



THE ATTINGHAM TRUST
FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORIC HOUSES AND COLLECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

2012 · NUMBER 10



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Although it only seems like yesterday when Annabel Westman, Giles Waterfield and myself were talking to Helen Lowenthal, Helena Hayward and Geoffrey Beard about the Summer School, this year we celebrate sixty completed years of that course and I have little doubt that our founders would be proud of where The Attingham Trust stands today.

This summer was full of activity. A highly successful Study Programme was run in the US organised by our American Friends. The Summer School was run to considerable acclaim by Helen Jacobsen, to whom we regretfully bid adieu as she takes up her new position at the Wallace Collection, and Andrew Moore. As ever, the highly successful Royal Collection Studies was led by Giles Waterfield. In addition, we have built up our core funds over the years to provide income to support our relatively new office and sought endowments and annual funding for scholarships - an area in which we need constant help - from our supporters, among whom are many alumni.

The importance of The Attingham Trust and the various courses that it runs is becoming increasingly relevant as university teaching moves away from historic house studies and decorative arts teaching towards what are seen as more commercial areas, such as engineering and the sciences, in this time of financial austerity and international competition. I am the fortunate recipient of numerous letters from students who find our courses life changing and this is typically illustrated by the following extract from a letter I received this year:-

"Working in a Museum environment, objects more often than not stand in isolation – on shelves in stores according to type or in glass display cases with labels; I wanted to learn more about the environment for which they were originally intended. As a result, from when I first laid eyes on the packed and interdisciplinary itinerary of seminars on

furniture, textiles, silver and Old Master Drawings, I was sure that Attingham would live up to its reputation.

And of course, in reality, it far exceeded expectations. The interdisciplinary study throughout the course is its greatest asset. Looking at silver alongside textiles or paintings alongside porcelain, really hits home the relationship between objects and their surroundings; how they were purchased and arranged, how they were valued by their owners and used, how they were regarded. I can now look at objects as part of a wider whole and I am much better equipped to consider numerous different approaches and what signs to look for – what the original purpose of the room could have been, where the furniture might have stood 100, 200 and 300 years ago, how the room would have been lit, how the table wares would have been arranged. There truly is no substitute for physically visiting properties and I think this has hugely increased my frame of reference for collections in context. I have already started looking and thinking differently about some of the collections in the Museum and it has certainly deepened my understanding of objects and how to interpret them..."

We are all much looking forward to our sixtieth anniversary conference in October on country houses and house museums in Britain, Ireland, the US and Australia. We look forward to welcoming old friends and new from all over the world. The international composition of Attingham's members is reflected in the three continents from which we have drawn speakers to discuss the 'Future of the Country House'. We also want to congratulate the American Friends of Attingham, to whom we owe so much, on their 50th Anniversary and welcome Lizzy Jamieson as the new co-director of the Summer School.

John Lewis
Chairman



COMMENTARY

• Sean Sawyer

2012 marks the 36th consecutive year that The Royal Oak Foundation has provided scholarship support to American Friends of Attingham (AFA) for the Summer School. We are immensely proud of this. As the American partner of the National Trust of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, we view our support of Attingham as a core activity – just as the country house and its collections are core interests of our members and supporters - and our relationship with the Attingham Trust and AFA is one of our most important partnerships.

It is a partnership that we would like to expand upon. While Attingham scholarships are the pillar of our fellowships program and AFA's promotion of our lecture series here in the States is greatly appreciated, we believe that we could collaborate more closely on both sides of the Atlantic and be more effective in raising mutually beneficial awareness and support.

For instance, this year's increased scholarship grant was made possible through the proceeds of the "paddle" portion of the live auction at our 2011 Timeless Design Gala. Attingham alum Thomas Jayne introduced this innovation at the 2010 gala when we honored the Trust with our inaugural Heritage Award. As the auction was ending he heroically seized the podium and appealed for bids of \$1,000 or \$500 to support Royal Oak's scholarships. We plan to continue this practice, as we did in 2011, but this will be more successful if AFA helps promote the gala so that more of the bodies in seats are Attinghamites. For our part, we are developing a long-overdue Fellowships webpage that will include a dedicated Attingham section to raise awareness among our digital visitors. On the flip side, more prominent

recognition of Royal Oak in Attingham publications and websites enhances our stature among your alumni.

From Royal Oak's perspective, Attingham alumni are a wonderfully diverse and strategically placed lot. When we hosted Simon Jenkins this April for a lecture tour focused on the National Trust's country houses two of the five venues were made possible by Attingham alums. As we look at expanding our activities in the US and the UK, we can depend on Attingham alums to be in all the right places and their expertise to be indispensable.

