

BREAKING THE CHAINS

News Release: 8th March 2007

WORLD EXPERT ON SLAVE TRADE TO SPEAK IN BRISTOL

Adam Hochschild, a leading historian of the transatlantic slave trade, is to give a free illustrated talk at the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum in Bristol on Saturday 10th March. Hochschild is the author of 'Bury the Chains', a landmark study on the world's first mass human rights campaign that led to the abolition of the slave trade two hundred years ago.

The lecture is part of the programme of events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. The centrepiece of the bicentenary programme is 'Breaking the Chains', the Museum's major Heritage Lottery funded exhibition about the slave trade, which is being developed in partnership with Bristol City Council and opens on the 23rd April.

Adam Hochschild is an award-winning American author and writes regularly for the New Yorker, Harpers Magazine and the New York Times. His awards include the Lionel Gelber Prize for the world's best non-fiction book on international affairs.

Event Organiser, Lucy Edwards says "the Museum is delighted to be able to offer the people of Bristol the opportunity to meet and hear such a world authority on the slave trade".

Entry to the lecture is free but advance booking is strongly recommended. To book a place, call 0117 925 4980 or email: bookings@empiremuseum.co.uk

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Notes to Editor:

Please find attached an image of Adam Hochschild. Please credit 'courtesy of Spark Media'. For more information and images, please contact the Press Office:

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British Empire & Commonwealth Museum

An independent museum and a registered charity, the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum is committed to examining the evidence of Britain's colonial history and to exploring its present-day legacy. Since opening its permanent galleries in 2002 it has earned numerous awards including a nomination as European Museum of the Year. The Museum is a key partner in the government funded 'Understanding Slavery Initiative', creating new ways to engage young people in the subject of slavery.

Breaking the Chains - Opens 23rd April 2007

A ground-breaking exhibition to commemorate the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The two-year exhibition will occupy an entire floor of British Empire & Commonwealth Museum and has been developed in partnership with Bristol City Council's Museums, Galleries and Archives' service. It is supported by a grant of £770,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Featuring a stunning array of African and Caribbean artefacts and bold, interactive displays the exhibition presents themes of endurance, resistance and survival. Rhetoric and images used by both British abolitionists and enslaved peoples show how a mass movement was forged to challenge and eventually abolish the British slave trade.

The final gallery examines legacies of the trade today and visitors will be encouraged to make their own video contribution providing a continuous commentary on how we view and respond to this significant episode in global history.

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