

COTTON TO GOLD: EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL NORTH WEST

Exhibition dates: Saturday 31st January - Sunday 19th April 2015

Private View: Thursday 29th January 2015 (By Invitation Only)

Friends of Two Temple Place Private View: Friday 30th January 2015

Exhibition Opening Times: Monday, Thursday - Saturday: 10am - 4:30pm

Wednesday Late: 10am - 9pm, Sunday: 11am - 4:30pm, Closed on Tuesday

Admission Free

Two Temple Place, London WC2R 3BD

www.twotempleplace.org

Cotton to Gold: Extraordinary Collections of the Industrial North West is the fourth exhibition in the hugely successful Winter Exhibition Programme at Two Temple Place. This January, the magnificent and eccentric mansion will be transformed into a casket for the exquisite treasures of an extraordinary group of Lancashire magnates. As the cotton mills boomed, bringing development and deprivation hand in hand, this group of prominent industrialists privately, and sometimes secretly, poured their wealth into some of the finest and most astonishing collections in the country. Exceedingly rare Roman coins, priceless medieval manuscripts, Turner watercolours, Tiffany glass, Japanese prints, Byzantine icons, ivory sculptures and even preserved beetles and a Peruvian mummy.

Get lost amongst the treasure and the taxidermy as Cotton to Gold seeks out the stories behind these characters and what motivated them to give it all away. Discover their complicated relationship with the fast-developing world in which they lived and ask yourself are times really so different.

Cotton to Gold is presented in partnership with three publicly owned museums in the North West (Lancashire): Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Haworth Art Gallery (Accrington) and Towneley Hall (Burnley).

“To have our stunning collections shown at London’s beautiful Two Temple Place, where visitors can discover these magnificent objects for themselves, is an unexpected thrill. We rarely lend our collections in such volume, in fact they have never travelled together before – making this a truly unique exhibition.”

Paul Flintoff, Museum Manager, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Continued

Two Temple Place, a spectacular neo-Gothic mansion on London's Victoria Embankment, is owned and run by the charity the Bulldog Trust. Chief Executive of the Bulldog Trust, Mary Rose Gunn says:

"We are all excited to work with such exceptional collections from the North West and cannot wait to see them on display at Two Temple Place. It is a privilege to present such outstanding objects to the public."

EDITORS' NOTES:

The Winter Exhibition Programme at Two Temple Place was devised to raise the profile of museums and art galleries around the UK by showcasing their collections in London. In the first three years over 120,000 members of the public have visited Two Temple Place for the successful annual exhibitions, most recently *Discoveries: Art, Science & Exploration from the University of Cambridge Museums* (31st January – 27th April 2014), described as "eclectic and wondrous... an opportunity not to be missed." * * * * (The Telegraph)

The 2015 exhibition is curated by Dr Cynthia Johnston from the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, and Dr Jack Hartnell from the Courtauld Institute, in collaboration with Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Haworth Art Gallery and Towneley Hall. Martin Caiger-Smith (Head of the MA Programme: Curating the Art Museum at the Courtauld Institute) continues to act as Curatorial Advisor to the exhibition programme.

Two Temple Place is wholly owned by the Bulldog Trust (Registered Charity No 1123081 www.bulldogtrust.org), a charitable trust that has given financial and advisory assistance to charities for over 30 years. Two Temple Place, the Trust's headquarters, is both a focal point and an inspiration for many of its activities, including the Winter Exhibition Programme. Two Temple Place is closed to the public until 31st January 2015 but is available for private hire throughout the year. See www.twotempleplace.org for more details.

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