Certainly, the connective tissue between Attingham and Royal Oak is extraordinarily strong at the moment. One of our newest Directors, Prof. Sir David Cannadine, is also a Patron of the Trust and will give AFA's Annual Fall Lecture in October. He also served as a principal advisor for my dissertation on Soane and the Palace of Westminster at Columbia. Having been raised a Vermont socialist, I resisted the call of Attingham and the country house through graduate school. Seven years as director of a historic house in Brooklyn expanded my horizons and I was thrilled to be a Royal Oak Scholar in the Summer School Class of 2002. This is just one of many ways that becoming Royal Oak's Executive Director has knit together the strands of my academic and professional lives. I am honored to be speaking at 60th Anniversary Conference, along with Royal Oak's 2012 Timeless Design Award recipient, Julian Fellowes. Six degrees of separation? More like one and a half!

Sean E. Sawyer is Executive Director of The Royal Oak Foundation

THE ATTINGHAM TRUST 2012

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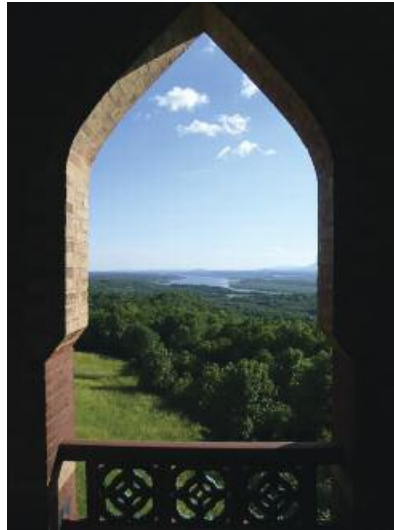
THE ATTINGHAM STUDY PROGRAMME

• 7th – 16th June 2012 - Annabel Westman

To celebrate sixty completed years of The Attingham Trust and fifty years of the founding of the American Friends of Attingham, New York and the Hudson River Valley was the perfect destination for the twenty-sixth Study Programme. It was the first time Attingham had ventured westwards and judging from the international mix of the group – American, British, Dutch, Czech, Estonian, Polish, Canadian, Indian, Australian and New Zealanders – it was a venue long overdue.

Planned by the American Friends in close association with The Attingham Trust, the excellent co-ordinator and leader of the Study Programme was Professor Sheila Ffolliott, Professor Emerita of Art History at George Mason University, ably assisted by the Administrator of the American Friends, Cheryl Hageman. Further advice was sought from others including Morrison Heckscher and Peter Kenny both of the Metropolitan Museum, J. Winthrop Aldrich, formerly of NY State Historic Preservation and David Parsons of Historic Hudson Valley. The result was a programme based in three centres to gain the maximum exposure to the area and create a balanced mix of context and contrast.

The first days were spent in New York with an informative walking tour of Lower Manhattan stressing the importance of the original Dutch settlement, a point confirmed by Tom Lewis (author of *The Hudson A History*), our guide on the Hudson river cruise, and who later gave a vivid talk on the site of one of the defining battles of the American War of Independence. Privileged access to some NY private collections and the newly-presented period rooms in the American Wing of the Metropolitan, together with a stimulating gallery talk on the Hudson River School of painters by Elizabeth Kornhouser, further helped to create a solid framework for the rich variety of architectural styles and works of art in store as the group progressed up the Hudson. These ranged from the Dutch colonial stone house of Wynkoop, to the evocative romanticized cottage of Sunnyside, home to the first professional American author, Washington Irving, to the colourful mix



View of the Hudson River from Olana

of later nineteenth styles at Olana, belonging to the influential painter, Frederic Edwin Church.

Against a background of informative lectures, the country homes of some of the major family dynasties and industrial and political leaders were visited from the comfortable Beekman Arms in historic Rhinebeck and the final base at Tarrytown. The charming secluded retreats of the Roosevelts at Val-Kill and Top Cottage formed an interesting comparison to some of the 'Gilded Age' properties, including the eclectic Italianate villa of Wilderstein, Mills Mansion, the Livingston/Ogden Mills home transformed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, and the lavish extravagance of the Rockefellers at Kykuit where

informative tours were given on the rich collections. These great mansions provided a perfect contrast to the smaller private houses dotted mostly along the Hudson with stunning landscape views such as the Vyne, Rokeby, Midwood and Edgewater where the owners generously entertained the group, and Montgomery Place, Boscobel and Lyndhurst, now owned by different institutions providing varied approaches to presentation.

