

## Goldsmiths



## FREE ADMISSION



- TIME: 7.00 pm 8.30 pm
- DATE: 25 April 2018
- VENUE:
  - Swedenborg House 20/21 Bloomsbury Way London WC1A 2TH tel: 0207 405 7986 www.swedenborg.org.uk
- NEAREST TUBE: Holborn / Tottenham Court Road
- ADMISSION: FREE (but book in advance)

Follow us on:



## TheaurauJohn Tany, English Radicalism and Swedenborgians

Ariel Hessayon in conversation with John Rees



| WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL | 7.00 - 8.30 pm |

To mark the occasion of the publication of *The Refiner's Fire: the Collected Works of TheaurauJohn Tany* by Breviary Stuff Publications, which features reproductions of material held in the Swedenborg Society Archive, the editor of the volume, **Ariel Hessayon**, will be in conversation with historian and activist **John Rees**, discussing Tany, English Radicalism and their connections to Swedenborgianism.

Thomas Totney (1608-1659), born in Lincolnshire and largely based in London, was a goldsmith who, following a mystical experience in 1649, changed his name to TheaurauJohn Tany and proclaimed himself a herald of the restitution of the Jews to Jerusalem. Travelling around England and the Low Countries issuing broadsides and more extensive works of prophesy, Tany was for a long time overlooked by historians as just another ranter of the English Civil War period. More recently his writings and impact have begun to be re-evaluated, in no small part due to the dedicated researches of Ariel Hessayon, and a picture has emerged of an extraordinary figure worthy of his place in both the histories of Western esotericism and of English Radicalism. It has also become apparent that Tany was read by early British Swedenborgians, a fact that further elucidates the complex relationship between a nascent Swedenborgianism and the radical thought of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

ARIEL HESSAYON is a Reader in the Department of History at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of 'Gold tried in the fire'. The prophet TheaurauJohn Tany and the English Revolution (Ashgate, 2007) and co-editor / editor of several collections of essays on Scripture and Scholarship in Early Modern England (Ashgate, 2006). His essay 'Jacob Boehme, Emanuel Swedenborg and their Readers' was published by the Swedenborg Society in The Arms of Morpheus (2007).

JOHN REES is a journalist, author, historian and activist who has been a member of the National Executive of the NUS and was a founder of the Stop the War Coalition. Rees has edited and written for many journals and has also made documentaries for television.

## BOOKING DETAILS: https://theauraujohn.eventbrite.co.uk

In collaboration with Goldsmiths, University of London and Breviary Stuff Publications