



Wednesday 7th December 2011, 5-6.30pm, Mansfield Cooper 4.10
Dr Henrietta Lidchi, Keeper, Department of World Cultures, National Museums Scotland

Re-shaping the world? The new 'World Cultures' displays at the National Museum of Scotland

The National Museum of Scotland charts over two centuries of collecting. Over this period, exhibiting have inevitably changed, and this is especially the case recently, as the Museum has opened six new "world cultures" galleries devised along thematic rather than regional lines. Working with the architecture which encourages both vertical and horizontal integration, these galleries were devised in a context where new museological theories and political agendas have taken hold. They have used collections, text, images and interactives to bring to the attention of the visitor how historic collections can illuminate contemporary culture. The paper will explore how initiatives and shifts in displaying and re-situating collections have exerted an influence and how the development of the galleries progressed. It will also use the experience of several months opening and reviews to consider the impact of the galleries, and how it has re-shaped people's understanding of the Museum and its collections.

Dr. Henrietta Lidchi is Keeper of the Department of World Cultures at the National Museums Scotland. She has published widely on subjects including the American Southwest, visual anthropology and museology. Her latest book is *Visual Currencies: The Native American Photograph in Museums and Galleries* (National Museums Scotland, 2010).

Everyone Welcome! For more info, email Louise.tythacott@manchester.ac.uk