Contrasting visits were also made to the famous four hundred acre Woodlawn Cemetery, and the Storm King Art Center founded in 1960 as an open-air sculpture museum which gave further unexpected breadth and scope to an excellent course, perfectly summed up by the Polish member of the group, Katarzyna Jursz-Salvadori, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the Royal Castle in Warsaw

It was an extraordinary personal experience, acting on the intellect and the senses, that leaves in us, forever, an indelible impression. I feel very privileged and grateful to be able to experience it and to share this experience with the colleagues from around the world.

The Attingham Trust would like to thank the American Friends and the efforts of everyone involved for putting together such a splendid and enriching programme.

In 2013, The Attingham Study Programme will take place in Norfolk, 12th-20th September



THE 61ST ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL

• 6th-23rd July 2012 – Helen Jacobsen, Andrew Moore, Co-Directors

The Summer School 2012 will be remembered for many things, but one of them will certainly be the rain – the first two weeks coincided with dramatic floods and rainstorms in England which appeared to follow the bus around the country and wellington boots had to be bought locally on emergency shopping trips and shipped over from the USA. Perhaps because of this, the group was soon suffused with levels of friendship and bonhomie that made the whole programme a delight to be involved with from start to finish. Scholars from around the world ignored their cold feet and damp trousers and concentrated on studying some of the best of English domestic architecture and the treasures contained therein. Indeed, the scholars should be complimented on their stoicism, their persistence and above all their sense of humour which found its full expression in the wonderful last night party.

The group comprised scholars from Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Portugal and New Zealand as well as the US and United Kingdom, with assorted backgrounds across a broad spectrum of disciplines. This provided a deep pool of knowledge into which we were all able to tap during the programme, and which was the foundation for many absorbing and stimulating discussions about the houses and collections we visited.

This year these included some houses in Wessex which the Summer School had not visited for many years. Based in Sherborne, we explored the beautiful Dorset manor houses of Athelhampton and Mapperton, and their exquisite gardens, as well as the larger country houses of the region such as Wardour, Melbury and Kingston Lacy. The programme took us right up to date with our visit to Ferne Park, a Palladian house by Quinlan Terry still under construction. The course ended with a magnificent visit to Wilton House, where the Earl and Countess of Pembroke were most generous with their hospitality and we were able to admire the ambitious refurbishment programme.



Athelhampton House, Dorset

The first two weeks of the Summer School followed in last year's tried and trusted footsteps – we stayed at West Dean and in Loughborough and re-visited houses such as Uppark, Petworth, Kedleston and Calke Abbey. The programme also included Goodwood and Boughton, where the Earl of March, the Duke of Buccleuch and their respective teams could not have provided warmer welcomes or more interesting study opportunities. We are particularly grateful to the specialist lecturers who played such a supportive role in leading study groups and handling sessions at many of the locations this year. Not least in that

category is the entire team at Chatsworth, who gave us their undivided attention for two days and did so much to help us explore the treasures of the house. Special mention must be made of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire who continue to welcome the Attingham Summer School so warmly and to share their wonderful house with us.

In addition to ourselves, the Attingham team this year included the indomitable Rebecca Parker, who has now given five of her summers over to administering the Summer School and who deserves a medal for her continued ebullience, patience and general unflappability. We were joined by a cohort of lecturers, including staff from the National Trust, who expanded our knowledge further with erudite and informative talks, and also by a number of distinguished visitors who mixed seamlessly with the scholars and for whose support we are most grateful. Finally, we must mention the generous hospitality of so many of our hosts during the programme, but particularly that of John and Suzy Lewis who laid on a magnificent reception and dinner for us on the final Saturday in the grounds of their lovely house, Shute. Thank you all.

In 2013, the Summer School will take place between 5th-22nd July



ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES

• 2nd-11th September 2012 – Giles Waterfield, Director

The seventeenth session of Royal Collection Studies took place in London, Windsor and Hampton Court. We stayed in Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park, which as always we greatly enjoyed.

Once again, the membership was extremely diverse, with participants from Australia (1), Austria (2), Canada (1), France (1), Germany (4), the Netherlands (1), Russia (1), Sweden (1), the United Kingdom (8) and the United States (9). (Membership is categorised by place of work rather than original nationality given the nature of globalised employment in the arts world.) In addition to nineteen curators with various interests, the course included five academics and doctoral candidates and four representatives of the art trade.

