



**BRITISH INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY IRAQ
(Gertrude Bell Memorial)**

invites you to spend an evening with

Detective Sergeant Vernon Rapley

'Iraq and Afghanistan: Criminal Benefit from Cultural Loss'

in aid of the

BISI Appeal for Iraqi Scholars

on Tuesday 11 May 2010

at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

The talk commences at 6 p.m. followed by a reception

Our distinguished guest speaker, Detective Sergeant Vernon Rapley has led London's Metropolitan Police Art & Antiques Unit, for the last 8 years. His 23-year diverse police career has included: murder and paedophile investigations, work on child abuse and covert surveillance teams. With a team of just three full time police officers, Vernon is dedicated to the policing of the world's second largest art market. With his team he recovers an average of 7 millions pounds of stolen and laundered art each year. The recovered property ranges from items looted from Iraq to fake Victorian Paintings from illegally excavated underwater cultural heritage to forged silverware. Vernon has fostered a spirit of working together with the London art community, to reduce and detect art crime. He also represents the police during International Working Groups, for South America, Eastern Europe Iraq and Afghanistan. His ongoing dedication to prevent the illicit traffic of cultural goods is evidenced in his being a founding member of The Interpol Task Force for Iraq and his support of I.C.O.M.'s Red Lists.

Vernon has taken crime prevention and detection into un-charted waters. The introduction of schemes such as 'ArtBEAT', the London Museum Security Group and the recruitment of art professionals into the Police as volunteers have significantly reduced crime in London. His contributions to books and publications together with extensive lecturing world-wide has provided a valuable up-to-date commentary on the investigative methods and issues surrounding the protection and detection of cultural property today. He has been awarded The 2009 A.R.C.A. Award for Art Policing and Recovery.

The ticket cost is £15 per person for BISI members and one guest at the reduced rate and £20 per person for non-members and other guests. Tickets will be sent to the address provided on a **first come first served basis** – please apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment (the seating is limited to 80 in the main lecture hall and we may arrange for an overspill facility depending on replies). The event will be open to non-members. Please send your reply and payment to: BISI /Vernon Rapley Appeal Talk, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH

For further information please contact Mrs Joan P. MacIver, BISI Administrator at e-mail: bisi@britac.ac.uk (preferred) or tel. 020 7969 5274 <http://www.bisi.ac.uk>

Registered Charity No. 1135395 (from April 2010) & Registered Charity No. 219948

Reply form for BISI Appeal Talk Detective Sergeant Vernon Rapley at the British Academy on 11 May 2010

Name _____ Guest's Name(s) _____

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I am requesting _____ Tickets at £15 and/or _____ Tickets at £20 and wish to make an additional donation of _____

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