December is traditionally a month to look ahead to the New Year, and to reflect back on all that has happened in the preceding twelve months. In our first Newsletter in my term as President of the American Friends, it gives me great pleasure to do both.

2012 will be an incredibly busy and exciting year for us, marked by both our 50th Anniversary and our hosting of the first-ever Study Programme in America. Our Anniversary event will be held in New York on June 16, but throughout the year we will be celebrating our fifty years in America, and sixty years of the Attingham Trust in Britain, and looking forward to ways to continue our success for the next half-century. The publication of our Directory will give our alumni a new way to connect with one another and a wide variety of programs will give us and our friends many opportunities to learn, interact and enjoy. Many of these activities are outlined in this Newsletter, and I urge you to consider what is available and to participate how and when you can.

As 2011 comes to a close, we can take pride in the strength of Attingham and in all we do to make its unique educational focus available to curators, scholars and others. The finding of outstanding candidates for the Attingham Trust programs and the hard work of putting together scholarship aid for qualified applicants are two of our primary goals at the American Friends. Many, many thanks are due to Tom Appelquist, our immediate past President, who has done so much for us over three years. We remain small, as we should be, and we are not immune to the impact of fluctuating financial markets and variations in annual donations. Nonetheless, through the hard work of our Administrator, Cheryl Hageman, and the countless hours donated by our dynamic Board, Committee members and other volunteers, we are justifiably excited about our future.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped to bring us to where we are, and to all of you for helping us to celebrate in 2012.

— Clo Tepper, ’11; SP ’04, ’07, ’10

### Letter from England

In October 2012, The Attingham Trust will be celebrating sixty years of the Summer School and fifty years of the American Friends. As ten years ago, it will be hosting a conference in London to mark the occasion. The theme will be ‘Looking Ahead: The Future of the Country House’ which we hope will once again attract a lively international audience with papers covering Britain, America and Ireland. Speakers will include the Duke of Buccleuch, John Harris with Tim Knox, Terence Dooley and Sean Sawyer among many others. Please keep an eye on the website (www.attinghamtrust.org) for details. The audience will be open to everyone but we are planning a special evening event specifically for the alumni. We do hope that we will see as many of you as possible. It will be a perfect time to touch base again with Attingham.

As part of the celebratory plans, the Study Programme in June 2012 will also take place in New York and the Hudson River Valley, the first time Attingham has crossed the pond. We hope it will be a bumper year. Meanwhile plans for the 2012 Summer School and 17th Royal Collection Studies are well underway. One great loss, however, as reported in the last Newsletter, is that Lisa White will be stepping down as Director of the Summer School in December, a post she has held since 2005. She has been an inspiration to all who have come under her leadership with her high standard of scholarship and gift for teaching. We were so pleased to be able to acknowledge this with Clo Tepper and Cheryl Hageman at a 60th anniversary dinner held at Attingham Park in July. A most memorable occasion.

— Annabel Westman, Director of Studies, The Attingham Trust
**ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING**

**SEPT. 23, 2011**

Thanks to all who braved the rain to take part in the Annual Meeting at our new office — and the nearly 200 members who participated by proxy vote in advance.

The proposed amendments to our Articles of Incorporation were all passed. As a result the organization name will officially change from American Friends of Attingham Summer School, Inc. to American Friends of Attingham, Inc. to reflect our support for all of the Attingham Trust courses. (Our incorporation predated the Study Programme and Royal Collection Studies courses.) Likewise our statement of purpose will be adjusted accordingly. As an additional matter of business, our address will be updated to reflect our new location.

We welcomed two new board members, Phillip Johnston ’75 and Ben Jenkins ’11 (both three-year terms), and Diana Toole ’11, who will serve as the Summer School Representative for the next year. The meeting concluded with a fond farewell to Tom Appelquist ’87; SP ’94, ’00 ’05, ’06 ’07; RCS ’08, who has completed his three-year term as AFA President, and election of Clo Tepper ’11; SP ’04, ’07, ’10 as his successor.

