



**Victoria Memorial Hall**

*cordially invites you to an illustrated lecture on*

# From the Legion of Honour to the **Star of India**

**New Nineteenth-Century Emperors and their Orders of Chivalry**

*by*

**Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly**

Professor of German Literature

University of Oxford

Currently Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Study, Paris

**Thursday, 3 January 2019, 4.00 pm**  
**Conference Hall, New Library Building**

The nineteenth century saw the creation of new emperors in France, Austria, Germany, Mexico, Brazil and India. Each of these emperors, from Napoleon to Queen Victoria, instituted so-called 'orders of chivalry'. These were distinctions involving medals, ribbons and sashes and rich costumes to be worn on formal occasions. Some of these decorations were awarded for merit of various kinds or for military bravery, others to ensure the loyalty of the recipient. Queen Victoria founded such an order in 1861, namely, the *Star of India*. The lecture asks what the point of these orders was in general, and whether the Star of India was used in the same way during the British Raj as orders were used in other new empires.

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Entry through East Gate (opp. St. Paul's Cathedral) only; cars are not allowed inside the VMH campus; seating on a first-come-first-served basis till the capacity is full



George Percy Jacomb-Hood, *George V awarding the Grand Cross of the Star of India to Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner in 1911*



William Simpson, *The First Investiture of the Star of India, 1861*