

May 2008

Professor Christopher Bayly appointed to the board of the British Museum

Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, has appointed Professor Christopher Bayly to the board of the British Museum. His term of appointment will run for four years from 12 May.

Biographical Notes

Professor Bayly is Vera Harmsworth Professor of Imperial and Naval History, and Fellow of St Catharine's College at the University of Cambridge. He was later a Smuts Reader in Commonwealth Studies and Professor of Modern Indian History. He began his academic career at the University of Cambridge. Professor Bayly has published widely on the British Empire and Indian History. He has also written more broadly on imperial and global history. His extensive studies in modern India have been a key factor in strengthening the historic relationship between the University and India. He received the Wolfson Prize for History in 2005 and was made a Knight Bachelor in 2007.

Background

1. The British Museum holds in trust for the nation and the world a collection of art and antiquities from ancient and living cultures. Housed in one of Britain's architectural landmarks, the collection is one of the finest in existence, spanning two million years of human history. The Board of Trustees of the British Museum has statutory duties under the British Museum Act 1963 and Museums and Galleries Act 1992 for the general management and control of the Museum and for the appointment of the director.
2. The post is not remunerated. Reasonable expenses can be claimed.
3. The British Academy have the right to nominate an appointment to the board of the British Museum. The British Academy agreed to recommend Professor Christopher Bayly as their nominated member to the board of the British Museum.
4. The nomination process was carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Professor Bayly has not undertaken any significant political activity during the last five years.