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**MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Ben Jenkins ’11**

As a former finance executive, Ben worked with Wachovia Corporation for 40 years before retiring as Vice Chairman and President of The General Banking Group. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Queens University of Charlotte and is a recent 2011 graduate of the Attingham Summer School. He lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Phillip Johnston ’75**

Philip served the art world for more than 34 years, holding positions such as Curator of Decorative Arts at the Wadsworth Atheneum and the Carnegie Museum of Art, and Director of the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. He divides his time between Bronxville, New York and Maine.

**Diana Toole ’11**

Diana has been the Curator and Assistant Director for the Gracie Mansion Conservancy since 2004. She is responsible for overseeing the collection of fine and decorative arts, directing the tour program and upkeep of the historic interiors of Gracie Mansion, the official residence for New York City mayors since 1942. Diana resides in Manhattan.

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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.americanfriendsofattingham.org](http://www.americanfriendsofattingham.org)
THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL 2011
BY HEATHER DEAN, ROYAL OAK FOUNDATION CHARLOTTE MOSS SCHOLAR

As an archivist with the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University I catalogue personal collections of papers, many of which originate from British country houses, in order to make them accessible to the research community. My work involves analyzing, organizing, and describing correspondence, photographs, and literary manuscripts, a process which requires an understanding of the social and physical milieu in which such documents are created. Attingham Summer School provided me with an excellent opportunity to develop this overall contextual understanding of the British country house and its residents.

One of the key opportunities and objectives of Attingham is its interdisciplinary nature. Students are encouraged to look outside of their particular specialization, an expectation that ultimately cultivates a more enriching experience. Through participation in Attingham I developed a new language. Not only did I learn a more extensive vocabulary for architecture, arts, and decorative arts, but I also further developed my visual literacy skills and ability to analyze objects. I also developed a new way of seeing physical spaces and objects and situating these within broader historical trends. While this compelled me to develop a new set of skills beyond my training in archives and literature it also relates back and feeds into my research interest in the history of archives and the material culture surrounding the intellectual and physical production of manuscripts. My experience at Attingham Summer School has already influenced my approach to writing collection descriptions as well as interactions with library patrons. I am also eager to apply skills cultivated during Attingham to further study the history and material culture of archives.

I am grateful to have attended Attingham Summer School, an experience which broadened my horizons and enriched my career as an archivist. In addition to the site visits and lectures I deeply valued meeting and befriending my fellow students, a truly talented, insightful, and uproarious group whose friendship is a highlight of my experience at Attingham. The 60th Attingham Summer School came to a close; however, the program itself will have lasting effects, for it sparked the beginning of conversations, fostered a lasting sense of community, and opened new paths of research.

“Learning from the best of the best with direct access to objects was an invaluable experience that I cherished to the fullest.” — Derya Baykal ’11, AFA Scholar

“... I do not believe I have ever lived more in the moment, so totally focused were we on the object, building, or landscape presented to us by such an impressive array of lecturers, curators, and house staff.” — Diana Carroll Toole ’11

“I look at the collection that I work with with a much more discerning eye because of my time at Attingham...” — Joe Rogers ’11, AFA Scholar

“What can you accomplish in nineteen days? In the case of the Attingham Summer School, this question can be quantified into thirty-five houses, sixteen lectures, and nearly one hundred new colleagues and friends. But these numbers need translation in order to appreciate their true meaning. The Summer School is an experience that is both transformative and life affirming. The course requires each person to pull from what he or she has learned previously in order to take intellectual leaps into the complex world of the “British Country House.” — Caroline Riley ’11, AFA and Class of 2010 Scholar
Spring 2012
Programs & Events

American Friends of Attingham is pleased to co-sponsor the following:

Register by mail or online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org.

Spring 2012
Royal Oak Lectures

Register: Online at www.royal-oak.org, or call (212)480-2889 x 201. Please identify your Attingham affiliation to receive the Royal Oak member rate for these events only. Please note that dress codes vary for each location. *Unless otherwise noted, lectures are $30 for members; $40 for non-members.

