



# The Anglo-Bolivian Society

www.angloboliviansociety.org.uk

## Did the Chiquitos Tattoo Their Churches?



A talk by:  
**Kate Ford**

The extraordinary churches in the east of Bolivia are the heritage of the Jesuit Mission to the Chiquitos active in the area now known as Chiquitania between 1691 and 1767. The illustration above shows San Miguel, one of the churches built and painted by members of the Mission under Jesuit direction in the early 1750s.

Kate Ford first visited the Mission to the Chiquitos in 2007 and was deeply struck by the unusual appearance of the churches. She returned a year later with a camera rather than a sketchbook and a critical faculty honed by a year's study of Latin American art history at Essex University. Two years later, after embarking on a PhD, she went back for three months research, with a subsequent stay in the spring of this year and another trip planned for November and December.

Kate trained as a theatre designer and initially it was the theatrical nature of the churches that appealed to her. However, research in Santa Cruz and in the Mission opened fascinating questions of indigenous ownership and identity both in the 18th-century Mission and in its post-restoration legacy. This talk links the rock art of the Oriente and 20th- and 21st-century archaeological finds with 18th-century and earlier descriptions of body art in the region and concludes that the Chiquitos possessed a sophisticated capacity for conceptual thought undreamt of by the Jesuits.

**Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ**  
**6.30 pm Tuesday 20 September, 2011**

**Price: Members £8, Non-Members £10 to include refreshments & a glass of wine. Under 16 £2**

It is always best to book in advance. Please send the slip below, along with payment, to:

**Arthur Wilkinson (ABS) 391 Southborough Lane, Bromley, Kent, BR2 8BQ**

or email [info@angloboliviansociety.org.uk](mailto:info@angloboliviansociety.org.uk)

No tickets will be sent out.

Please arrive promptly.

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Please reserve me:..... (name) ..... tickets for the talk *Did the Chiquitos Tattoo Their Churches?* by Kate Ford on Tuesday 20 September, 2011 at Canning House, for myself and the following people:

I enclose a cheque for £..... (Made payable to the Anglo-Bolivian Society)

Price: Members £8

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