What was the Enlightenment?

CHRISTMAS LECTURE

Jane Austen and the Enlightenment

Dr Peter Ford

The Lunar Society and the Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution

Monday 23 January 2015

SCIENCE GROUP

The Lunar Society

THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014

T H E  V I C T O R S C H A R M A S T R I C H T S L E C T U R E

What was the Enlightenment?

Professor Paul Hyland

BRLSI Trustee & Bath Spa University

During the eighteenth century a distinctly modern vision of life emerged. As people began to feel as if they thought about themselves and the world, a whole new way of thinking developed, which still has an overwhelming impact today.

Wednesday 14 January 2015

Voltaire and the Enlightenment

Professor Nicholas Crouch

Director, Voltaire Foundation, University of Oxford

During his stay in England, Voltaire became a great admirer of Newton and Locke, and of English culture generally. In 1756, after his return to France, the publication of his Lettres on the English, in which he made many comparisons between English and French ideas, caused a huge sensation. Why?

Friday 23 January 2015

The Lunar Society and the Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution

Dr Peter Ford

Formerly University of Bath

The 18th century saw enormous changes in the political and social conditions in Britain. In Birmingham, an important feature was the formation of ‘The Lunar Society’ by scientists and engineers who were fascinated by the emotions and nature in France, England, and Scotland.

Monday 23 February 2015

PASSIONS IN BOTANY

Parsons, Patrons & Pirates: The Enlightenment origins of modern botany

Dr Robert Haslby

Natural History Museum

Wednesday 16 April 2015

Dennis Diderot and Dr Kate Tunstall

Bristol University, University of Oxford

Diderot was best known as co-founder, chief editor and drafter of the Encyclopédie. This 28 volume work (1751-1772), despite being officially banned in 1772, was not just a collection of some 74,000 articles contributed by over 130 contributors, it was intended to change the way people thought. How?

Wednesday 6 May 2015

The Lawyer and the Harem: Montesquieu on Society, Law

Professor Karen O’Brien

King’s College, London

Montesquieu’s Persian Letters, was a satire on French society. The effects, and the rest of his imaginary Persian visitors. The De Spiritus p evaluation of the knowledge gained through this work. It traced the highest prime from the rest of Europe, especially in Britain.

Monday 11 May 2015

HISTORY & CULTURE

Claude Martin & Pioneers of the Indian Enlightenment

Dr Kerry Sinanan

University of the West of England

The effects on European behaviour of Enlightenment thinking coming from the West that also influenced Indians. The transmission of information is examined, together with Martin’s British contemporaries, including the scholar judge Sir William Jones and botanist Colonel Robert Kay.

Monday 25 May 2015

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY AND CULTURE

The Lunar Society, ’Emile’ and Education

Dr Kate Iles

University of Liverpool

The men of the Lunar Society were well-known as scientists entrepreneurs and innovators, but they were also fathers. This talk will examine the influence Enlightened ideas about children and childhood had on the Lunar Society and how the part some of them played in the debates surrounding education at this time.

Friday 12 December 2014 to Friday 11 December 2015

A year-long series of lectures and events assessing the significance of the eighteenth century Enlightenment in our modern world.

BRLSI • 16 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN • 01225 312084 • For further information on Enlightenment events go to www.brlsi.org • BRLSⅢ • 16 Queen Square, Bath BA1 2HN • 01225 312084 • For further information go to www.brlsi.org •
The Enlightenment was one of the most exciting and significant currents of European culture. Battling against tyranny, ignorance and superstition, it formulated the ideals which still inform our society today: a belief in reason, criticism, freedom of thought, religion and expression, the belief in progress. And yet the Enlightenment was not a simple, unified movement. Kant, differed widely amongst itself. The eighteenth century was one of the most exciting and significant periods of intellectual and artistic development in Western history. The dissemination of knowledge through print was the engine of the Enlightenment. We explore the ideas that changed the world through BRLLS’s Collection - The Enlightenment: 18th Century Book Exposition. The authors and publishers of these books represent the spirit of Immanuel Kant’s motto for the Enlightenment:岁以上 advise (due to license).