ATLANTA

Wednesday, February 22, 7 pm
The Private Life of a Public Place: 400 Years of the Sackvilles at Knole
LORD ROBERT SACKVILLE
7th Baron Sackville and Chairman of Knole Estates
$25 members; $35 non-members
Atlanta Decorative Arts Center, 351 Peachtree Hills Avenue, NE

CHICAGO

Tuesday, April 3, 11:30 am
‘That Woman’ or The Duchess of Style: The Life of Wallis Simpson
ANNE SEBBA
Noted author and biographer
11:00 am coffee/tea; 12:30 pm luncheon
FORMAL BUSINESS ATTIRE REQUIRED
CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
The Casino, 195 E. Delaware Place

LOUISIANA

Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm
Dead or Alive?: English Country House in the 21st Century
SIR SIMON JENKINS
Chairman of the National Trust
FREE. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED.
Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center Drive

NEW ORLEANS

Monday, March 26, 6:30 pm
‘That Woman’: The Life of Wallis Simpson
ANNE SEBBA
Noted author and biographer
$25 members; $30 non-members
Longue Vue House & Gardens, 7 Bamboo Road

NEW YORK CITY

All lectures in New York are followed by a reception. Doors open at 5:30 pm. Business attire is suggested.

Tuesday, February 28, 6 pm
“Glorious” Goodwood: Art, Architecture, Sport & Family
JAMES PELL
Curator, the Goodwood Collection
$25 members; $35 non-members
The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street

Friday, January 20, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
Mid-Winter Reunion at Gracie Mansion

Begin our year-long celebration of AFA’s 50th Anniversary by joining us for the Annual Mid-Winter Reunion of Attingham alumni. This year’s very special celebration will take place at one of New York City’s most treasured landmarks, Gracie Mansion!

Gracie Mansion was built as a country retreat for New York shipping merchant Archibald Gracie in 1799 and has served as the official residence of the Mayor of the City of New York since 1942. Gracie Mansion is preserved and maintained by the Gracie Mansion Conservancy, a private not-for-profit corporation established in 1981.

Tours of the historic house will be offered throughout the evening. RSVP by Friday, January 13. $25 per person, guests welcome.

Gracie Mansion is located at 88th Street and East End Avenue.

Register for the Mid-Winter Reunion online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.com, or by check payable to American Friends of Attingham, sent to: 307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1201, New York, NY 10001. For questions please contact Cheryl at 212-682-6840, or attingham@verizon.net.

Image credit: Gracie Mansion, circa 1810, artist unknown

Saturday, January 21, 10 am
The World of Duncan Phyfe: The Arts of New York, 1800-1847
Hirschl & Adler Galleries
The Crown Building, 730 Fifth Avenue at 57th Street, New York City

Join us for a private tour of Hirschl & Adler’s exciting exhibition in conjunction with the comprehensive exhibition of Duncan Phyfe at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Led by European Director, Greg Hedberg, we will view exceptional pieces from all periods of Phyfe’s production. Unlike the Met, this show also features representative pieces by competing cabinet-makers in New York including Charles-Honoré Lannuier, Michael Allison, Thomas Constantine and J. and J. W. Meeks and additional New York decorative arts dating from this period – silver, porcelain, metal-work and lighting from New York – together with paintings and sculpture. There are over 100 pieces on display that will illustrate the breadth of the artistry and craftsmanship in New York during the first half of the nineteenth century, providing a wonderful backdrop to the Met’s display. ($25 per person, guests welcome, space is limited.)

Image credit: Photo courtesy of Eric W. Baumgartner, Attributed to Duncan Phyfe (1768–1854), New York, Small Console Table with Lion Monopodia Support, about 1815–20

Saturday, May (further details TBA)
North Shore, Long Island Daytrip
Stay tuned for more information regarding a late spring visit to the incredible houses & gardens in and around North Shore. Please watch the website for more information, or email attingham@verizon.net to request that details be sent to you when available.
SAVE THE DATE
FOR THESE UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS

Watch www.americanfriendsofattingham.org for more information, or email attingham@verizon.net to request that details be sent to you when available.

