



## THE BRITISH EGYPTIAN SOCIETY

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### **Bonaparte and Egypt: Shadow and Light**

The Chairman and members of the Executive Committee of the British Egyptian Society invite you to an illustrated lecture by Dr. Jean-Marcel Humbert on Thursday 30 October 2008, at the English Speaking Union (37 Charles Street, London W1J 5ED). The lecture starts at 6:30 pm, to be followed by a drinks reception.

On 1 July 1798, the French Army landed in Alexandria with the young Napoleon Bonaparte at its head. In conquering Egypt, France wished to weaken England and to bar it from the route to India. In the spirit of the Enlightenment and the ideas of the Revolution, Bonaparte took with him *savants* (scientists) to study this largely unknown country. A clash of arms, a clash of cultures: the Egyptian Campaign would seem to end in failure, but through continued contacts it became the starting point of a special relationship between France and Egypt.

More than two centuries after the Napoleonic episode, a major exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe presents a re examination of the French expedition and its long-term impacts, with an emphasis on the Egyptian point of view. Dr. Humbert, the Commissioner responsible for the exhibition, lectures infrequently on this side of the Channel, so this is a rare opportunity for a preview.

Dr Humbert is **Heritage General Curator** and **General Inspector of French Museums** at the French Direction of Museums (Ministry of Culture). He has been the curator of many national and international exhibitions, including *Napoleon and the Sea* (2004, Paris) and *Egyptomania* (1994-1995, Paris, Ottawa and Vienna). He was General Curator of the 34 exhibitions of Year France-Egypt 1998, and Curator of two of them. His numerous publications include *Napoleon and the Sea* (2004), *Imhotep Today: Egyptianizing Architecture* (2003), *Egypt in Paris* (1998), *France-Egypt: dialogues of two cultures* (1998), the exhibition catalogue *Egyptomania* (1994), and *Egyptomania in Western Art* (1989), awarded the Saintour Prize of the French Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres.

We are delighted that Dr. Humbert has accepted our invitation to speak to us. The highlight of the Society's visit to Paris in December 2008 will be a view of the exhibition ***Bonaparte et l'Egypte***, guided by Dr. Humbert. Both events are not to be missed.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Rands, Honorary Secretary

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Please detach and send to 5, Brownlow Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5JT e.mail [noelrands@compuserve.com](mailto:noelrands@compuserve.com)

I /we shall be able to attend Dr. Humbert's lecture on 30 October 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Fax/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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