

Subcontinental Stories

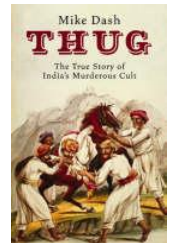
Museum of London (Lecture theatre), 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN

6.45 p.m. on Wednesday 28th June 2006

The Graham Layton Trust invites you to a stimulating evening at the Museum of London on Wednesday 28th June 2006. Reading from their work, three authors (*Mike Dash*, *Mohsin Hamid* and *Moni Mohsin*) will take you on a literary journey from nineteenth century India to modern day Pakistan, introducing you, along the way, to a colourful cast of characters -- murderous highwaymen, sleazy drug dealers, corrupt civil servants, imperious matriarchs and gullible little girls reared on a diet of Enid Blyton and familial duty. You can meet the authors, question them on their work and obtain signed copies of their books.

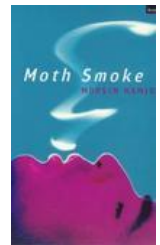


Mike Dash -- a Cambridge-educated historian whose previous books include the best selling *Tulipomania* and *Batavia's Graveyard* -- will read from *Thug*, his exciting and authoritative account of the eponymous highway robbers of nineteenth century India who slaughtered tens of thousands of travellers with such ruthless efficiency that they vanished without trace. *Thug* tells the full story of their rise and fall, laying bare the methods, secrets and skills of this deadly cult of hereditary stranglers whose victims were sacrifices to Kali, the Hindu goddess of destruction.

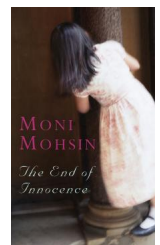


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The Pakistani author and ex-lawyer, **Mohsin Hamid** will read from his acclaimed novel, *Moth Smoke*. Set in Lahore in 1998, the summer of Pakistan's nuclear tests, *Moth Smoke* charts the decline of the clean living, high-minded Darashikoh who, at the start of the book manages to lose his job. As the economy crumbles around him, his electricity is cut off and the jet set party behind high walls, Daru takes the bright steps of falling for his best friend's wife and giving heroin a try.



The End of Innocence, **Moni Mohsin's** debut novel tells the story of a poignant friendship set in rural Punjab in the fateful year of 1971. The friends are Laila, a naïve, privileged nine-year-old and Rani, the spirited, teenage granddaughter of a family servant. Laila hero worships Rani and longs for the older girl's unqualified approbation. When Rani hurtles into a forbidden love affair and gets into trouble, she has no one to turn to but Laila. Eager to help, Laila flounders in a world she does not understand and unwittingly, unleashes a catastrophe. As



the war clouds darken above them, the two friends learn that knowledge comes at a fearfully high price.

The event is at the Museum of London (Lecture Theatre), 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (nearest tube station: St Paul's) and attendance costs £10 per person. This includes a GiftAid donation of £8 supporting the work of *The Graham Layton Trust*. Applications should be made on the Booking Form enclosed/attached.

***** Please arrive early to get good seats.



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Trustees: Yaseen Anwar Hugh Clark Matanat Ghaffar Hutoxi Kandawalla Vaiz Karamatullah
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