

**December 2006**

## **Dr Christopher Wright is appointed a member of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art & Objects of Cultural Interest**

David Lammy, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Dr Christopher Wright has been appointed as a member of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art [RCEWA]. His term of appointment will run from 20 November 2006 to 19 November 2010.

### Biographical notes

Dr Christopher Wright joined the Department of Manuscripts, British Library, in 1974 and was Head of Manuscripts from 2003 until his retirement in October 2005. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (2002) and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (1982). His publications include *George III* (2005) and, as editor, *Sir Robert Cotton as Collector: Essays on an Early Stuart Courtier* (1997). From 1989 to 1999, he was editor of the *British Library Journal*. He served as a Trustee of the Sir Winston Churchill Archives Trust, Cambridge (2001 to 2005) and was on the Council of the Friends of the National Libraries (2003 to 2006). From August 2005 he has been a Trustee of 'The Handwriting of Italian Humanists'. In October 2005, he was appointed to the Acceptance in Lieu Panel of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. He has not undertaken any political activity in the last five years.

### Background

The Reviewing Committee is a non statutory, independent advisory body whose main role is to advise the Secretary of State whether a cultural object which is the subject of an export licence is of national importance under the 'Waverley criteria'. These are as follows:

- Waverley One. Is it so closely connected with our history and national life that its departure would be a misfortune?
- Waverley two. Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?
- Waverley three. Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some branch of art, learning or history?

RCEWA members give their services on an honorary basis but may claim reasonable travel and subsistence.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

**Confidential - Public Appointments**