



ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE

Development Office, St Antony's College, Oxford OX2 6JF

TELEPHONE 44(0)1865 274497 FAX 44.(0)1865 274526

EMAIL dev.office@sant.ox.ac.uk



Tracing the Dead: Travels in Central Asia

The Inaugural Paul Bergne Memorial Lecture, to be delivered by Colin Thubron

Tuesday 29th April, 5pm, Nissan Lecture Theatre, St Antony's College, Oxford

We are pleased to announce the first annual Paul Bergne Memorial Lecture, hosted jointly by St. Antony's College and The Oxford Society for the Caspian and Central Asia (TOSCCA; www.toscca.co.uk). As an Associate Member of St. Antony's and, from 2003, founding director of TOSCCA, Paul made an immense contribution to Central Asian studies in Britain. In the last few years before his death Paul worked tirelessly to organise a range of seminars, lecture series and colloquia relating to the history and culture of Central Asia. In collaboration with the FCO he also arranged three major conferences – 'workshops', as he modestly called them – devoted to the contemporary political landscapes of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan; the first of these remains the only such academic gathering of its kind to have taken place anywhere in Europe. Friends, students and professional analysts of Central Asia are widely indebted to Paul's energies, his talents and his enthusiasms. By initiating this lecture series, we hope to commemorate Paul's legacy.

We are delighted that the prize-winning travel writer Colin Thubron has agreed to speak at this inaugural gathering. The author of numerous works including *The Lost Heart of Asia* and *Shadow of the Silk Road*, Mr Thubron has for countless readers been an eloquent and erudite guide to a part of the world about which Paul cared deeply. In his lecture, Colin will touch on some of Paul's observations about Central Asian rituals of life and death, while recounting some of his own experiences in this quickly-changing region. The lecture will be followed by an opportunity for questions, and then by a reception in St. Antony's Buttery.

Places in the Nissan Lecture Theatre are limited, so early arrival is advised.

For further information or to reserve a place, please contact Edmund Herzig via the Contacts page of this website.