



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM

Season's greetings and best wishes for a wonderful new year!

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2013 Attingham
Application Deadlines

**The 62nd Attingham
Summer School**
July 5-22, 2013
Due January 31, 2013

Royal Collection Studies
September 1-10, 2013
Due February 15, 2013

Study Programme
The Norfolk Country House:
Collections and Networks
September 12-20, 2013
Due March 1, 2013

*Applications and scholarship
information available online:
www.americanfriendsofatingham.org*

The London House Course
has been postponed until
April 2014



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to round out the excitement of our 50th anniversary year with the announcement of two generous scholarship commitments which will help a new generation of scholars to attend the Attingham Summer School and will strengthen our links to two major cultural institutions.

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America has ties to more than sixty properties as diverse as the Webb House in Connecticut, headquarters to George Washington in 1781, the Octagon House in San Francisco, built in 1861 as part of a national craze for octagonal homes, and Iolani Palace in Honolulu, the only royal residence in the United States. The Society has generously agreed on an annual basis to fund a full scholarship, including a travel stipend, for a NSCDA Summer School participant.

Attingham has long been well-represented at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, but financial realities have often required a search for support to allow a highly-qualified Met candidate to attend an Attingham program. Through the generosity of **David Wilton, SP '12**, a three-year scholarship commitment is now in place which will provide full funding for a Met applicant to the Summer School, continuing our long tradition of links to the museum and allowing us to continue to build upon Attingham's reputation at that esteemed institution.

Individuals from these two great organizations will continue to apply in the customary fashion, but it is exciting to know that when a qualified candidate has been selected by the AFA, the funding to allow that individual to attend the Summer School will be in place. We are incredibly grateful to the NSCDA, and to David Wilton, for their respective commitments and hope that these arrangements can be models for links to other institutions across America.

Our 50th anniversary year has been a wonderful experience which many of you have shared. I thank you for your ongoing support, and look forward to the continuing success of the American Friends of Attingham.

— **Clo Tepper, '11; SP '04, '07, '10**

LETTER FROM ENGLAND

Looking back over 2012, I think our founders on both sides of the Atlantic would have thoroughly approved of how we celebrated our 50th (US) and our 60th (UK) anniversaries.

The American Friends kick-started the events in June with a most successful Study Programme in New York and the Hudson River Valley superbly co-ordinated by Professor **Sheila ffolliott '79; SP '11; RCS '98**, with Cheryl Hageman as administrator.

The Summer School, despite the soggy weather (one US member had their wellies sent over specially to West Dean) and Royal Collection Studies, which managed to steer neatly around the Paralympics, also went well and there was good feedback from the participants on all the courses. As there was for the 60th Anniversary conference in London, held over two days in October which rounded off the Trust's year in style and included an evening reception in the Peers' Dining Room at the House of Lords. The papers will be published on the Attingham Trust website in the near future.

2013 will see the return on exhibition of Robert Walpole's pictures from Houghton Hall, sold to Catherine the Great in 1779, and now owned by The Hermitage in St Petersburg. To celebrate and examine this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the Study Programme is to be held in Norfolk in September where a study day will be spent in the house together with visits to other rich private collections for which Norfolk is renowned. I look forward to seeing some of you there.

— **Annabel Westman, Executive Director, The Attingham Trust**



SCHOLARS REPORT: THE 2012 ATTINGHAM COURSES



STUDY PROGRAMME:

NEW YORK AND THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY, JUNE 7-16

Cross-cultural comparisons were a major motivating factor in my decision to attend the New York Study Week. The exchange between British, Dutch, Indian, New Zealand, Australian and Eastern European professionals set a high standard for a stimulating scholarly discourse throughout the program. The group's expertise and interests, in topics such as the Age of Navigation, trade relations and religious migration, led to a deep multicultural exploration of the Dutch Colonists as they lived and worked in the Seventeenth and

Eighteenth Centuries.

Prior to this trip, I observed significant connections amongst the New York and Connecticut collections. However, I found limited scholarship addressing the similarities and divergences between the two states as a result of their overlapping social, political, economic and stylistic development. My main objective in attending was to explore the shared histories and material culture of New York and Connecticut, which resulted in benefits beyond my expectations. Having attended the program, I feel refreshed in my curatorial work with a new sense of direction for research and interpretation.

— **Alyce Perry Englund '09; SP '12, AFA Scholar**

I applied for the New York Study Programme because I was excited to have a similar Attingham experience in the United States. I wanted to see the great Hudson Valley houses and hear about how the staff was applying new thinking to established homes and collections. The Study Programme delivered on its promise to show me the Hudson Valley; our nine days in New York were a superb cross-section of museums, private homes, and historic houses large and small.

— **Lauren Northup '10; SP '12, AFA Scholar**

The Study Programme provided an excellent overview of the changes in American art, and the development of American country houses; contemporary management issues and changing ideas on preservation and conservation were also addressed. The way in which private initiative is used in the upkeep of cultural heritage can, in my opinion, be seen as an example to us all.

— **Steven Coene '01; RCS '07; SP '12, Netherland-America Foundation Scholar**

Perhaps the most challenging, and also rewarding, aspect of being an active participant in the Attingham Study Programme was critiquing the curatorial practices of each home we visited. Certainly among the liveliest discussions on the trip, opinions on curatorial practices were as numerous as the variety of curatorial approaches we saw in the homes. As a young museum professional, my previous exposure to curatorial practice is far more theoretical than practical. Visiting a home, such as the Mills Mansion, with a cadre of experienced curators from different countries, nationalities, museums, and roles challenged my understanding of theory and pushed me to consider the practical as well as ideological implications of constructing a museum environment.

— **Sarah Mallory, SP '12, AFA Scholar**



THE 61ST ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL

JULY 6-23

Ten years ago, I had the great fortune of visiting many castles, palaces and country houses in England and Scotland frequently sharing time with the owners who were gracious, patient and knowledgeable. I wondered how Attingham could possibly add more to these magical experiences. But by Day Two at West Dean, it was obvious that here was a group of passionate scholars who together generated a far more powerful influence than I had imagined. Transcending mere collegiality, we became an integrated organism with complementary skills, interests and outlooks. Together, our ability to observe and absorb new experiences increased exponentially. Curiously, the integration within our group began to mirror the integration we witnessed in the aesthetic development across the fields of architecture, decorative arts, landscape design and the fine arts. Unlike most academic courses in which information comes from a single source in a linear fashion, at Attingham I felt positively enveloped in history borne up by the tutors, the owners and my fellow students. A deeper understanding was inevitable as our inquiry grew to encompass religion, politics, economics and social hierarchy. Here was LIVING history — relevant and real.

From the outset, Attingham set high standards for individual contribution which proved to be most rewarding, each of us having unique expertise to impart. We weren't just consumers of knowledge, we were producers...and all felt honored to be recognized as such.

— **Barbara Eberlein '12**

Eighteen days. Eighteen days of intense and exhausting study. To some, that may seem a nightmare, but to me, it proved my salvation. Attingham's effect on me at the personal level was the most astonishing part of my trip. I knew I would learn a lot, I knew I would have once in a lifetime experiences, but I did not realize it would change me.

— **Meredith Long '12**, *Royal Oak Foundation Scholar*

It is quite difficult to summarize the Attingham experience without turning to all of the absolutely clichéd words and phrases - stimulating, amazing, once-in-a-lifetime, comprehensive, engrossing, career changing and exhausting. They are all true, and the frequency with which those words are voiced when discussing Attingham demonstrates that the experience resonates across the generations of scholars. However, these words don't accurately reflect the powerful nature of the program beyond the shared scholarly experience to the amazing individual contemplative experience it can provide.

— **Susan De Vries '12**, *Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation Scholar*



ROYAL COLLECTIONS STUDIES SEPTEMBER 2-11

Drop it, Craig, just drop it. Anywhere else these earnest words would register as a rebuke. At Attingham, such a directive is instead an invitation to move closer. Literally. During the course of one of several private visits to Windsor Castle – in the evening after the palace had closed to the regular crowds of tourists – I had unhooked one of the red ropes directing the regular, restricted flow of traffic and stood waiting for two colleagues to step through before replacing it. Giles, our reliably erudite director, was having none of it. And down the barriers went. As an anecdote, it's a fine encapsulation of what makes Attingham so special, of what makes the Royal Collection Studies, in particular, such an exceptional experience. Over the course of nine busy days, days sprung with their own temporal logic as anyone who has experienced the rigors and delights of an Attingham program will understand, the history and physical context of five hundred years of royal collecting came to make sense in a way that simply would never have been possible outside of this privileged format. At the close of a remarkable British summer – marked by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics, and enormous amounts of rain – the twenty-nine participants in the RCS class of 2012 moved chronologically from the arrival of William in 1066, through to the Tudors, the Stuarts, the Hanoverians, and Victoria – even as we also came to appreciate the degree to which contemporary questions of monarchy are always present when embarking on such dialogues with the past.

Toward the other end of the course, I was entirely unprepared for the aesthetic ambitions and energies of George IV. The importance of the now-lost Carlton House for understanding both Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace was repeatedly made clear, and by the end of the course, I could make reasonable guesses at the sorts of objects George had acquired or had had remounted, or regilded, or reframed. This sort of intensely concentrated study, grounded in physical context, is what Attingham does so well.

— **Dr. Craig Ashley Hanson '99; SP '10; RCS '12**, *Stewart Rosenblum Scholar*

Everyone who led the tours, presented lectures, or hosted our group during the course was spectacular. Even though the days were long, schedule intense, and pace physically demanding, everyone seemed to exhibit enthusiasm, grace and élan. There is no other comparable course of study, or collection access.

— **Paul Parvis '85; SP '10; RCS '12**

From the first meeting at Cumberland Lodge to the final farewells in the heart of London, the ten days spent studying the Royal Collection was one of the most intense and rewarding periods of my entire career as an art historian.

— **Helga Aurisch, RCS '12**, *Paula Madden Scholar*



Do you know a good candidate for Attingham?

Please continue to spread the word about the Attingham courses. Time and again we hear that people apply to our programs because you, our Attingham alumni, have told them about our courses. Applications can be downloaded online and don't forget to mention the Summer School video, available for viewing on our website:

www.americanfriendsofatingham.org

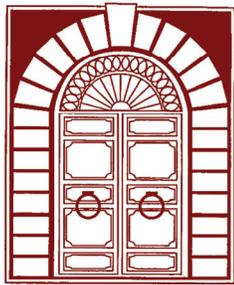
UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Registration fees may be submitted online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org, or by check payable to American Friends of Attingham, sent to: AFA, 307 Seventh Ave., Suite 1201, New York, NY 10001. For questions, contact attingham@verizon.net or 212-682-6840.

Friday, January 25, 2013, 4:30-5:30 pm
Tour of 'Extravagant Inventions: The Princely Furniture of the Roentgens'
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City

This spectacular exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art will be in its final days, but Attingham alumni will be treated to a hands-on demonstration by the exhibition organizer and Marina Kellen French Curator, Wolfram Koeppe, who will reveal the mechanical genius of various pieces bringing a whole new dimension to these works of art.

RSVP required. Attendance is limited to 25 people. While alumni will not be charged for this tour, they will be responsible for museum admission. Please meet in the exhibition galleries by 4:20 pm.



Friday, January 25, 2013, 6-8 pm
AFA Mid-Winter Reunion
 The House of the Redeemer
 7 East 95th Street, New York City

Ring in the new year at the annual Mid-Winter Reunion of Attingham alumni! This year's celebration will take place at The House of the Redeemer, a distinguished example of early 20th century residential architecture in New York City.

The House at 7 East 95th Street was built between 1914 and 1916 to serve as the town residence of Edith Shepard Fabbri, a great granddaughter of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, and her husband, Ernesto Fabbri, an associate of J. Pierpont Morgan. The House was designed by the Beaux Arts-trained Grosvenor Atterbury, noted for his 1908 restoration of New York's City Hall. The interior decoration was executed by Egisto Fabbri, Ernesto Fabbri's brother, and features Edith Fabbri's collection of Italian Renaissance and Baroque furnishings and architectural fragments, much of it imported directly from Italy during the First World War.

In 1949, inspired by a sermon on the necessity of silence and prayer in the spiritual life, Edith Fabbri deeded the building to a Board of Trustees under the auspices of the Episcopal Church to be used as a religious retreat house under the name "House of the Redeemer." The House was designated a New York City Landmark in 1974, and is currently run by a Board of Trustees, with spiritual care provided by Episcopal priests-in-residence.

Wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided in the library, the magnificent interior of which was originally built in the 1400's for the Ducal Palace in Urbino, Italy. The Duke was a patron of Raphael, who is said to have painted the medallion of the coat of arms on the vaulted 25 foot high ceiling.

The evening will begin with a brief talk by historian Percy Preston, Jr., trustee and author of a recent publication about the history of the house entitled *A Place Apart: The House of the Redeemer in New York City*. The book will be available for purchase, and the house will be open for self-guided tours throughout the reception.

RSVP by Friday, January 18. \$35 per person, guests welcome.

Saturday, January 26, 2013, 10 am
A Visit to an Extraordinary Private Collection: Featuring works designed by Christopher Dresser

The Victorian designer Christopher Dresser (1834-1904) captured the imagination of this Upper East Side couple who have assembled a comprehensive collection of works after his designs in every medium – including metalwork, textiles and ceramics. The works are displayed in a period setting with Arts and Crafts furniture, and Hudson River school paintings by artists including Thomas Cole, Jasper Francis Cropsey, and Martin Johnson Heade. The dining room, which takes its inspiration from Whistler's famous Peacock Room (now installed at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.), is particularly captivating. We are honored that the owners will personally guide us through their collection.

Attendance is limited to 30 people. RSVP required, \$25 per person. Location details to be provided upon registration.

Stay tuned for information about additional programs, including a Spring Daytrip and the
2013 AFA Study Trip: RICHMOND, being planned for Fall 2013.

Please watch the AFA website, or email attingham@verizon.net to request that details be sent to you when available.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

On June 16, a whimsical AFA 50th Anniversary Celebration took place at the Yale Club. Festivities were attended by more than 100 Attingham alumni from far and wide, with representatives from both sides of the pond.

The lively evening offered time for reunions and making new acquaintances. We'll never forget being serenaded by an original composition from former AFA administrator **Sybil Bruel** (performed by our impromptu Attingham chorus made up of **Jennifer Carliquist '03, Sybil Groff '73; TW '75, Pauline Metcalf '66; TW '72, '78, '82; SW '94, '03, Kate Morgan and Annabel Westman**), David Parsons' witty poem, or the surprisingly fierce trivia competition (led by mistress of ceremonies, **Melissa Gagen '93; RCS '98**), including questions about Down-ton Abbey and the Queen's dogs, among other things. It was without a doubt one for the finest displays of the genial group of individuals that make up the American Friends of Attingham alumni network, and seems a clear indication that the organization will remain strong and relevant for decades to come.

At present we have more than 1,300 alumni living in the US, and wish to acknowledge everyone who has supported the American Friends of Attingham over the past 50 years. We couldn't have made it this far without you! Our thanks to all who joined us on this significant occasion, and those who helped to make the event possible. Special thanks to event coordinators **Libby DeRosa '05; SP '10; RCS '07**, and **Diana Toole '12**, and to Sybil and David, for their memorable contributions.



Taking inspiration from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Paul Revere, AFA Treasurer and poet laureate **David Parsons '08; SP '11**, shared his humorous musings:

Listen my colleagues and you shall hear
Of Attingham in its 60th year.
On the tenth of July in fifty-two,
Be there a man at this fancy do
Who remembers that famous day and year?

Helen Lowenthal said, "If the British march
By land and sea from the Park that night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the Roman arch
(Designed by Nash) as a signal light;
One if by land, and two if by sea;
Americans on the opposite shore will be.

"We'll draw them here across the pond
And forge an everlasting bond."
And who could ever consider rebellion,
When led by Helen and George Trevelyan?

With trips to Chatsworth and Hardwick Hall,
Remembering there more glass than wall;
With visits to Petworth and lots to see,
Buildings by Adams, and gallons of tea.

Ten years later in sixty-two,
The American Friends was founded too;
Led by Phelps Warren and many more
We celebrate now our days of yore!

To AFA's leaders, I dare not lecture,
But tip my hat to Morrie Heckscher,
And give a cheer, perhaps a yowl,
For Molly Seiler and Margize Howell
And if by now you've caught my gist,
Please salute Clo Tepper and Tom Appelquist

To make tonight even more robust,
We're joined by two friends from the Attingham Trust:
Kate Morgan is here, not just to be fed,
And Annabel Westman, without a state bed!



For all of her work with the Friends and the school,
We also honor Sybil Bruel;
To Libby DeRosa, who planned this meal,
And Cheryl Hageman for all of her zeal,

We thank you all for your time at the helm
And salute you tonight as peers of our realm.
In sixty years, we've made quite a mark
From our first thirty-one at Attingham Park.

Tonight at fifty, please raise a glass,
Regardless of your Summer School class.

From Attingham Park to the digs at West Dean,
And not to up-stage the English Queen,
Let us toast tonight with a jubilant plea:
To Attingham's diamond jubilee!

Original Song, composed by Sybil Bruel. Sung by the
Attingham Chorus, to the tune of "Land of Hope and
Glory".

Land of country houses,
Attingham knows them all,
Chatsworth to Charlston,
We are in their thrall.

Lowenthal and Trevelyan,
Hayward, Waterfield, White,
Also Beard and Westman
Led us into the light.
Dukes, earls and barons
Welcomed us with delight.

Daytime traveling by coach,
The next house comes into sight.
Studying each mansion in detail,
Early morning to night.
Furniture, textiles, silver,
All the things we would see,
Ceramics, painting and sculpture,
Always followed by tea.

Then more lectures would follow,
Finally the dormitory beds,
Where visions of houses and gardens
Danced through our weary heads.

The **AFA 50th Anniversary Alumni Directory** will be available until the end of the 2012.

This publication contains class lists and photographs documenting American participation in the Attingham Trust courses since 1952 (through 2011), as well as current contact information and personal remarks from nearly 700 participating alumni. This 150-page, bound keepsake is a must-have for all looking to connect with classmates and other Attingham alumni!
Order yours at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org (online sales only, \$25 +s/h).

RECENT EVENTS

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Thanks to all who joined us for the 2012 Annual Members' Meeting here at the AFA office, and all who voted by proxy in advance. The slate of directors proposed by the Nominating Committee was approved. Three-year board terms were renewed for directors **Margaret Civetta '89; SW '97; SP '09, '10; LW '10, Libby DeRosa '05; SP '10; RCS '07, and Mary Riley Smith SW '08. Diana Toole '11**, who served as the 2011 Summer School Class Representative was elected to serve a three-year term as a Director. We welcome **Adam Brandow '12**, who will serve as the Summer School class representative for the coming year. **Jeffrey Herr '98; LW '10; RCS '01** was re-elected by the board as Vice President/Recruitment Chair.

Meet 2012 Summer School Class Representative: **Adam Brandow**

Adam is a Specialist in the Silver Department at Christie's. He holds an M.A. in the History of Decorative Arts from The Bard Graduate Center (where he specialized in Central European design and material culture) and a B.A. in Music History and German from Bates College in Maine.



NORTHERN BRONX DAYTRIP, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

A group of 19 Attingham alumni and friends spent an exceptional Saturday exploring the sights of Northern Bronx. We didn't have to travel far to feel transported to a different place and time — beginning our day with a look at the 18th and early 19th century period rooms at The National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York's Van Cortlandt House, the oldest building in the Bronx. Our encyclopedic guide, Bronx historian Dan Donovan, led us to Fordham University's Rose Hill Campus and lunch on Arthur Avenue. A visit to New York City's historic seaport community was an unexpected highlight of the day, with a stop at the City Island Nautical Museum before a visit to the stunning waterfront home of Barbara Burn Dolensek. The finale was a tour and reception at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Many thanks to **Judy Sheridan '83** and all who helped to organize.

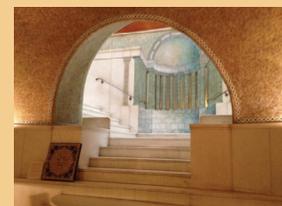


2012 AFA STUDY TRIP: BOSTON AND VICINITY

SEPTEMBER 27-30

The AFA's 2012 Study Trip, held in Boston and vicinity in late September, was a resounding success! Twenty-eight fortunate Attingham alumni and friends shared three days of privileged access, curatorial insights and visits to private collections that showed off the best of the best in terms of architecture and fine and decorative arts. Although the weather could best have been described as "English", the dampness did not affect the enthusiasm of the group for highlights including exceptional collections of Dutch and Flemish Old Master paintings and of European furniture and drawings, three of the region's great museums, and less renowned treasures best known to locals. Lectures rounded out the learning experience and were followed by dinners in the homes of esteemed leaders in the New England arts community.

The participants shared the spirit of scholarship, fellowship and fun that is the hallmark of Attingham, and many of them are already looking forward to the 2013 Study Trip. Keep an eye open for details about the trip to **Richmond** planned for the Fall of next year!



2012 TRACEY L. ALBAINY LECTURE

*OF CAULIFLOWER & CRAYFISH: THE HIGH ART OF DINING
IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY FRANCE*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

Charissa Bremer-David '89; WW '89; SW '94,'03; RCS '00, Curator of Sculpture & Decorative Arts, The J. Paul Getty Museum, presented *Of Cauliflower and Crayfish: The High Art of Dining in 18th-Century France* to an enthusiastic audience in the Harold M. Williams Auditorium at the Getty Center in Los Angeles. A pre-lecture reception was hosted by the Getty Museum's new director Timothy Potts in his office with views of Santa Monica Bay.

This was the second year for the annual Tracey L. Albainy Lecture series, commemorating the career and enthusiasm for European decorative arts of Attingham alumna **Tracey Albainy '90; SP '00; RCS '07**, a specialist in European silver and ceramics. AFA wishes to thank the Getty for sponsoring this event.



AN EVENING WITH PROFESSOR SIR DAVID CANNADINE, FBA *THE TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN RE-VISITED* THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4



140 guests gathered at The Union League Club to hear Professor Sir David Cannadine, FBA, Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University, and Honorary Professor at the University of London, reflect on *The Treasure Houses of Britain* exhibition through the lens of time. The exhibit staged in 1985-86 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC was the subject of much attention, due to its sumptuous displays, as well as its controversial claims that the British aristocracy served as guardians of the national heritage.

Originally critical of aspects of the exhibition, writer and historian Professor Cannadine spoke of the splendor of the show amidst a conservative and economically challenging period in British history, and the elevating effect it had at a dark time, as well as the evolution of the National Trust over the last generation.

The event was organized by the AFA Development Committee, co-chaired by **Betsy Shack Barbanell '99** and **Peter Trippi '95; RCS'00**. We are deeply grateful to Professor Cannadine for creating a most memorable evening for all who attended. Substantial funds were raised for future Attingham scholarships. Thanks to all who purchased tickets and made gifts in honor of the lecture.

A very special thank you to the generosity of our event Sponsors:

Betsy and Robert Barbanell	Kay Allaire
Nicholas A. Brawer	Anonymous
Edward Lee Cave	Richard T. Button
Margaret Civetta	David Dalva III
The Ida and William	Judith Hernstadt
Rosenthal Foundation	Mrs. Peter I.C. Knowles, II
E. Clothier Tepper	Nancy M. McCormick
Yale Center for British Art	Mary M. Meyer
	In Memory of Melvin R. Seiden



ATTINGHAM TRUST 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

LOOKING AHEAD: THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY HOUSE
OCTOBER 12 & 13, LONDON



In mid-October, close to 380 people from around the world filled the auditorium of London's Royal Geographical Society for the conference marking the 60th anniversary of the Attingham Trust, *Looking Ahead: The Future of the Country House*. Over two full days, 17 presentations surveyed the current state of historic houses and house museums in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Australia, and the United States. Rather than scheduling "just" a series of scholarly talks, organizer Giles Waterfield wisely mixed up the formats to keep the proceedings fresh. This was never intended to be merely a parade of rosy case studies; the audience, which included numerous members of the American Friends, especially appreciated the speakers' candor in identifying problem areas and opportunities for change.

Though there were many highlights, among the most memorable were Soane Museum director Tim Knox's lively conversation with the great scholar John Harris (entitled *Confessions of a Country House Snooper*), Giles Waterfield's entertaining chat with *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes, a riveting (and unexpectedly intimate) talk by the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, deft introductory remarks and moderating by Edward Harley (who heads the Historic Houses Association, and is himself the owner of Brampton Bryan in Herefordshire), and a jolly drinks party at the House of Lords made possible by Lord Crathorne, a Patron of The Attingham Trust. Former Summer School director Lisa White gave an intriguing paper about the National Trust, while architectural historian Jeremy Musson addressed the crisis underway for British country houses that are controlled by local governments. America was well represented by speakers **Craig Hanson '99; SP '10; RCS '12**, who outlined the evolution of this country's historic house museums, **John Tschirch '90; RCS '08**, who traced the history and present situation of Newport, Rhode Island, and **Sean Sawyer '02**, who gave a compelling and highly personal talk about his sweet-and-sour experiences reinventing a historic property in Brooklyn.

Congratulations and thanks are due not only to the Attingham Trust, but also to the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, which underwrote the conference. The lectures will be published on-line at www.attinghamtrust.org by early December 2012.



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As this special anniversary year draws to a close, we ask that you give AFA special consideration in your annual contribution. Surely you will agree that 50 years of AFA history deserves to be recognized in an extra-special way!

Our Annual Appeal is crucial to the continuing operation of the American Friends of Attingham and our efforts to promote the programs of the Attingham Trust, raise funds for scholarships, and offer programs and ongoing support to our alumni and friends. More than two-thirds of our ongoing support comes from the Appeal, and we are very appreciative of every contribution we receive. If you have not yet made your annual donation, please consider what you might do to help. To every person who is able to give, thank you!

Donations may be made online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org, or mailed to: American Friends of Attingham, 307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1201, New York, NY 10001-6050

ALUMNI NEWS

Do you have news? E-mail *Alumni News* to attingham@verizon.net.

W. Scott Braznell '90 published *Modern Expression in American Silver: The Designs of the Weimar Émigré Albert Feinauer (1886-1955)*, in *Winterthur Portfolio* 44/4 (Winter 2010).

John F. Dryfhout '71 retired from the National Park Service in 2004. He is now involved in writing a history of Cornish, New Hampshire, for the town's 250th anniversary in 2013. Dryfhout resides in Cornish and spends the winter in Sarasota, Florida.

Michelle Hargrave '07 joined the American Federation of Arts as a Curator in 2011.

Mary Anne Hunting '89 is the author of *Edward Durell Stone: Modernism's Populist Architect* (W.W. Norton, Nov. 2012).

Elizabeth A. Williams '08 is the curator of the exhibition and editor of the catalogue *Daily Pleasures: French Ceramics from the MaryLou Boone Collection* (The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2010), October 6, 2012-March 31, 2013.

Candace Volz '10 is now working on two Master Interpretive Plans for the Texas Historical Commission. She completed a historic furnishings report for eight rooms in the main lab building at Edison National Historical Park earlier this year.

Sadly we note the passing of **John Ferguson '80** and **Hortense Feldblum '66**. Hortense, a loyal and devoted alumna of the Attingham program, died July 6, 2012 at the age of 98. She was a native of Houston, Texas and credited Attingham for her appreciation of antiques, gardens and historic architecture.