BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF IRAQ & **THE BRITISH MUSEUM**

Illustrated Lecture by William Dalrymple
'From the Holy Mountain: A Journey in the Shadow of Byzantium'
in aid of the BISI Appeal to bring Iraqi scholars to the UK
Thursday 19 June 2008 at 6.30 p.m.
BP Lecture Theatre, The British Museum

William Dalrymple was born in Scotland and brought up on the shores of the Firth of Forth. He wrote the highly acclaimed bestseller *In Xanadu* when he was twenty-two. In 1989 William moved to Delhi where he lived for six years researching his second book, *City of Djinns,* which won the 1994 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. ***From the Holy Mountain,*** his acclaimed study of the demise of Christianity in its Middle Eastern homeland, was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award for 1997. A collection of his writings about India, *The Age of Kali,* won the French Prix D'Astrolabe in 2005. *White Mughals* was published in 2003, the book won the Wolfson Prize for History 2003 and the Scottish Book of the Year Prize.

William Dalrymple is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Royal Asiatic Society. In 2002 he was awarded the Mungo Park Medal by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his 'outstanding contribution to travel literature'. He wrote and presented the television series *Stones of the Raj and Indian Journeys*, which won the Grierson Award for Best Documentary Series at BAFTA in 2002. His Radio 4 series on the history of British spirituality and mysticism, *The Long Search*, won the 2002 Sandford St Martin Prize for Religious Broadcasting. In December 2005 his article on the madrasas of Pakistan was awarded the prize for Best Print Article of the Year at the 2005 FPA Media Awards. June 2006 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters honoris causa from the University of St Andrews "for his services to literature and international relations, to broadcasting and understanding". In 2007, *The Last Mughal* won the prestigious Duff Cooper Prize for History and Biography. William is married to the artist Olivia Fraser, and they have three children. They now divide their time between London and Delhi. More details are available on his website http://www.williamdalrymple.com/

The ticket cost is £15. For BM Friends, Concessions and BISI members tickets cost £10. (First come first served basis.) Tickets will be sent to the address provided. Please send your reply form by Monday, 16 June 2008 to: **BISI/Dalrymple Lecture**, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH, UK**.** For further information please contact: Joan Porter MacIver, BISI Administrator at e-mail: bisi@britac.ac.uk (preferred) or tel. 020 7969 5274

British Institute for the Study of Iraq (Gertrude Bell Memorial)www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/iraq/newevents.htm

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Reply form for the BISI Appeal Lecture by William Dalrymple 19 June 2008 in the BP Lecture Theatre, The British Museum

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