

## ***The Colour of Enchantment : Magic, Mayhem and Mystery in 'The 1001 Nights'***



A study morning with

**Dr Richard Moore**

Friday, 1st February,  
2019 from 10-1 p.m.

William Elder Building,  
Castlegate, Berwick,  
TD15 1JT

This session offers you a chance to take a magic carpet to a world of exotic and sometimes erotic delights where the supernatural jostles with the world of reality and dreams can be as substantial, potent and sometimes terrifying as anything in everyday life. Here you will meet jinnis and Caliphs, beggars and nobles, merchants and maidens, and cut-throats and curses. You will also find out something of the tales' development, a patchwork matter as they were collected over vast distances over many centuries. Together they make a jewel-box of delights, making dipping in a continuous pleasure.

PTO

To us many of the stories have become known through pantomime, as in the case of Aladdin whose genesis on the British stage we shall trace. We shall also look at what is common throughout all the editions - especially the initial frame story of the ruler Shahryār and his wife Scheherazade – an ingenious but unfortunate girl who can only continue her life by being inexhaustibly entertaining as a story-teller.

One interesting thing is what the west has made of these tales and this also we shall explore. Some such as *Aladdin*, *Ali Baba* and *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor* were not part of *The Nights* in its original Arabic versions but were added by Antoine Galland and other European translators. In Victorian Britain *Ali Baba* pantomimes were among the most lavish ever recorded and we shall hear what Dickens, John Ruskin and others made of these!

We shall also have a brief look at the structure of the tales, and musical developments which have arisen from them. The bulk of the original is in prose, but verse is occasionally used for songs and riddles and to express heightened emotion. Over the years composers such as Prokofiev, Sullivan and Rimski-Korsakov have considerably augmented the material, adding another level of enjoyment.

It will be impossible to look at all the tales in one session. Instead we shall concentrate particularly on those collected in a version translated by Hanan Al-Shaykh (Bloomsbury paperback, 2011). Sometimes enchanting, sometimes terrifying and sometimes borderline indecent, together they make a jewel-box of delights, making dipping into them a continuous pleasure.

**The cost of the lecture is £9, including refreshments.**

**All welcome and no previous knowledge is assumed.**

If you supply us with your personal data (name, address or email), we will hold this in accordance with our privacy policy, available [here](#) or by request to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX. If you have any queries, please email [berwickea@gmail.com](mailto:berwickea@gmail.com) or phone Cian McHugh on 01289 303254

**To book online, [please click](#) here **to book by mail**, please fill in the booking form below, and mail to BEA, 7 Ravensdowne, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1HX along with a cheque in favour of BEA.**

Name

Address

Tel No

Email

Cheque enclosed £

(1001 Nights)

