rd.

### Saturday 3 August 2013

- 1.00-1.50pm Iran: Art & Culture of the Persians - Iain Shearer
- 2.20-3.10pm Islamic Civilisation in Morocco - Christopher Wood
- 3.20-4.10pm Bhutan: Himalayan Fortress of the Gods - Alex McKay

### Saturday 10 August 2013

- 1.00-1.50pm Hidden Treasures of Rome, Viterbo and Tivoli; from Antiquity to the Baroque - Frank Sear
- 2.20-3.10pm An Adriatic Journey: from Trieste to Dubrovnik - Christopher Wood
- 3.20-4.10pm Exploring the Black Sea: from the Birth of Civilisation to the Crimean War - Christopher Wood

### Saturday 24 August 2013

- 1.00-1.50pm Garden Masterpieces of Italy & England including the Chelsea Flower Show - John Patrick
- 2.20-3.10pm La Serenissima: Venice, 'Jewel of the Adriatic' - Bernard Hoffert
- 3.20-4.10pm Etruscan Kings to Ottoman Sultans: from Rome to Istanbul aboard Silversea's 'Silver Spirit' - Frank Sear



# INVITATION

## Western Australia

The Friends of the Gallery of Western Australia  
are delighted to host

Iain Shearer to present the 2013 ASA International Scholars Series.

Samarkand is an almost legendary name for many in the West. Redolent of golden glamour, turquoise, spices and oriental cruelty, the capital of Timur is a grand monument to high culture. Its very foundations were constructed on the blood and bones of countless artisans and craftsman dragged in bondage from the great cities of Iran, Iraq, Turkey and Syria, to beautify this memorial to a warrior king, founder of one of the greatest dynasties of the medieval world: Timur Leng and the Timurids (Timurid dynasty 1370-1509).

Even today in the Persian poetry of Iran, Samarkand is described as the desired destination for the learned man and lovers alike; for Babur, founder of the great Mughal dynasty of India, Samarkand was his lost ancestral home, mourned even as he and his descendants carved out their magnificent Indian empire; to merchants and traders from as far afield as Venice and Beijing, Samarkand was a marketplace where they could safely meet at the intersection of the legendary silk roads. Yet although Samarkand today sits squarely within the modern state of Uzbekistan, a Turkic speaking people, the tradition of the city is solidly Persian. Like her sister city of Bukhara, (another name redolent of Eastern exoticism) Samarkand was deliberately ripped from her Tajik/Persian heartland and 'donated' by Stalin in 1925 as capital of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, part of the Communist programme to ensure Russian dominance of myriad peoples of the Central Asia through divide and rule. Still today, despite vast investment in a faux official 'Uzbek' history, the arts, architecture, culture and even language of the great Central Asia cities remains indelibly linked to their kin in Iran.

The history of Persian Iran and Central Asia is an epic cast of Cyrus the Great, Xerxes, Alexander, Zoroaster, Julian the Apostate, Nestorius the Heretic, Chingis Khan, Persepolis, Timur Leng, Avicenna, Gowhar Shad, Uleg Bek, Shapur I, Mokanna The Veiled One, Sassanian Queens Azarmedukht and Boran; Khosru and Shirin, al-Khwarizmi, and all are encapsulated by beautiful Scheherazade and her 1001 tales.

### Wednesday 7 August 2013

**Lecture:** Glories of The Great Kings:  
The Achaemenid adventure in Iran

Doors open 6pm. Lecture 6.45pm

**Booking Code:** F1322

Cyrus. Darius. Xerxes. Westerners mostly know the Persian rulers of the largest empire the ancient world had ever seen, through the writings of their great rivals, the Greeks and Macedonians. Aeschylus, Xenophon, Herodotus all discussed, condemned and found themselves seduced by the wealth and glory of Achaemenid Iran; even Alexander the Great constructed his ideal of Universal Kingship upon foundations laid by the very same Achaemenid Great Kings he replaced through fire and sword. This lecture will reveal another side to the Persian story and why still today an Iranian King is revered worldwide by the Children of Israel.

### Thursday 8 August 2013

**Lecture:** Artists, Astronomers & Conquerors -  
The Timurid legacy in Uzbekistan

Doors open 6pm. Lecture 6.45pm

**Booking Code:** F1323

Timur/Tamerlane (r 1370-1405) founded an empire (Timurid dynasty 1370-1509) encompassing much of the Middle East, Central and South Asia. The Timurid elite, Turko-Mongols by ethnicity and language, established an artistic legacy which came to be shared by later Ottomans, Safavids and Mughals alike. We will examine the stunning Timurid legacy still to be found in modern Uzbekistan through a lens of imperial patronage: architecture, books, astronomy, paintings, poetry - all these illuminate a glorious world of medieval commerce, competition, warfare and empire.

