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April 18, 2008

DURHAM, N.H -- Robert G. W. Anderson, former director of the British Museum, is this year's featured speaker at the Dunfey Lecture Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Anderson will discuss "Spreading Jam Thinly: Museums, Historians, and Everyone Else" at 12:40 p.m. in the Memorial Union Building, Theater II. Anderson's lecture will be followed by questions from the audience and a reception. It is free and open to the public.

Anderson studied at Oxford University where he earned his bachelor's and doctorate degrees in chemistry. He has published dozens of monographs and articles on the history of chemistry and of scientific instruments. He served in posts at the Royal Scottish Museum, the Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine, and the Science Museum of London, before becoming director of the Scottish National Museums.

In 1992, he was appointed director of the British Museum, the world's oldest national museum. While there, he oversaw the design and construction of the new Great Court of the museum, which opened in 2000. Anderson is currently an Official Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge University.

The lecture is the seventh and last in a two-year long series, "The Historian and the Public," sponsored by the Museum Studies Program of the Department of History. The lecture series brings to campus historians, museum professionals, film-makers, and others to discuss challenges in bringing the best in historical scholarship to a public eager to know its past.

The Museum Studies Program trains graduate students to work with museums, historical societies, and similar public history institutions. The department recognizes that many Americans are more likely to learn their history in museums, or from documentary films, than from the publications of scholars. The program is designed to give students special training and experience in museum settings, while at the same time providing a solid academic grounding in the best historical scholarship.

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