American Friends of Attingham
50th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, June 16

At the close of the first-ever Attingham Study Programme in the United States — New York and the Hudson River Valley — the American Friends of Attingham will celebrate our 50th anniversary with a gala event in New York. Location and other details will be announced shortly, but meanwhile we hope that you will plan to join us for what promises to be the party of the year.

Study Trip 2012: BOSTON
September 27-30

This year’s American Friends’ Study Trip will feature the city of Boston. Early Fall is a lovely time in New England and Boston’s unique mix of history, architecture and collections makes it the perfect base for an extended weekend visit.

Planning is under way and the itinerary already includes a mix of private collections and special access to public sites. The social side of things will not be neglected, giving participants plenty of opportunities to enjoy a meal or glass of wine with other travelers and with local Attingham alumni.

Plan to be with us in September, and be on the watch for more details.

Attingham Trust
The Attingham 60th Anniversary Conference
Looking Ahead: The Future of the Country House
October 12-13
The Royal Geographic Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7

Following the great success of the fiftieth anniversary event, The Attingham Trust would like to announce that another conference is being arranged with the support of the Paul Mellon Foundation to celebrate sixty completed years since its foundation. Over two packed days there will be papers from Britain, Ireland and America addressing present and future challenges faced by the historic house. Speakers will include the Duke of Buccleuch, John Harris with Tim Knox, Terence Dooley and Sean Sawyer among many others. Details at www.attinghamtrust.org

DIRECTORY PROJECT UPDATE

The 2012 Directory will be available for sale in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration next June. More than 800 American Friends have submitted information to be included. Thank you to each and every one of you!

As the directory project advances we continue to search for class photos. Do you have a group photo documenting Summer School, Study Programme or Royal Collection Studies? (We will scan and return images if needed. Please contact the office to verify your directory information, especially if you have moved, or check the status of your class photo.)

Questions, contact directory intern Ria Murray at: afa.directory@gmail.com, or 212-682-6840.

You can help AFA conserve funds and resources by receiving the newsletter and event updates via email.

Just email "Add My Email" to attingham@verizon.net — it’s that easy!

If you are receiving this message electronically, thank you.
Nearly one hundred guests gathered at The Union League Club for an illustrated lecture by Sir Hugh Roberts, GCVO, FSA, Former Director of The Royal Collection and Surveyor of The Queen’s Works of Art. Accompanied by his wife Lady Jane Roberts, Curator of the Print Room at Windsor Castle and the Royal Librarian, the recently retired distinguished guest provided a vivid overview of the catastrophic Windsor Fire that occurred in 1992, and impressive recovery effort that took place in the months and years following.

We are deeply grateful to Sir Hugh 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.

The event was organized by our outstanding Development Committee: Tom Appelquist, Betsy Shack Barbanell (co-chair), Judith Hernstadt, Penny Hunt, Roger Moss, David Parsons, Molly Seiler, Clo Tepper and Peter Trippi (co-chair). Our appreciation for the contributions made by Charles C. Savage and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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

Betsy and Robert Barbanell
Nicholas A. Brawer
Edward Lee Cave
Margaret Ciyetta
Paul and Elizabeth De Rosa
Florian Papp Gallery
The Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation
Linda and David Roth

Richard Button
David Dalva III
Barbara W. File
Jared D. Goss
Judith Hernstadt
Jane Karotkin
Josie Ward Patton
E. Clothier Tepper

**Alumni News**

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

**Louisa Brouwer ’11** is now Associate Curator, at Fairfield House, York Civic Trust.


**Phyllis Dillon ’92**, Associate Curator of *A Perfect Fit: The Garment Industry and American Jewry*, an exhibition at Yeshiva University Museum in 2005, has recently completed *Dressing America: Tales from the Garment District*, a documentary film about the Jewish heritage in fashion. Made with Pacific Street Films, the documentary will be shown at Lincoln Center’s 2012 Jewish Film Festival.

