

**GEORGE IV: A LIFE IN CARICATURE:
Lecture by The Rt Hon Lord Baker of Dorking C.H.**

**Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, National Gallery Weston Link
Tuesday 10 March 2009 at 6.30pm (Garden entrance): £25 for double ticket
(ADMITS TWO) to include drinks.**

Partnership event: Special Interest Group and Patrons of National Galleries of Scotland



**NATIONAL
GALLERIES OF
SCOTLAND**

**RSA Fellows' Media & Creative
Industries Special Interest Group
Event - RSA SIGs work in
collaboration with the RSA**

RSA

The RSA Fellows' Media and Creative Industries Special Interest Group is delighted to be working in **partnership** with the **Patrons of the National Galleries of Scotland**, and equally delighted that Lord Baker has kindly agreed to give a lecture on *George IV: Catalyst or Cad* in support of the Portrait of the Nation Project. Cartoons, an exhilarating and often highly sophisticated creative art, have delighted us for generations and for those today brought up with *Private Eye*, *Spitting Image* and *Twitter*, this may provide a fascinating retrospective!

George IV was larger than life. A gambler and a drunkard, he married a widow older than himself, illegally and in secret, dabbled in the politics of opposition and amassed fantastic levels of debt. His legitimate union with Caroline of Brunswick ended in an acrimonious and lengthy divorce. All the while mistress followed mistress, each one seemingly fatter and greedier than the last. He was a gift to cartoonists, but had the misfortune to live during the golden age of their art. The merciless lampoons of Gillray and the Cruikshanks, drawn mainly from Kenneth Baker's unique collection, make many of today's cartoons seem almost respectful.

Kenneth Baker, one-time Cabinet Minister serving Margaret Thatcher, also reveals there was another side to George. As Prince Regent during George III's last illness he gave his title to an elegant style of architecture and design. He was London's best town-planner - Regent's Park, Regent Street, Waterloo Place, Trafalgar Square and the National Gallery, and outside London the Brighton Pavilion and Windsor Castle.

George acquired for the Royal Collection works by all the best artists of the day, as well as by such masters as Rembrandt and Rubens, making it one of the finest collections in the world. He also kept copies of Jane Austen's novels in each of his houses. George faced four major political crises as Regent and King and paved the way for today's constitutional monarch. He loved appearing in public and organised splendid celebrations open to ordinary men and women.

Kenneth Baker, Vice-Chairman of the Cartoon Museum and a Trustee of the **Man Booker Prize Foundation**, has published books on caricatures. He uses a lifetime of high politics to scrutinize the changing figure of George, and the **Special Interest Group**, mindful of current digital, print and media satirists and cartoonists who so enrich our lives, hopes you will attend **A LIFE IN CARICATURE**. Kenneth Baker was the first Minister for IT. An MP between 1967 and 1977 he became a member of the House of Lords in 1997.

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TO OBTAIN TICKETS - Please enclose first class stamped SAE for tickets!

Please apply a.s.a.p. & before 8 March! Send your crossed cheque for £25 i/f "Patrons of the National Galleries of Scotland" to Mrs Ann Packard, 81 Cumberland Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6RD (T: 0131 556 2052). Guests are singularly welcome at this joint event.

PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY, BELOW or OVERLEAF, YOUR TITLE, FORENAME, NAME AND ADDRESS AND POSTCODE plus the same info re any guest(s).