

**T E Lawrence Society's Fifteenth Symposium**  
**St John's College Oxford**  
**Friday 21st to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018**

Members and guests are invited to a long weekend of lectures, exhibitions and good company in the beautiful surroundings of this historic Oxford College. Accommodation is in college rooms, with all meals available including a splendid formal dinner in the Great Hall and a traditional English Sunday lunch. Enjoy two-and-a-half days of presentations, browsing the bookstall, a private tour of Magdalen College's growing Lawrence archive and the showing of an acclaimed documentary.

**Friday 21st September, 2018**

**10.00 Registration Opens**

**12.00 & 13.30 Visit to Exhibition of the Lawrence-related archives at Magdalen College.**

The college has been building its collection of T E Lawrence related material at a considerable pace in the past few years. Recent bequests together with some much sought-after pieces have recently joined the collection and the college will present this unique exhibition, especially arranged for Society members.

**15.00 Refreshments in St John's College**

**15.30 Dr. Mark Jackson**, Senior Lecturer in Archeology at Newcastle University will introduce:

**The Gertrude Bell Archive**

Dr. Jackson is a Senior Lecturer in Archeology at Newcastle Upon Tyne University and Manager of the Gertrude Bell Photographic Archive. He co-curated the recent, acclaimed Gertrude Bell Exhibition at the Great North Museum. His many publications include *A critical examination of Gertrude Bell's contribution to archaeological research in central Asia Minor* in *Gertrude Bell and Iraq: A Life and Legacy*. 2017, Oxford University Press for the British Academy and (with Andrew Parkin) *The Extraordinary Gertrude Bell* (Tyne Bridge).

**16.30 Zeva Oelbaum/Sabine Krayenbuhl**, The making of the film '*Letters from Baghdad*'

The joint directors will introduce and discuss the making of this critically-acclaimed film and also answer questions from the audience.

**17.00 *Letters from Baghdad***, a full showing of the film.

19.30 Evening free or join other delegates for a social meal at a local Lebanese restaurant.

**Saturday 22nd September, 2018**

**09.30 Registration opens**

**10.00 Welcome and Introduction to the Symposium**

**10.15 Philip Walker: Forgotten Voices of the Arab Revolt: New Research on Lawrence's Comrades**

Philip will present his continuing research on Lawrence's comrades, based in part on tracking down their descendants. His discoveries include taped memoirs; photograph albums and other photographs; original letters including some from King Hussein of the Hejaz and 48 from Theodora Duncan; original invitations to Lawrence's funeral and memorial services; a dagger, headdress and agal; the Rolls-Royce *Blue Mist's* original name plate and history (helping a research team); and three "lost" copies of the 1926 *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

Philip Walker is an historian and retired archaeologist who spent many years working for English Heritage. He has travelled in Libya, Palestine, Morocco, Xinjiang (the Muslim far west of China) and other parts of Central Asia. This will be his third symposium talk, the most recent one being in 2016 (*New Light on the Arab Revolt*). His book, *Behind the Lawrence Legend: the Forgotten Few who Shaped the Arab Revolt*, was published by Oxford University Press in February 2018.

### **11.30 Refreshments**

### **12.00 Lorraine Tinsley: The Uncrowned King and the Desert Queen: T E Lawrence and Gertrude Bell – A Friendship**

Long written out of history, Gertrude Bell's remarkable life as an explorer, archaeologist, scholar and political actor in the shaping of post-WWI Iraq has only recently begun to emerge from the shadow of the Lawrence legend. Drawing upon a rich legacy of letters, diaries and photographs, historical accounts and current scholarship, this presentation will focus on Bell's friendship with Lawrence, from their first meeting in Carchemish in 1911, through their wartime collaboration in the Arab Bureau, to their post-war influence on British imperial policy and king-making in the Middle East.

Lorraine Tinsley is a Canadian writer and local historian who has lived, worked and travelled throughout the Middle East over the last five decades. She was educated in History at University of Western Ontario, public administration at Carleton University, Ottawa, and international sustainable development at Seneca College, Toronto. A Society member since 1988, she remains a keen student of British military history in the Middle East in both World Wars.

### **13.15 Lunch**

### **14.00 Joe Berton: "No titles or letters please."**

T. E. Lawrence had a disdain for official recognition of honours and awards, though England, France, Italy and the kingdom of Hejaz attempted to recognize his achievements in a number of ways. Lawrence realized the importance of military decorations for his soldier comrades and even gave assistance on getting their achievements recognized. Joe Berton will discuss the recommendation of Lawrence for the Victoria Cross and also explore the meeting between Lawrence and King George V, where Lawrence refused to accept the Order of the Bath and the Distinguished Service Order. The military men Lawrence himself honoured by presenting them with incomplete copies of his *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, will also be examined.

Joe Berton has studied Lawrence and the Arab Revolt extensively. He has lectured in Oxford at the T.E. Lawrence Symposium and published journal articles on Lowell Thomas, the photographs of Harry Chase, the uniforms and robes of Lawrence, and on the Imperial Camel Corps. His book *T. E. Lawrence and the Arab Revolt: An Illustrated Guide* was published in 2011. Joe has an important collection of original artifacts from this period and was a major contributor to the 2010-11 museum exhibition *Lawrence von Arabian, Genese eines Mythos* held in Oldenburg and Cologne Germany. He also loaned objects to the recent Lawrence of Arabia exhibition in Newark England. Until recently, he taught art in Oak Park, Illinois., which is now his home.

### **15.15 Dr Juliette Desplat: Lawrence's Other War – Beyond the Arab Revolt**

T E Lawrence's role in the First World War is best remembered as that of a young dashing officer leading the Arab Revolt in white billowing robes.

