



MUSEUM *of the*
HISTORY *of*
SCIENCE

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

ADMISSION FREE

Eccentricity

unexpected objects and irregular behaviour



10 May - 16 October 2011



PROGRAMME

A special exhibition celebrating the eccentric and bizarre in the museum's collection. A clockwork bird-scarer, a box of dust, a Chinese typewriter and a battered old suitcase are just some of the objects with stories to tell.

LECTURES

Crackpots and Eggheads: Eccentricity in Natural History

Tuesday 19 July, 7pm

Dr Brian Regal is Assistant Professor for the History of Science, Kean University, New Jersey. This lecture draws on his most recent book *Searching for Sasquatch: Crackpots, Eggheads, and Cryptozoology* (2011).

From Alligator Wrestling to Fossil Skeletons: Scientific Eccentricity in the Early 19th Century

Tuesday 23 August, 7pm

Dr Vicky Carroll is the manager of the William Morris Gallery and Vestry House Museum in Walthamstow and the author of *Science and Eccentricity: Collecting, Writing and Performing Science for Early Nineteenth-Century Audiences* (2008).

Simon Forman: Astrology, Medicine and Quackery in Elizabethan England

Tuesday 27 September, 7pm

Dr Lauren Kassell is senior lecturer in the history of science at the University of Cambridge. Her lecture is staged to mark the launch of a website for the medical casebooks of Simon Forman and coincides with the 400th anniversary of Forman's death.

The Eccentric Turner

Tuesday 11 October, 7pm

Michael Wright was formerly Curator of Mechanical Engineering at the Science Museum, London, and studies the history of tools. As an experienced turner, he uses his own antique lathes every day.

GALLERY TOURS

Curator-led tours of the special exhibition 'Eccentricity'.

Saturday 18 June, 2pm

Saturday 13 August, 2pm

Saturday 17 September, 11am

Saturday 8 October, 11am

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

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TABLE TALKS

An eccentricity-themed twist to our series of talks focusing on individual objects in the Museum's collection.

Charles Babbage and the difference engine

Stephen Johnston

Sunday 10 July, 2.30pm

"New Discoveries in Pneumatics!"

Jim Bennett

Sunday 14 August, 2.30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

Night of Museums

Saturday 14 May, 7 - 11pm

Our annual evening opening as part of the Nuit des Musées. Curator-led tours of 'Eccentricity', the final demonstrations of Ray Lee's 'Ethometric Museum' and a challenge from Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace to design and build extraordinary machines.

Tales of Eccentricity

Saturday 11 June, 2 - 4.30pm

A tour of 'Eccentricity' will be followed by a series of gallery talks illustrating eccentrics and peculiar objects in the permanent galleries of the Museum.

Eccentricity Summer Quiz

Friday 5 August, 7pm

An eccentric adaptation of the pub quiz format, with questions on science and oddities past and present. Expect the unexpected! Enter a team of three or four, or come along and join a scratch team on the night. Drinks and prizes.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Accessories for Eccentrics drop-in

Tuesday 30 August - Thursday 1 September, 2 - 4pm

Saturday 1 October, 12 - 4 pm

Make an eccentric hat, badge or key-ring inspired by 'Eccentricity' and the Museum's collection

Take part!

Unable to secure a spot in Trafalgar Square? Try for a place on the Museum's empty fourth plinth.

We will be displaying unusual and eccentric objects submitted by the public in our Entrance Gallery. Check the museum's website for full instructions.

The Fourth Plinth
1 August - 16 October

www.mhs.ox.ac.uk