

**GOD SAVE THE KING!  
CELEBRATING CORONATIONS IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

<b>Date/Time</b>	Wednesday 26 February 2025 11am - 4.30pm	<b>Price</b>	£49
<b>Venue</b>	Lettsom House, 11 Chandos Street, London W1G 9DP	<b>Lecturer</b>	Dr Sally Dormer

With King Charles III's May 2023 coronation relatively fresh in our minds, it is worth reflecting that many aspects of his coronation ceremony were rooted in traditions that extend back to the fourteenth century and earlier. This study day will explore the rich surviving material culture that furnished the coronations of Western and Byzantine emperors and European kings, and their queens, in the Middle Ages. We will consider the prestigious buildings, furnished with pavements, thrones, galleries and sculptural programmes, designed to provide a fitting stage for elaborate coronation rituals: Old St Peter's, Rome; the Palatine Chapel, Aachen; Reims Cathedral; and Westminster Abbey, London. We will look at glorious coronation regalia including ceremonial ivory combs, goldsmithswork orbs, swords, sceptres, spoons, and lavishly embroidered vestments. Bejewelled and enamelled medieval crowns deserve their own session, as do the detailed coronation manuals compiled in late-fourteenth-century Paris and London which illustrate, step by step, the sacred coronation rites of the French and English kings and their queens, as well as the subsequent feasts enjoyed by newly crowned monarchs. These superb buildings, books and other artefacts shine a light on the theories of, and reverence for, kingship in the Middle Ages.

**Lectures**

- 1 The architectural setting
- 2 Coronation regalia
- 3 Medieval crowns
- 4 Coronation manuals

**Lecturer**

**Dr Sally Dormer** is a specialist medieval art historian, with an MA in Medieval Art History and PhD on Medieval illuminated manuscripts from the Courtauld Institute, London University. Sally founded the ongoing V&A Late Medieval Europe and Early Renaissance Year Course 1250-1500 in 1993, and in 2009 devised the V&A Early Medieval Year Course 300-1250; she is Course Director for both courses. She has lectured for Gresham College, teaches for the Arts Society and ARTscapades and was, between 1999-2019, Dean of *European Studies*, a semester of study abroad in Europe, sponsored by two universities in Tennessee, USA.