This paper will look at lesser known aspects of Lawrence's War. First, his time with the Arab Bureau in Cairo, where he joined other archaeologists and intellectuals recruited by Davis Hogarth to gather intelligence throughout the Middle East. Then, his failed mission to Mesopotamia, where he was sent as a liaison officer to relieve the siege of Kut by bribing the Turkish Commander. And at last his politics and endeavours to advance the Arab cause during the Peace Conference.

Dr Juliette Desplat is Head, Modern Overseas, Intelligence and Security Records at The National Archives (TNA) in the UK. She specialises in Middle Eastern history in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially looking at the development of national identities, the comparison of the French and British colonial ideologies and practices in the region, and the interaction between politics and archaeology.

Dr. Desplat is also TNA's lead on the current WW1-related Middle East project, looking at the region in its largest geographical and geopolitical definition (from Libya to Iran). In this context, she organises onsite and online events, and coordinates academic and public partnerships at the local, national and international levels.

### **16.30 Refreshments**

### **19.00 Drinks Reception**

### **19.30 Symposium Dinner at St John's College, Great Hall.**

**After Dinner Speaker: Joe Berton**

*Researching T. E. Lawrence; Some Adventures Along the Way."*

Joe Berton has been researching T. E. Lawrence since his university days. This pursuit of Lawrence has led to some fascinating adventures. He will present some stories about the more interesting people, objects and archives he has encountered, some real and some not, and his thoughts on the importance of sharing research.

## **Sunday 23rd September, 2018**

### **10.00 Neil Dearberg: How the ANZACS saved Lawrence**

Lawrence gives brief mentions of his contact with Anzacs in *Seven Pillars*; some pleasant, not all. The reality is spellbinding. The wide extent of ANZAC support to Lawrence, the Arab forces and the British campaign is revealed. The extraordinary successes of the airmen, horsemen, cameleers, armoured cars, medics and vets of two nations less than one hundred years old, with no military tradition, were unimagined but conclusive to the victories.

Neil was an Australian Army officer for fifteen years then operated a financial planning practice for 25 years. He attended four GARP (Great Arab Revolt Project) and three conflict archaeology projects with his American PhD colleague in Jordan. He has just published a book about the ANZAC involvement in the Sinai Palestine Campaign 1916-1918 that includes wide description of Lawrence and the Arab Revolt. He was Head of Research for a Royal Hashemite Court documentary production on the Arab Revolt in 2016, engaged by USAID as a major contributor to the Hussein Museum in Aqaba and presented the keynote address on behalf of the Australian Embassy and Jordan Museum for the centenary of the Arab Revolt in Amman.

### **11.15 Refreshments**

### **11.45 Nicholas Reed: The Portraits of T E Lawrence, and the artists who painted him.**

Among those who produced portraits of Lawrence were his friend Augustus John, at least sixteen times, William Roberts, twice, and several others who deserve to be better known. His Oxford colleague Robert Graves

made some interesting remarks on Lawrence's portraits, discussing his character, and what he felt they reveal. Photographs of Lawrence seem to include some which he commissioned, and others he took himself.

Nicholas Reed, BA (Oxon), MA (Manc), M Phil (St A) read Greats (Classics) at Oxford, and then did research in ancient history. He has been an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society since 1991, and has written four books on the Impressionists and one on Frost Fairs on the Frozen Thames. His latest book "My Father, the Man who Never Was" recounts his father's life, acting as a spy-catcher in MI5 from 1941 until 1976.

### **13.00 Lunch**

### **14.00 Dr John Winterburn: Trains, Planes and Automobiles: TE Lawrence and the armoured car and RAF raids in the Hejaz.**

The Hejaz Armoured Car Column (HACC) and the planes of the RAF provided British forces with mobility that was used with devastating effect against the entrenched Turkish positions along the Hejaz Railway. The paper will explore several of TEL's operations with the HACC and will focus on the armoured car raids from Tooth Hill camp and the combined operations against the Turkish fortifications at Mudawwara.

Dr. John Winterburn is the Landscape Archaeologist and Archive Researcher for the Great Arab Revolt Project and continues to work in Jordan. He is a Research Associate at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford and contributes to the Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) project analysing historic aerial photography and satellite imagery to identify and record archaeology in the region.

### **15.15 Refreshments**

### **15.45 Dr Alexander Will: A view from the other side into the unknown: What the Central Powers knew and thought about T E Lawrence in war and peace**

The paper will discuss a number of questions concerning the perception of T E Lawrence at the other side of the front line: How did Ottomans, Germans and Austro-Hungarians in the Middle East experience and judge the Arab Revolt during the war? How important was it in their perception for the defeat of the Ottomans? What did they know about the role played by the young British officer? Moreover it will be asked what exactly caused the popularity of T E Lawrence in Germany during the interwar period. The Lawrence Legend was able to thrive in Germany due to the unique political and intellectual environment of the Weimar Republic.

Alexander Will was educated in Hamburg, Jerusalem and London in Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. He took a PhD in history from Saarland University. He is author of 'Kein Griff nach der Weltmacht. Geheime Dienste und Propaganda der Mittelmächte im deutsch-österreichisch-türkischen Bündnis 1914-1918' and has published on the history of the Ottoman Empire and the First World War in the Middle East. Alexander Will is in charge of the Newsroom of a large German media outlet while pursuing his academic research as an independent scholar. He is a student of the most renowned German Lawrence-specialist, Prof. Peter Thorau.

**NB This lecture replaces the one previously advertised.**

### **17.00 Symposium Close**

### **17.15 T E Lawrence Society Annual General Meeting**

Secure your place by contacting Harriet Coates on [hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk](mailto:hon.secretary@telsociety.org.uk) or by post at The T E Lawrence Society, PO Box 728, Oxford OX2 9ZJ, England

*Please note that this programme may be subject to change*