

u3a talks 2 July 2026

**Great Forgers
by
Jim Williams, author**

The boundary between a forgery and an homage or honest imitation is not always obvious, and some of the great artists have chosen to turn their hands to forgery in order to pay the bills. This lecture focuses on great 20th century forgeries, including the man who sold a fake Vermeer to Hermann Goering and the forging of the autobiography of Howard Hughes. The centrepiece is an explanation of the Speaker's personal role in the great Hitler Diaries forgery.

Jim Williams practised law and worked in the construction industry before publishing a number of books some under a pen name. His most famous first novel was *The Hitler Diaries*. This was followed by *Farewell to Russia*, and then *Lara's Child*. He was nominated for the Booker Prize for *Scherzo*. Williams uses the pen name Richard Hugo when writing thrillers and Alexander Mollin when writing historical romance.