

THE DA VINCI CODE AS JUNK HISTORY

Canberra Skeptics invite you to a talk by

Dr Benjamin Kelly

6 pm Tuesday 13 September 2005

The Vision Theatre, National Museum of Australia, Acton Peninsula

If you wish to join us afterwards for dinner (8 pm) at Shalimar Indian Restaurant, 9 Tasman House, Hobart Place, Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra City, please advise Vicki Moss by phone or email vicki@mcglashan.com.au
BY MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* makes various sensational claims about the historical figure of Jesus and the earliest stages of Christianity. If these claims are true, they dramatically change our understanding of the origins of Christianity. In this talk, Dr. Kelly will argue that these claims are at best fanciful and at worst demonstrably false. He will go on to argue that the more difficult (and interesting) question for the skeptic is why such examples of "junk history" periodically make such an impact on mass culture in the modern world. He will examine some of the reasons why far-fetched theories about the ancient past are particularly common and liable to cause sensations.

Dr. Kelly is a graduate of the University of Oxford, where he took his doctorate in Ancient History. He has taught at Somerville, Jesus, and Trinity Colleges at the University of Oxford. He presently lectures in the Faculty of Arts at the ANU, where he has taught courses including *The Historical Jesus* and *Religions and Society in the Roman Empire*.



Free Admission

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