**Where:**

Central Institute of Technology

Lecture Theatre, Building 1 Museum Street entrance

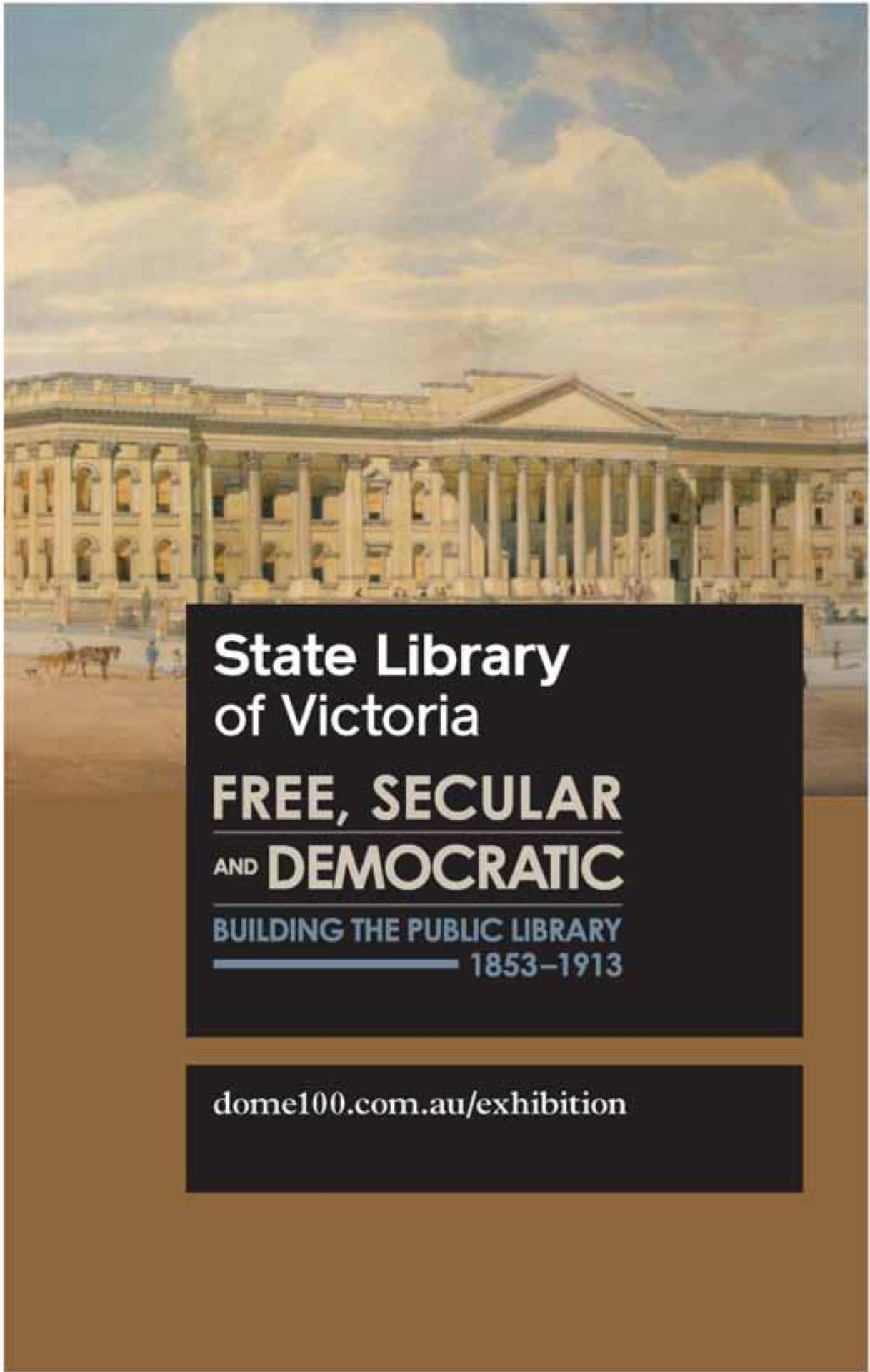
**Cost per event:** Gallery Members & ASA Clients \$40  
Guests \$50 (Including refreshments)

**Bookings Essential**

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*The Public Library*  
(detail), 1860,  
watercolour, gift of  
Mr McEwan, 1965

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