

## **Oliver Everett**



Following service in the Foreign Office, including postings in India and Spain, he was Assistant Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, 1978-80; and then Private Secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, 1981-3. He was Librarian in the Royal Library, Windsor Castle, 1984-2002. He is now Librarian Emeritus following his retirement in 2002. He wrote the official guidebook and audio tour on Windsor Castle, taught a course on its history and advised on a television programme about it. He wrote articles on the Royal Library and helped with two books on aspects of the Royal Collection. He is advising on a possible history series for television. He was educated at Cambridge University and did post graduate work at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, USA; and at the London School of Economics. He lectures widely in Britain and abroad and also on cruise ships.

The Royal Collection contains over 485,000 objects collected by the Royal family from King Henry VIII to the present Queen. The lecture selects about 40 of the finest items in the Collection to demonstrate its range and magnificence, as well as showing the varying collecting interests of individual monarchs and other members of the Royal family.

The objects include oil paintings (Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Stubbs, Monet, Lucian Freud); old master drawings (Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, Holbein, Canaletto); miniature paintings (Hilliard); sculpture (Canova); porcelain (Sèvres, Chelsea); gold and silver objects (the Neptune centrepiece; Queen Elizabeth I's salt); Fabergé (Russian Imperial Easter eggs; Sandringham animals); jewellery (the Diamond Diadem; the Cullinan diamond; Frederick the Great's snuff box); furniture (the Riesener jewel cabinet); rare books (the Mainz Psalter, 1457) and manuscripts (the Sobieski Book of Hours, 1420; the Padshahnama - chronicle of the Indian Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan).