



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2008

NO. 48

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, September 19, 2008, 6-8 pm

The Culture Center

410 Columbus Avenue at 80th Street, New York, NY 10024

The Culture Center is located in the former Hotel Orleans, built in 1898-1900 in the newly fashionable form of an apartment-hotel. It is the second oldest surviving tall building (10 stories) on the west side of Manhattan after the Dakota completed in 1884. Our use of the Culture Center has been generously donated by Nora Lavori.

6:00 American Friends of Attingham Business Meeting

The Business Meeting will include reports on the activities and finances of the American Friends and the election of Officers and Directors to the Board. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of candidates:

Officers: (to be elected by the Board of Directors)

President – Tom Appelquist, '87; SW '94, '00, '05, '06, '07

Vice-President – Beth Carver Wees, '81; RCS '04

Secretary – Barbara File, SW '97

Directors: (to be elected by the AFA membership)*

Betsy Barbanell, '99 – three-year term

Barry Harwood, '93; RCS '06 – three-year term

Brigitte Fletcher, SW '02 – three-year term (renewal)

Jeffrey Herr, '98 – three-year term (renewal)

Thomas Michie, '81 – two-year term

(to complete the unexpired term of Judith Barter)

**According to the American Friends of Attingham by-laws, members are those who have made a financial contribution to AFA in the past year.*

6:45 Program -- Illustrated lecture followed by a reception

Sarah Chasse '08, recipient of the Sybil Bruel Scholarship, will speak about her adventures during the most recent Attingham Summer School. Sarah is Curatorial Assistant in the Department of American Decorative Arts of the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts.

To sign up please complete flyer enclosed with this mailing.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been a most eventful year for the AFA. Since my last report for the *Newsletter* alumni have gathered for events in Philadelphia, New York, Delaware, and San Francisco, and for an exceptionally enjoyable study trip to Santa Fe. A special thanks to all involved, and especially to The Royal Oak Foundation for co-sponsoring numerous lectures, to Tom Appelquist for organizing the Santa Fe trip, and to Jennie McCahey, '06, and Melissa Gagen, '93, for their superb job in planning AFA's events which, I am happy to report, can now be accessed online.

Our beautiful new website, which was officially launched in January, is the result of the collective contributions of many alumni, in particular Libby De Rosa and Jeffrey Herr, who worked tirelessly revising text, selecting photos, and editing content. I encourage you all to visit www.AmericanFriendsOfAttingham.org to keep abreast of news and activities, to register for programs, to download brochures and applications for the Attingham courses, and, of course, to make a secure online donation to the Annual Fund.

It is a great pleasure to report the gift of \$100,000 to the American Friends of Attingham from former Board member and Treasurer, Stewart Rosenblum, '84; SW '02; RCS '05. This extraordinary gift (described elsewhere in this *Newsletter*) fully endows *The Stewart G. Rosenblum Royal Collection Studies Scholarship* and will provide tuition annually to an American accepted to attend the RCS program. We salute Stewart for his leadership role in our efforts to ensure the future of Attingham and to provide more Americans with the same "life-changing" experience that has meant so much to each of us individually.

On a somber note, I report the untimely death of Allison Ledes, '79, President of the American Friends from 1998 to 2002. Allison was devoted to Attingham and served AFA and the larger arts and antiques community in so many ways. To commemorate Allison's invaluable dedication to the American Friends, the Board has established *The Allison Eckardt Ledes Scholarship Fund*. I am pleased to report that to date we have received over \$16,000. Donations of any size are welcome and may be mailed to AFA or made online.

At the Annual Meeting on September 19, we will bid farewell to three members of the Board: Robert Domergue, '87, who from his base in San Francisco helped bring together Attingham colleagues visiting the West Coast with local alumni and friends; Missy McHugh, '98, who ably served as Secretary and Chair of the Programs Committee; and Judy Barter, '75, who contributed in meaningful ways to discussions during our Board retreat. To each of them I offer my sincere thanks for their service to the American Friends.

It has been six years since I joined the Board of this wonderful organization and I cannot adequately express how gratifying this time has been. The Attingham community is like no other. I would agree with Geoffrey Beard who (purportedly quoting from Helena Hayward) once described the American Friends as "a remarkable group whose members, having once met, throw a party, constantly visit each other, recruit new young students for the course, act as an employment agency, and arrange each others' careers." It has indeed been a pleasure getting to know so many of our alumni. I thank all of you who have supported the American Friends. To my fellow Board members, your resourcefulness, generosity, and professionalism have been a source of inspiration. It has been a privilege working with each of you. Lastly, I thank Libby De Rosa, who carried out all manner of tasks large and small, with great skill and good cheer. I am delighted to be passing on the baton to Tom Appelquist, '87, whom I have known since the

summer of 1987 when we spent three glorious weeks together attending Attingham. Since joining the Board in 2003, Tom has served as Director, and Vice-President for Development. Under his able stewardship the scholarship endowment of the American Friends has grown significantly, and I am certain that as President he will continue to achieve great things for this organization.

I look forward to continuing on the Board as Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Force. For more information about this and other AFA activities please join me at the Annual Meeting on September 19 in New York.

Molly Seiler '87, President

LETTER FROM ENGLAND

In June 2008 the Attingham Study Week programme followed an especially stimulating and privileged study of great houses and collections. It was a wonderful conclusion to my time with the Study Week. I have clocked up an amazing 18 years during which I have watched the Study Week develop its own identity, especially with the variety of participants. The growth in the numbers of scholarships awarded has been particularly satisfying. This year the recipients included Eve Barsoum, '05 (U.S. Commission of Fine Arts;) and Maria Santangelo Brown (Legion of Honor Fine Art Museum of San Francisco) who were American Friends of Attingham scholars while on this side of the Atlantic we had scholars from Lithuania, Denmark, Scotland and England. We also had members from New Zealand, Ireland and Switzerland which all added up to a very lively group. So I shall be retiring to the wings with satisfaction of what has been achieved and with many thanks to all those I have worked with, especially Annabel Westman who always dispenses wise counsel. Kate Morgan, Administrator of the Study Week, was both efficient and good company. It is worth remembering that the Study Week is the only Attingham programme which can be repeated and which takes place not only in Britain, but abroad. I am delighted Giles Waterfield has agreed to lead next year's Study Programme to Berlin and Dresden.

This year we visited 17 houses which took us from the Middle Ages through the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. There were many contrasts, from the 18th century elegance of Cottesbrooke and Kelmars to the eccentric Triangular Lodge with its declaration of the builder's Catholic faith. We visited three conservation examples beginning with Nevill Holt, an essentially Elizabethan house complemented by the owner's cutting-edge contemporary art collection, while Kirby Hall and the 50,000 square feet of Apethorpe were examples of English Heritage projects. At 17th-century Belton, a National Trust property, we had the good fortune to be led by Curator Andrew Barber. Most of the great houses and collections we saw remain under private care, among them Milton, Quenby and Lamport and, of course, the magnificent houses and estates of Drayton, Althorp, Grimsthorpe, Boughton and Burghley. Vast Harlaxton must astonish its University of Evansville American students with a 19th-century mix of Elizabethan and Baroque styles. A gala dinner took place at Deene Park where our hostess, the Hon. Marion Brudenell, graciously allowed the "Attingham Last Night" production. With much hilarity, it took the form of (1) a State Bed and (2) an Awards Ceremony which culminated in presentations to the Director and the Administrator of the 2008 Study Week. Our final morning saw the clouds gather, our coach stuck in the gates of Althorp, and our group walking the winding path to the house with the usual gusto response of true Attingham spirit which seemed a fitting conclusion to the week.

Caroline Rimell, Director of The Attingham Study Week

STEWART G. ROSENBLUM SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

The American Friends of Attingham are delighted to express our immense gratitude to Stewart Rosenblum, SS '84, SW '02, RCS '05, who has given us the largest gift we have ever received from an individual living member. The \$100,000 gift is to be used to establish the Stewart G. Rosenblum Scholarship to the Royal Collection Studies program which until now has not had a permanent named scholarship from the American Friends.

Stewart has been a longstanding supporter of Attingham as a Board member and two-term Treasurer of the American Friends, during which time he evaluated financial aid requests for Summer School scholarships each year and helped clarify and reposition our own investment portfolio, as well as providing one of the initial \$10,000 gifts inaugurating the Bruel Scholarship Campaign.

Stewart's background includes an AB from Dartmouth, and a JD, MA, and MPhil in History from Yale. After clerking for a Federal Appellate Judge he worked for two decades as a trust and estates lawyer in New York City. At Yale Stewart met Charles and Florence Montgomery who were early proponents of the Attingham Summer School. They urged him to attend, which he did in 1984 when the Summer School was under Helena Hayward's engaging leadership. He found the program to be "excellent in every way" and life changing in the sense that it stimulated his own scholarly pursuits in 19th-century American furniture, silver, and books. He also became a passionate collector of contemporary glass, ceramics, and studio furniture, especially enjoying the opportunity to meet and know the makers of the objects he was collecting. Ever interested in learning, Stewart is now at work on completion of his PhD.

"As Treasurer I saw the need for this gift", Stewart remarked recently, " and it was my wish to see some of my resources put to good use during my lifetime. I very much look forward to meeting the Scholarship's recipients and learning how attendance on the Royal Collection Studies program is meaningful to them."

The American Friends are deeply grateful to Stewart Rosenblum. By setting the giving bar this much higher he has challenged the rest of us to contemplate the value we place on our Attingham experience, to recognize the ever more costly environment in which the programs operate, and to be as generous as we possibly can be. The spirit of generosity which has been fundamental to the success of Attingham since its founding in 1952 has found a new and outstanding exemplar.

Tom Appelquist, '87, Vice-President for Development

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CAN NOW MAKE A
DONATION ON OUR WEBSITE

GO TO: AMERICANFRIENDSOFATTINGHAM.ORG

TO MAKE YOUR SECURE E-DONATION

SUMMER SCHOOL 2008



We welcome to the ranks of our alumni the Attingham Summer School Class of '08. They were an enthusiastic, lively group, and during the course they had the special pleasure of being accompanied by two wonderful new staff members, **Christopher Garabaldi**, Assistant Director of the Summer School, and **Rebecca Parker**, Administrator of the Summer School. This autumn many of you will have a chance to hear Summer School Director, **Lisa White**, whose extensive U.S. lecture circuit is described under Programs Co-Sponsored with the Royal Oak Foundation. *Ed.*

The members of the Class of 2008 are:

David Bayne, Furniture Conservator for NY State Department of Parks

Janet Blyberg, Research Assistant, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Sarah Chasse, Curatorial Assistant, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Stuart Ching, Curator, Friends of Iolani Palace, Honolulu, HI

Rachel Delphia, Assistant Curator, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, PA

Eleanor Dew, PhD candidate, Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, NYC

Emily Eerdmans, Gallery Associate, Hyde Park Antiques, NYC

Clifton Ellis, Associate Professor, Texas Tech University, College of Architecture

Joanna Frang, PhD candidate, Brandeis University, Boston, MA

Justin Gunther, Curator of Buildings and Collections, Fallingwater, Mill Run, PA

Laurie Kittle, Interpreter, Gunston Hall Plantation, Mason Neck, VA and Technical Communicator, Apptis, Inc.

Joel Lefever, President and Curator, Holland Historical Trust and Museum, Holland, MI
Laura Macaluso, Assistant Director and Curator, Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum, Norwalk, CT
Anna Marley, PhD candidate, University of Delaware
Thomas McGehee, Director/Curator, Bellingrath Gardens and Home, Theodore, AL
Lindsay Parrott, Director/Curator, The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, LIC, NY
David Parsons, Director of Finance and Administration, Historic Hudson Valley, NY
Dennis Pickeral, Director, Stenton, National Society of Colonial Dames of America, PA
Steven Pine, Decorative Arts Conservator, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Claudia Rice, Registrar, Collection of Ann and Gordon Getty, San Francisco, CA
Max van Balgooy, Director of Interpretation and Education, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, DC
Linda Weld, Architect and MA candidate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Virginia Whelan, Textile Conservator in private practice, Philadelphia, PA
Elizabeth Williams, Assistant Curator, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE

Many of the students listed above would not have been able to attend the Summer School without scholarship assistance. We gratefully acknowledge major funding for scholarships from **The Royal Oak Foundation** which provided \$22,000 to assist twelve scholars. The **Samuel H. Kress Foundation** and the **Charles E. Peterson Fellowship at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia** supported two and one student respectively with full tuition scholarships. **The Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation** gave a partial scholarship, as did the **English Speaking Union**, for which we particularly thank **Mrs. Alys Rickett** for her many decades of effort on behalf of American students attending the Attingham Summer School.

The AFA's own endowment provided three **Lillian Hirschmann** scholarships as well as our second annual **Sybil Bruel Scholarship**. The **Edward Maverick Fund**, a bequest from Edward Maverick '52, this year provided for two scholars to attend. Elsewhere in this issue you can read about the new Attingham tradition for which the **Class of 2007** provided a scholarship for a member of the Class of 2008.

Several loyal alumni continued their generous support of Attingham by providing partial scholarships. This year we received grants from **David Maxfield, '85**, **Polly Rubin, '95**, and **Gilbert Schafer, '95**. In addition we are grateful to the many museums and cultural institutions that supported their staff members' attendance through paid leaves of absence or direct grants.

Lastly AFA awarded scholarships this year in memory of two outstanding Attingham alumni, **David Meschutt, '88**, **SW '98, '04**, and **Laura Evans, '89**. We are most grateful to David's and Laura's families and friends for organizing and encouraging these scholarship efforts.

For the first time in many years we were able to offer two scholarships for Study Week made possible by **Dick Button, '71**, **Judith Hernstadt, RCS '03**, **SW '06**, **Tom Appelquist, '87**, **SW '94, '00, '05, '06, '07** and **Charles Newman, SW '05, '06**.

We are also deeply grateful to all of our individual members who have supported AFA during the past year. Listed below are those who made donations of \$100 or more.

Altman, Cynthia
Ambler, Louise Todd
Andrews, Stephenson
Aoki, Paul
Apicella Hollihan, Mary Ann
Appelquist, Thomas
Ashlin, Dan
Askins, Norman
Atkin, Tony
Baird, Eliza Marshall
Banker, Pamela
Banker, Sharon Wells
Barbanell, Betsy Shack
Barnard, Nancy J.
Barnes, Beverly
Barter, Judith
Bauman, Ronald
Berke, Ian and Margaret
Boghosian, Paula
Booth, Suzanne
Boswell, Thomas
Bowden, Joyce
Brandt, Beverly K.
Braunlein, John
Brawer, Nicholas
Bromm, Harold J.
Bruel, Sybil
Bruning, William
Buhler, Leslie
Burton, Robert
Bush, Robert
Button, Richard T.
Byers, Christine
Cantor, Jay
Cassidy-Geiger, Maureen
Chandler, Angelyn
Civetta, Margaret
Clement, Constance
Coffin, Sarah D.
Colburn, Frances
Collachicco, Alan
Conway, Suzanne
Dane, William J.
David, Charissa B.
Dean, Robert
Deibler, Dan
de la Vergne, Marie Louise
De Rosa, Elizabeth
De Waart, Nancy
Desy, Margherita
DiCamillo, Curt
Dobrowolski, Paul
Donnelly, Laura

Donnelly, Marian
Dunlop, Hank
duPont, Elise
Edwards, Jared and Clare
Elliott, David Henry
Ewing, Madelyn B.
Feldblum, Hortense
ffolliott, Sheila
Field, Marilyn
File, Barbara
Fitzgerald, Lucy
Fleischmann, Charles
Fletcher, Brigitte
Forbes, H.A. Crosby
Ford, Susan Jefferson
Foster, Giraud and Carolyn
Fowler, Angela
Francis, Ross
Frederick, Anthony and
Patricia
Friedman, Marjorie
Gagen, Melissa T.
Garrison, J. Ritchie
Gilligan, Lorraine
Glosband, Merrily
Glynn, Michael Jennings
Goslin, Anne
Groff, Jeff
Grote, Suzy Wetzel
Grubb, Linda F.
Haavik, Benjamin
Hague, Stephen
Hatch, Deborah
Hays, Nancy
Held, Huyler
Hernstadt, Judith
Herr, Jeffrey
Hill, Joanna
Homer, Abigail
Howe, Katherine
Howell, Margize
Hull, Pamela K.
Hunt, Peter
Hunting, Mary Anne
Johnson, Elizabeth B.
Johnson, Kathleen Eagen
Jones, Carmie
Kahn, Gail and Frederick
Kalian, Arianna
Karlgaard, Joanna
Karotkin, Jane
Kearns, Sarah Latham
Keenan, Ann

Keene, John
Kelley, Donald
Koch, Lisa Cook
Kreger, Janet Laurel
Kugelman, Thomas and Alice
Kusserow, Karl E.
Lalire, Kristie
Landreth, Betty Wright
Lavin, Susan
Lawson-Bell, Jane
Leckie, Elizabeth Betts
Lee, Barbara Brown
Leisenring, Julia
Lindgren, Janet and Keith
Lundgren, Susan
Lurie, Thomas and Nancy
Lyle, Charles T.
McCaskill, Penny Hunt
Madden, Paula
Masek, Edward
Maxfield, David
Maze, Diane
McHugh, Missy
McInnes, Flora
McNaught, William
Meschutt, Sarah Bevan
Metcalf, Pauline
Meyer, Mary M.
Michel, Robin
Moffitt, Janet Stewart
Molinar, Christopher
Moore, Lisa
Monkhouse, Christopher
Moss, Roger
Mundy, Jim
Nellis, Anne
Nelson, Richard
Newman, Charles
North, Percy
Nottebohm, Prentiss Eley
Oddy, John
O'Malley, Christine
Papp Durham, Melinda
Parsons, Merribell
Parvis, Paul
Pearson, Marjorie
Pentecost, Nicholas
Peterson, Karin
Pillsbury, William
Pitts, Elizabeth
Ravitch, Gloria
Rawles, Susan J.
Rimell, Caroline

Roberts, Lynn Springer
Rogers, Thomas M.
Rosenblum, Stewart
Rubin, Polly
Saitas, Stephen
Sands, Patricia
Sanford, Cynthia
Savage, Charles
Schafer, Gilbert P.
Scharmer, Roger
Seiler, Molly
Shelley, Marjorie
Shepherd, Barnett
Smith, Nancy A.

Smith, Niente I.
Snodgrass, Kenneth
Somerville, Romaine
Spang, Joseph Peter
Stayton, Kevin
Stevens, Vivienne
Stiefel, Jay Robert
Thayer, Seth
Theus, Charlton
Thompson, Kathleen
Thomson, Christine
Trippi, Peter
Van Ingen, Anne H.
Verplanck, Anne

Walker, Stefanie
Webster, Deborah
Wees, Beth Carver
White, Kirk
Whitmore, Suzanne and John
Whitton, Donald
Wilkening, Susie Kilpatrick
Wolfe, Kevin
Wood, Annette
Ziegler, Ruth
Zrebiec, Alice M.
Zukowski, Karen

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

(If your name has been omitted in error, please let Libby De Rosa know. We are working with an old and creaky database; we would welcome financial assistance to replace it.)

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

The August 2008 issue of the new *Domino* magazine features an article, “A Godfather of Design,” about former AFA Vice-President and President Pro Tem, **Alan Campbell, '73**, and his long-forgotten role as an innovative interior designer. **Brian Gallagher, '02**, has for the past year been in a new post as Curator of Decorative Arts at the Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. **Olivia Alison, '93**, has relocated to Alabama where she is Director of Development for the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

The Craftsman and the Critic: Defining Usefulness and Beauty in Arts-and-Crafts Era Boston by **Beverly K. Brandt, '87**, will be published this autumn by the University of Mass. Press. It discusses the interaction of craft workers and critics as they collaborated to improve the living and working environments in Boston and across the U.S. **Margherita Desy, '07**, has recently taken the position of Naval Historian for the USS Constitution. **Mary Louise de la Vergne, '07**, is a board member of the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans, which last spring sponsored a dance and silent auction to raise funds to rebuild New Orleans' neighborhoods.

Two Attingham alumni curated outstanding exhibitions at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum during the past year. **Sarah Lawrence, RCS '07**, co-curated *Piranesi as Designer* with former Summer School Director, John Wilton-Ely. **Sarah Coffin, '72**, organized *Rococo: The Continuing Curve, 1730-2008*, which closed in July.

If you travel to Rockefeller Center this autumn or winter, you might want to sign up for a tour given by **Sibyl Groff, '73**. In addition to her extensive knowledge of the history and art works in Rockefeller Center, Sibyl has made a special study of how New Yorkers have celebrated “Gothamtime,” over the centuries. Last year she lectured on the subject at The Victoria Mansion, in Portland, Maine and at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk, CT.

Two Carpenters: Architecture and Building in Early New England, 1799-1859, written by **J. Ritchie Garrison, '07**, won the Historic New England 2007 Book Prize. **Cynthia Moyer, SW '89**, spent last autumn conserving a suite of Rococo giltwood furniture for the reinstallation of the Wrightsman Galleries at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **Lorraine Gilligan, '85**, is Director of Preservation at Old Westbury Gardens in Old Westbury, NY. She is also consulting with historic sites and agencies on long-range planning and development issues.

Last December *The New York Times* published an admiring article about **William J. Dane, '67**, who for 60 years has built and curated an outstanding collection of works on paper, ranging from Piranesi prints to

pop-up books, for the Newark Public Library. **Ray Armater, '07**, is the new director of Montgomery Place, a property of Historic Hudson Valley. On September 23rd, **Hank Dunlop, '80, SW'06**, will be honored by the International Interior Design Association in San Francisco. He is one of seven honorees in the U.S. and Canada.

Remi Spriggs, '05, moved back to Houston last year and is now curatorial assistant at Bayou Bend where her new boss is **Michael Brown, '79**. Elsewhere in Texas, **Jane Karotkin, '98, SW'06**, reports good news and bad news. She was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of Villa Finale, A National Trust for Historic Preservation property in San Antonio, TX. The bad news is every curators worst nightmare. In May the Governor's Mansion, of which Jane is the Administrator of the Friends of the Governor's Mansion, suffered a major arson. Fortunately, the furniture was all in storage at the time of the fire and funds are being raised to rebuild. **Katherine Seale '05**, has been named executive director of Preservation Dallas. Her organization is bringing attention to modern architecture and recently managed to list the Statler Hilton Hotel in downtown Dallas, one of the National Trust's Most Endangered Buildings.

Special thanks to **Kathryn Galitz '07**, who gave a vibrant tour for AFA members of her exhibition, *J.M.W. Turner*, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on August 6. This experiment with offering a summer tour to metropolitan area members for whom we have e-mail addresses, was a great success.

TRACEY ALBAINY (1962-2007)

Tracey Albainy, '90, RCS '07, was a senior curator of decorative arts at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and an enthusiastic supporter of Attingham. Last August she fulfilled a long-standing dream of attending the Royal Collections Study program, and in her follow-up report wrote, " I arrived in London in late August having heard my colleagues and friends praise the course for many years. I knew that the experience would be exhilarating, but it exceeded expectations. The total access to the royal collections and to its curators was remarkable—it is hard to imagine something comparable anywhere else in the world and certainly not in the United States."

The Board of the AFA has voted to establish a *Tracey Albainy Lecture Fund* in her memory.
Contributions may be sent to the AFA or donated on our secure web site:
AmericanFriendsofAttingham.org.

ALLISON ECKARDT LEDES (1954-2008)

With great sorrow we report the death of Allison Ledes, '79, President of the American Friends of Attingham from 1998 to 2002. As President Emerita Allison continued to offer her wise counsel and active committee work for Attingham to the very end of her life. Her final project for us was the new web site, for which she participated in countless hours of editing and clarification. Please see the statements below from Allison's Summer School classmate and particular friend, Michael Brown, '79, and her AFA colleague and friend, Sybil Bruel. ED.

Allison Ledes maintained a great appreciation for the unique role that the Attingham Summer School assumes in the lives of its students—whether it be during those three grueling weeks of classes or, subsequently, the friendships and collegial relationships which have brought alumni from different classes together over the years. She possessed the unique perspective of knowing the program from two completely different vantage points—initially as a twenty-five-year-old assistant from *The Magazine Antiques*, and nineteen years later (by then the magazine's editor) as President of the American Friends of Attingham. In the latter capacity, she developed a great respect for the tradition and worth

the program has engendered for more than a half century, while recognizing the annual challenges that the Board faces in order to uphold its reputation and respect.

With the latter in mind, Allison's husband, George, her daughters, Meredith and Abigail, as well as the other members of her family, friends, and colleagues, wanting to celebrate her life and accomplishments, have established the *Allison Eckardt Ledes Scholarship Fund* in recognition of her myriad contributions and deep commitment to the Attingham Summer School. An official announcement will be made at the annual meeting on September 19, which will initiate a campaign to honor Allison through this legacy. Donations of any size are welcome and may be mailed to AFA or made online.

Michael Brown, '79

ALLISON AND I: FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Where do you start when talking about an amazing person like Allison Ledes? She was an outstanding individual in every way, and one of the rare people that absolutely everyone admires. I met her early in my Attingham stint, and at that time she was newly pregnant with daughter Meredith, who is now a college student. Although my children were somewhat older, we had many conversations about the trials and tribulations of bringing up children in New York, such as getting into nursery schools, and on from there.

We worked together well. If I had a question, she always had an answer. If I needed an idea or suggestion, she always had one. If I was checking on the background of a speaker, she could always provide details. If we needed a venue for an event, she knew the perfect place. If I made a joke, she laughed. If I sent an e-mail, she would answer immediately. As far as I was concerned, she was Attingham's secret weapon (actually not so secret) and she never let me down.

In spite of her grand position as editor of *The Magazine Antiques*, she willingly applied her editorial skills to proofreading various Attingham documents, the *Newsletter* in particular. She taught me to leave behind the rules of grammar I learned in school and accept the dictates of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which she seemed to have committed to memory. Proofreading can be tedious when you are looking at every comma, but Allison went through everything with a practiced eye and never a complaint.

She was able to attract many distinguished authors to write articles for *Antiques*, and she took good care of the contributors, who would then often become lifelong friends. She was generous with her time in spite of her incredibly busy schedule, and her staff and colleagues were most appreciative, not to speak of her friends and relatives. Going to an event of any kind was always more fun if Allison attended, and she did her best to appear at all Attingham occasions, as well as those of other organizations.

Her many friends throughout the country, and indeed throughout the world, will miss her greatly, as will I. I feel very fortunate that she was part of my life and I will always appreciate her friendship.

Sybil Bruel, Administrator Emerita

SANTA FE STUDY TRIP, MAY 7-10, 2008

On the first morning of our trip as the bus drove toward Acoma Pueblo past vast rock outcroppings and even vaster stormy skies, Tom Appelquist, '87, who had organized the program, set the stage by reading to us Willa Cather's fictionalized retelling of the murder of an 18th-century Spanish priest by the irate Native American residents of the Acoma Pueblo. Within the story we began to learn of the complex layering of cultures that comprise New Mexico's history, beginning with the Native Americans in residence from about 600 AD, to the Spanish and Mexicans who established Santa Fe as their capital in 1610, to the American presence that developed in 1821 with the opening of the Santa Fe Trail, and most recently to the flowering of regionalism in the 1920s when Santa Fe attracted a variety of patrons, artists and architects who produced what we now think of as the "Santa Fe style."

Our group of 30 included curators, educators, collectors, architects and historic preservationists -- a mix that produced the usual lively Attingham conversations. Jim Hare, '03, accompanied us throughout the weekend and provided a rich and nuanced discussion of New Mexican history and preservation issues. Jim is the Director of Cornerstones, a preservation organization that works in partnership with local groups to conserve the architecture and traditions of New Mexico. One of Cornerstones' major projects is in the Acoma Pueblo. He introduced us to a team of Native-American builders who are reclaiming the ancient tradition of adobe construction to restore their cathedral. Along with their fascinating discussion of building techniques, they also built a fire for us in the school building *kiva*. Its warmth was most welcome because Attingham brought English weather to New Mexico in place of the hot desert climate most of us had anticipated.

On Friday our visit to Georgia O'Keeffe's home and studio in Abiqu and to nearby Ghost Ranch, was a highlight of the trip for many in our group. George King, Director of the O'Keeffe Museum, had kindly arranged a special guide, Pita Lopez, to lead the house tour for us. As a young girl she had worked for O'Keeffe as a companion during the last years of the artist's life. Pita's recollections of O'Keeffe's interests and attitudes made the artist seem to blossom before our eyes, and the views from every window of the house and studio evoked O'Keeffe's landscape subjects.

On Friday afternoon we saw old Santa Fe, traveling up Canyon Road, now brimming with art galleries, visiting the Acequia Madre House, and ending the evening at the home of Tom Appelquist and Charlie Newman. Theirs is a house designed originally by John Gaw Meem (1894-1983), an architect whose work was a light-motif of the trip. The house has been expanded and remodeled by its talented current owners. It was the perfect setting for drinks in the newly-designed garden followed by a festive dinner to which Tom and Charlie had invited the Santa Feans who were our hosts throughout the visit.

In true Attingham fashion we made an early start to the day on Saturday to visit the Gerald Peters Gallery before it opened to the public. Curator Catherine Whitney deftly guided us through the special exhibition *Defining the West: Two Hundred Years of American Imagery*, explaining along the way the tenets and importance of The Taos Society of Artists and the Santa Fe Art Colony. Saturday night brought yet more wonderful hospitality at the home of Tony Atkin, '77, and Tom Pederson. This was the beginning of the 21st-century portion of the trip. Unrestricted by the enforced adobe style required within the city limits of Santa Fe, the hills surrounding town provide sites for innovative modern architecture. Tony's house is on a spectacular hilltop from which, drinks in hand, we watched the sun set behind the Jemez Mountains. The house is both Japanesque, reflecting Tony's many years of teaching in Japan, and green, reflecting his special

concerns as a resident of water-challenged Santa Fe and as an architect. We ate brilliant Mexican food and enjoyed ourselves so much that it took massive persuasion to return us to the bus for the trip back to our hotels.

Sunday morning brought the kind of clear, sunny weather we had been expecting all along. We visited two spectacular houses built in the hills above Santa Fe since 2000. Finally, over picnic lunch, we met Regina Rickless, who had performed the role of Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly*, the first opera produced by the Santa Fe Opera fifty plus years ago. It was a fitting conclusion for a fascinating exploration of a remarkable place and state-of-mind that is Santa Fe. ED



Tom Appelquist explaining 1920's Santa Fe style at Acequia Madre House, Santa Fe.

SAVE THE DATES

MAY 7-10, 2009

The next AFA Study Trip will be to Los Angeles. Jeffrey Herr, '98, and Tom Michie, '81, have already begun planning a fascinating visit.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM AUTUMN PROGRAMS

NEW YORK CITY:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 6-8 PM:

AFA ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting takes place at The Culture Center, 410 Columbus Avenue at 80th Street, New York, NY 10024.

Election of new board members, lecture by the 2008 Bruel Scholar and reception. See complete invitation and response form included in this *Newsletter*.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 10:30 AM TO NOON:

UPSTAIRS/DOWNSTAIRS WALKING TOUR on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Meet next to the Sherman Memorial, Central Park at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue for a fascinating tour of Upper East Side mansions led by noted architectural historian, Matt Postal.

Registration: \$25 by check to 1965 Broadway, #20G, NY, NY 10023 or online at the AFA website.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5:45-7:00 PM:

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF SHERMAN FAIRCHILD CENTER FOR WORKS ON PAPER AND PHOTOGRAPH CONSERVATION, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd Street.

Assemble in the Great Hall at the Group Tour Desk by 5:45 for prompt 6 pm departure for the Conservation Studio where our guide will be Marjorie Shelley, SW '07, Sherman Fairchild Conservator in Charge,. Access to the Laboratory will not be possible for late arrivals.

Registration: \$25 by check to 1965 Broadway, #20G, NY, NY 10023 or online at the AFA website.

The Sherman Fairchild Center for Works on Paper and Photograph Conservation is one of the preeminent conservation centers in the world. Marjorie will discuss the detective work involved in authenticating and conserving works of art on paper and will show us the extensive collection of artist's paint boxes that she has assembled for the Museum.

AFA CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS WITH THE ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION

PHILADELPHIA:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 6:30 PM

"I ask only a comfortable home": Jane Austen and Regency Domestic Interiors

Lisa White, Director, The Attingham Summer School

Lecture only: \$15 members; \$20 non-members

Lecture and dinner: \$60

Location: 140 South Broad Street

There will be a reception with cash bar at 6:00 p.m. An optional no-host dinner follows the lecture. Dinner reservations are non-refundable and must be made by the Friday before the lecture.

NEW YORK CITY:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6 PM

"I ask only a comfortable home": Jane Austen and Regency Domestic Interiors

Lisa White, Director, The Attingham Summer School

\$30 members; \$35 non-members

Location: Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium (Colonial Dames), 417 East 61st Street

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7:15 PM

Thomas Chippendale: The Great English Rococo Designer

Lisa White, Director, The Attingham Summer School

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

Location: Private club near Lafayette Square. This club is made available through the courtesy of Bruce Perkins.

This lecture is preceded by a reception at 6:45 p.m.

BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED. NO CELL PHONES.

LOS ANGELES:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7 PM

"I ask only a comfortable home": Jane Austen and Regency Domestic Interiors

Lisa White, Director, The Attingham Summer School

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

Location: UCLA Faculty Center, 480 Charles E. Young Drive East

This lecture is preceded by a reception at 6:30 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 6:30 PM

"I ask only a comfortable home": Jane Austen and Regency Domestic Interiors

Lisa White, Director, The Attingham Summer School

\$25 members; \$35 non-members

Location: Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter Street

This lecture is preceded by a reception at 6:00 p.m., and is followed by an optional no-host dinner. For dinner reservations, call 415-362-6985 by October 17.

FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED. NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: LISA WHITE

Lisa White is the Director of the Attingham Summer School. Educated at Oxford University and trained at the Victoria and Albert Museum in the Departments of Furniture and Textiles, she taught at the University of Bristol from 1984-2000, and from 1999 – 2005 was Curator of Decorative Arts at the Holburne Museum of Art, Bath. She lectures on post-graduate courses for the Universities of Bath and London and for many other organizations. She is a member of the National Trust Arts Panel and Regional Committee for Wessex, and a Trustee of the Bath Preservation Trust. In 1990 she published *The Pictorial Dictionary of Eighteenth-Century British Furniture Design*, a standard reference work, and is currently preparing a publication on *Appropriate Furniture* which analyses the relationship between social requirements and furniture design in the Georgian and early Victorian periods.

“I ask only a comfortable home”: Jane Austen and Regency Domestic Interiors

Jane Austen’s novels contain very few actual descriptions of domestic interiors, but there is much in those books that informed the author’s own generation, and informs ours now, about her attitude to contemporary ideas of ‘the ideal home’. Frequently without a permanent home in her own life, Austen appreciated the concept of a happy, settled, comfortable family existence in a country house, easy social exchange with kind neighbors, sufficient income and freedom from insecurity, even at the cost of an embarrassing husband. Indeed, at the time that Jane Austen was writing, during a lengthy period of war, ideas about domestic comfort, and the concept of ‘home’ were achieving a new significance in Britain. In this lecture Lisa White explores these ideas through contemporary writing, multitudinous furnishing pattern books and the visual record of English houses during the Regency period.

Thomas Chippendale: The Great English Rococo Designer

When Thomas Chippendale published the first edition of *The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker’s Director* in London in 1753, he revolutionized the way in which the British public received new ideas about furniture design and manufacture, at a time when the London industry had reached a high point in the production of magnificent pieces for Palladian villas in the English countryside, aristocratic town houses in London, and in the homes of prosperous professional families all around the British Atlantic seaboard. In this lecture, Lisa White discusses the context and reputation of Britain’s most famous furniture designer and cabinet-maker and the significant materials which ensured the lasting success of his style. She will also discuss Chippendale’s influence on American furniture, especially in Philadelphia and Rhode Island.

REGISTRATION

**PLEASE IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS AN ATTINGHAM ALUM
TO GET THE DISCOUNTED PRICE**

ONLINE: www.royal-oak.org/lectures or email us at: lectures@royal-oak.org.

BY TELEPHONE: Please call Robert Dennis at 212-480-2889, ext. 201.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In the coming year we will be sending two print newsletters to members. In addition to the one you are reading now, there will be another in late winter announcing the spring programs. We plan to distribute a third edition in late May BY E-MAIL ONLY. If you would like news about who is participating in the Summer School Class of 2009, you can read all about it, if we have a current e-mail address for you. Please send your address to Attingham2@att.net and thank you.

NEW ATTINGHAM TRADITION: CLASS SCHOLARSHIPS

On the 2006 summer school that will forever be remembered as the hottest on record, the air-conditioned bus ride from Nottingham to Manchester left lots of time for adrenaline-laden active minds to plot and plan. What came out of that torturous trek across the midlands was a new idea, a way for those of us fortunate enough to be on the Summer School to express our gratitude and recognize our debt to Attingham: a scholarship from our class to the next year's class. On our return to home, and reality, the inevitable flurry of e-mails went around, one of which asked for contributions to the Class of 2006 Scholarship to be given to a scholar for the following year. Over \$3,000 was collected, and made available to the AFA's Selection Committee for their choice of recipient, Anne Nellis, from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, in Washington, D.C.

Recognizing the value of using the class scholarship as a means to immediately establish a relationship between the American Friends and returning Summer School students, the AFA board agreed that the scholarship should be an annual fundraising program of the Development Committee. To that end, Anne Nellis became instrumental in raising a scholarship from the Class of 2007 for the Class of 2008. This year's scholarship recipient, Laura Macaluso, from the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk, CT, is already preparing her appeal to her classmates for their scholarship to the Class of 2009. Early indications show that this will be another successful endeavor.

Traditions take time to develop. Yet it seems that returning Summer School scholars truly understand and appreciate the "experience of a lifetime" from which they have just returned, and are very willing to contribute to a scholarship that will allow someone else the same opportunity. In today's changing economy, the cost of the Summer School, already over \$5,000, will only get more expensive. It is all the more important, therefore, that we solidify this new Attingham tradition for future scholars to come.

Jim Mundy, '06, Vice-President for Development