

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Pitt Rivers Museum curator's book wins major US prize

The Pitt Rivers Museum is delighted to announce that Dr Clare Harris's book *The Museum on the Roof of the World: Art, Politics, and the Representation of Tibet* has been awarded the 2013 E. Gene Smith Inner Asia Book Prize by the Association for Asian Studies.

The prize, offered annually, honours outstanding and innovative scholarship for a book on Inner Asia published during the preceding year. It is named to pay tribute to the distinguished scholar of Tibet, Mongolia, and other areas of Inner Asia, E. Gene Smith.

Published in 2012 by the University of Chicago Press, *The Museum on the Roof of the World: Art, Politics, and the Representation of Tibet* argues that for the past one hundred and fifty years, British and Chinese collectors and curators have tried to convert Tibet itself into a museum, an image some Tibetans have begun to contest. The book is a powerful account of the museums created by, for, or on behalf of Tibetans and the nationalist agendas that have played out in them.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- Dr Clare Harris is Reader (Associate Professor) in Visual Anthropology and Curator for Asian Collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum and the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford. She is also a Fellow of Magdalen College. For further information <http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/about-us/staff/dr-clare-harris/>
- More information about the book can be found at <http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/M/bo13859930.html>
- The Pitt Rivers Museum is one of Oxford's most popular attractions, famous for its period atmosphere and outstanding collections from many cultures around the world, past and present. Admission, exhibitions and events are FREE.
- The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology,

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gave his personal collection of 20,000 items to the University on condition that a museum was built to house the material, and that a post was created to lecture in anthropology. Today the collection numbers some 600,000 items, and the Museum remains an active department of Oxford University doing and supporting research and teaching in archaeology and anthropology.

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