



Alfred Joseph Woolmer,
Interior of the British Institution
(Old Master Exhibition,
Summer 1832), (1833),
Yale Center for British Art,
Paul Mellon Collection

For an Excellent Purpose

Museums and their Publics in Britain from 1800 to 1914

The Paul Mellon Lectures 2007 by Giles Waterfield

Mondays 10 January – 14 February 2007, 6.30pm, Sainsbury Wing Theatre, The National Gallery, London

In the past twenty years museums, both past and contemporary, have increasingly been scrutinised from an academic perspective. This lecture series looks at the development of museums in Britain from the early nineteenth century to 1914, both in the capital and in the regions, with a concentration on art museums. Organised thematically, the series examines changing perceptions of the museum; the growth of an exhibition culture; approaches to display and decoration; the academic and popular catalogue; and the interpretation of collections.

Giles Waterfield is an independent curator and writer; Associate Lecturer at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Director of Royal Collection Studies and a former trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund. He

has curated numerous exhibitions, including 'Palaces of Art' and 'Art Treasures of Britain', and has published three novels.

The lectures are the seventh in a series given biennially by an invited specialist in British art, held at the National Gallery and supported by The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

The six lectures will take place in the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing Lecture Theatre at 6:30 pm on each of the following Mondays: 10 January, 17 January, 24 January, 31 January, 7 February and 14 February 2007.

Further details, including of lecture titles and ticketing arrangements, will be announced once available on the Centre's website www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk and by the National Gallery.