**Lake Douglas, Ph.D., ASLA, ’81** is the author of *Public Spaces, Private Gardens: A History of Designed Landscapes in New Orleans*, published earlier this year by Louisiana State University Press.


**Heather Ewing ’99** has co-authored *Carrère and Hastings*, published by Rizzoli in October 2011.

**Heather Gibson ’11** is now University Art Collections Manager for the University of Pennsylvania.

**Erin Kuykendall ’11** has accepted the position of Curator at Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, located in the heart of Washington D.C.’s Georgetown.

**Michael J. Ripton ’82** became an ordained Old Catholic priest on November 5, in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He is pursuing the acquisition of an 1858 historic brick church for his parish. Ripton retired from a 37.5 year museum career in 2002.

Sadly we note the passing of **Pamela Hemenway Simpson ’77**. Pamela was a distinguished art historian and faculty member in the Art and Art History Department at Washington and Lee University for 38 years.

**Candace Volz ’10** has been awarded a contract with the National Park Service for historic furnishing plans for eight rooms at Edison Labs, in West Orange, New Jersey.

**Dr. Deborah Dependahl Waters ’75** is the author of *The Jewelry and Metalwork of Marie Zimmermann*, to be published in December 2011, by American Decorative Arts 1900 Foundation and Yale University Press.

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**Special thanks to Brigitte Fletcher!**

At the September meeting the American Friends acknowledged the generosity and tireless energy of Brigitte Fletcher as she stepped down following two full terms on the Board of Directors. Brigitte helped the Friends in countless ways during her six years of service. She was the force behind both the Attingham Boston mini-reunion of 2006 and the creation of the lecture series to honor the late Tracey Albainy ’90. Brigitte is continuing to work on the planning for the next of the lectures and has also graciously agreed to help with the Study Trip to Boston in the Fall of 2012. Her energy on the Board will be missed but her continuing involvement is very much appreciated. **Thank you, Brigitte!**

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**Hartford Daytrip, Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011**

A group of 13 Attingham alumni and friends spent an exceptional Saturday exploring historic homes in Hartford, CT, with particular attention to the legendary house of maverick museum director A. Everett "Chick" Austin. Austin led the Wadsworth Atheneaum from 1927-44. The house he built for himself and his family, based on a Palladian villa near Venice but constructed of wood and only 18 feet deep, is truly a stage set for an eclectic mix of 18th century Rococo and 20th century Modern interiors. Luminaries including Alexander Calder, Gertrude Stein, George Balanchine and Cecil Beaton flocked to the house in order to see the remarkable spaces and share in Austin's world. The day trip also included visits to the homes of Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe before concluding with a private opportunity to view the remarkable home and collections of Claire and Jared Edwards ’91, who provided a gracious reception which capped a perfect day.
It’s that time of year!

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 one-third of our budget comes from the Appeal, and we are very appreciative of the support we receive. We have limited resources, especially in the current economic climate, and work very hard to stretch the benefit of every dollar. If you have not yet given to the Appeal this year, 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.com, or mailed to: American Friends of Attingham, 307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1201, New York, NY 10001-6050

Phelps Warren Society: A private New York City visit

Members of the Phelps Warren Society should be watching for an invitation later this Winter to a very special New York event: a reception at a private Fifth Avenue home with a noted collection of American and European paintings and furniture and other decorative arts, followed by a curator-led tour of a major decorative arts exhibition. The visit will be at a relaxed pace with opportunities to sit and enjoy the settings and the company.

Such unique opportunities are one of the benefits of being part of the Phelps Warren Society, which recognizes those Attingham alumni and friends who have made provision for the American Friends under wills, trusts or other planned giving instruments. The visit will be open to Phelps Warren members at the time of the event: if you would like to find out more about becoming a member of the Society, please contact Cheryl Hageman at attingham@verizon.net.