

## [The ASI's best of 2011: Madsen & Eamonn](#) [1]

Written by [Blog Editor](#) [2] | Thursday 29 December 2011



*Madsen Pirie, President:*

Movies

The best movies I saw were

### **The Eagle**

A great tale of adventure, loyalty and friendship in Roman Britain

### **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy**

It holds up splendidly against the Alex Guinness TV version, with more than a nod in its direction.

### **Hugo**

A brilliant, atmospheric and absorbing tribute to the early pioneers of cinema. Beautifully shot with effective use of 3D.

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Books

The best books I read were

### **Dictators' Houses (by Peter York)**

How fascinating to see how dictators live, unrestrained by taste.

### **The Churchill Memorandum (by Sean Gabb)**

A fast-paced romp through an alternative post-war history in which all of the political opponents I have despised are cast as traitors or mass murderers!

### **What Am I Still Doing Here (by Roger Lewis)**

Roger Lewis looks with dispassionate eyes at the sometimes squalid lives of people and places he has known, but never without humour.

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## Events

Among the events I enjoyed were:

### **The Royal Wedding**

I celebrated it with friends, decorating a balcony in Nice and with a union jack cake and champagne to toast the happy couple.

### **Reagan Statue unveiling**

I joined the crowds in Grosvenor Square unveiling the great man's statue, and in Guildhall to hear Condoleeza Rice and William Hague celebrate his achievement.

### **Mont Pelerin Society meeting**

I had the chance to mingle with great intellects in Istanbul, and to cruise the Bosphorus in style.

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*Eamonn Butler, Director:*

Best film:

**Tinker Tailor, Soldier Spy** - different from but just as gripping as the TV series with Alec Guinness.

Best book:

Nicholas Phillipson's **Adam Smith - An Enlightened Life**.

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