



Centre for the Study of the

# Legacies of British Slave-ownership

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## Newsletter September 2018

### Colonialism and slavery in popular culture today

[Memorial 2007](#) is an organisation seeking to erect a permanent memorial to remember the enslaved and their descendants in the Rose Gardens of London's Hyde Park. The [memorial statue](#) was selected after a public competition and represents the story of the Transatlantic slave trade within a [landscaped garden](#) representing Africa, the Americas and Europe. The site will provide a place for reflection and education.

The third annual Memorial 2007 lecture will take place on Thursday 27 September at 7pm at Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Mallet Street, London WC1E 7HU. Entitled 'Colonialism and slavery in popular culture today', the speaker is [Afua Hirsch](#), author of *Brit(ish): On Race, Identity and Belonging* (2018). Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased on [eventbrite](#).

### A Series of unfortunate inheritances

Poet, writer and VARI artist-in-residence [Victoria Adukwei Bulley](#) has been working with Hannah Young to uncover the links between British slave-ownership and the development of the V&A. Objects that were once collected by absentees are now dotted throughout the museum and found in almost every gallery.

#### [A Series of Unfortunate Inheritances](#)

unearths the names, lives and experiences of those individuals whose enslavement is ineffably tied to items held within the V&A's collections. Using text, film and



photography, she provides a human face to this history. She explores how this history has (and has not) been remembered and how its legacies continue to shape the world we live in today.

The installation can be viewed for free at Room 122, the film room at the museum, all this week until the end of Sunday 23 September.



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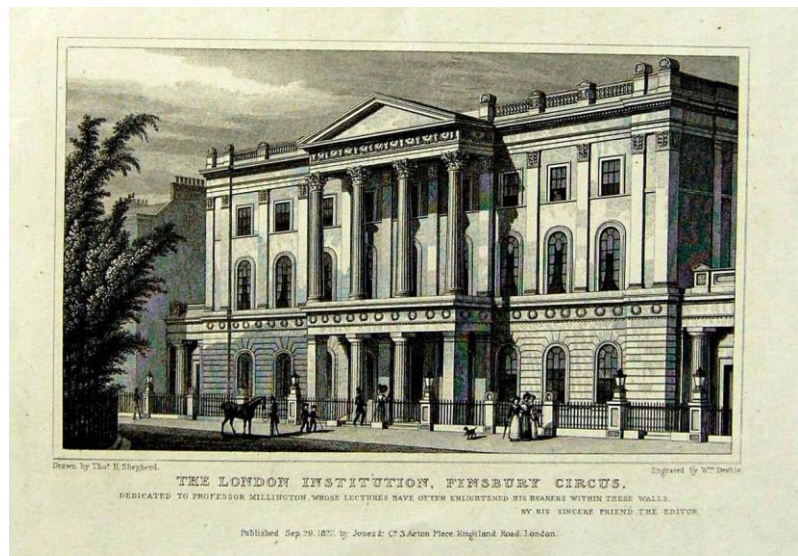
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### Slavery, culture and collecting

A new exhibition, [‘Slavery, culture and collecting’](#) opened this week at the Museum of London Docklands, highlighting the connection to slavery of some of Britain’s oldest cultural organisations. Focusing on the slave-owner, merchant and art collector [George Hibbert](#), the exhibition shows how the profits of slavery were used to create cultural institutions and charities.



Hibbert was a key figure in the development of the West India Docks (now the site of the Museum) and, with his friends [John Julius Angerstein](#), [Sir Richard Neave](#) and [Beeston Long](#), was instrumental in the establishment of the [London Institution](#). A prolific collector of books, prints and art, the sale of part of Hibbert’s personal collection in 1829 took place over 42 days, including 8,794 lots and generating £21,753. Slave-owners like Hibbert used their slave-generated wealth to promote themselves as cultured and philanthropic while arguing that enslaved people were unready for freedom, requiring the ‘civilising influence’ of Europeans.

### White Fury

The launch of Christer Petley’s new book [White Fury: a Jamaican Slaveholder and the Age of Revolution](#) will take place at 5.30pm on Wednesday 24 October in Room 103, UCL Institute of the Americas, 51 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PN.

White Fury details the life of [Simon Taylor](#), one of the wealthiest and most influential slaveholders of the eighteenth-century British empire. Using Taylor’s letters, the book sheds new light on the merciless machinery of Jamaican plantation life. For more on Taylor’s background and his letters, see Christer Petley’s blog, [Slavery and Revolution](#).