



Les Etudes Montpelliéraines du Monde Anglophone

and

The British Scholar Society

present

The 2013 Global Britain Lecture:

‘PROCONSULS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE:

THEIR PART IN ITS FALL’

with

Professor Tony Stockwell

Emeritus Professor of Modern History, Royal Holloway, University of London

The British empire was a ragbag of territories lacking a coherent structure and centralised direction. Proconsuls provided the crucial link between metropole and periphery. In the so-called imperial heyday they enjoyed considerable autonomy but, as British power declined and pressures to decolonise mounted, London intervened more directly and supervised proconsuls more closely. As their powers diminished, however, their role expanded. Indeed, from Mountbatten in India to Patten in Hong Kong, proconsuls were never more significant (though not necessarily more successful) in the management of empire than during the retreat from empire.

Tony Stockwell is Emeritus Professor of Modern History and former head of the History Department at Royal Holloway, University of London. His principal fields of research are British imperial history and the modern history of Southeast Asia. He was editor of the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* from 1990 to 2007, and was a member of the project committee for *British Documents on End of Empire* for which he edited volumes on Malaya and Malaysia. He has been Chair of the Council of the Friends of The National Archives and has twice served as President of the Royal Asiatic Society, most recently in 2006-09, and is currently its Vice President.

Date: Friday, 8 March 2013, at 10.30 a.m.

Venue: Site Saint Charles, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3, Salle des colloques n° 2

(Arrêt du tram Albert 1er)

Everyone is welcome to attend.