I said in my last report that we were working closely with the American Friends of Attingham to encourage more American participants, and we were delighted that no fewer than nine people from the United States did indeed attend this year, as compared to two – neither of whom was actually American – last year. For the first time we had a curator from the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, and we hope that this will set a precedent. Pressure on places remains high but we are anxious to spread the word about the school as widely as possible.

Scholarship assistance from a number of generous and patient sources enabled us to assist many applicants financially. As in the past, many members of the course received some degree of scholarship support. We are most grateful to our constant benefactors (listed below). It is our aim, and one that we are able to fulfil, that no suitable candidate should be prevented from attending for financial reasons.

On account of the Paralympics it was necessary to reorder the programme. A number of new elements were included. We viewed the Crown Jewels at the Tower of London, reinstated this year to create a powerful visual impact and to show the jewels to best advantage, as well as the exhibition of *Diamonds: a Jubilee Celebration* at Buckingham Palace with its curator, Caroline de Guitaut. Lucy Whitaker gave a notable lecture on the collecting of Charles I, placing him in the context of European culture at the time. The lecture by Lucy Worsley on the Georgian Court was especially appreciated, and developed the theme of the



Privy Garden, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey

court which ran through the course. Philip Mansel spoke eloquently on *The French and British Monarchies from Louis XVI to Edward VII*, while Rosalind Savill gave a memorable introduction to the royal collection of Sèvres at Windsor Castle.

As always, a great deal of the teaching was carried out by the staff of the Royal Collection. Jemima Rellie, Head of Publications and New Media at the Royal Collection, and Jonathan Marsden, Director of the Royal Collection, outlined plans for the reorganisation of visitor routes and public facilities at Windsor Castle. At the Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace we had the opportunity to view the outstanding exhibition *Leonardo da Vinci Anatomist*. The visits to the Print Room and to the Royal Library were of outstanding interest.

An important part was played by the staff of Historic Royal Palaces, whose curators spoke to us on numerous occasions. The visit to the redisplayed Kensington Palace, where a suite of rooms has been curated to tell the story of the life of Queen Victoria and the State Apartments now include numerous artists' interventions, was of particular interest to those concerned with the presentation of historic buildings. The visit encouraged much discussion.

Sara Heaton performed brilliantly as Administrator, ably supported by Rebecca Parker, Kate Morgan and Annabel Westman of the Attingham Trust.

In 2013, Royal Collection Studies will be based at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor between 1st-10th September



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM

• E.Clothier Tepper, President

The events marking the 60th Anniversary of The Attingham Trust in Britain are echoed this year by the American Friends, as we celebrate our own 50th Anniversary and a half-century of work to promote the Trust and its programs and to support American alumni. We are honored to have hosted the Study Programme for the first time: *New York and the Hudson River Valley*, held in June and coordinated by Sheila ffollott (SS '79), which included participants from 10 countries and was a tremendous success. The Anniversary was also marked by a dinner in New York City on June 16, at which we were delighted to welcome both Annabel Westman and Kate Morgan (Trust Treasurer). The celebration is further commemorated by the publication of our Directory of American alumni from 1952 through the present, which features class lists and photos, and contact information and personal remarks from nearly 700 American participants. Copies of the Directory can be ordered through our web-site at www.americanfriendsofatingham.org

We have continued the work of making Attingham better known in America and seeking the best possible candidates for all of the programs. The raising of funds to provide scholarship assistance also remains a priority. In addition, our alumni have been treated to a variety of events including our Mid-Winter Reunion in

January, which brought more than 150 of us together at Gracie Mansion, the official residence of the Mayor of New York.

We are delighted that Professor Sir David Cannadine, FBA has agreed to be the speaker at our Annual Fall Lecture on October 4 at the Union League Club in New York City. His topic will be *The Treasure Houses of Britain Re-Visited*, an opportunity to look back at the 1985 show at the National Gallery in Washington, which he fiercely criticized at the time. Further information and tickets are available on our web-site.

The Fall also brings our annual AFA Study Trip, which is to Boston and vicinity at the end of September, and the annual lecture to honor the late Tracey Albainy (SS '90). The latter is held this year at the Getty Center in Los Angeles on October 25. Charissa Bremer-David (SS '89), Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the Getty, will speak on *The High Art of Dining in 18th Century France*.

In short, the American Friends are busy as ever, anchored by our office in New York and the hard work of our Administrator, Cheryl Hageman. Many thanks to our Board and to all who help us to accomplish so much.



THE ATTINGHAM SOCIETY

• Rebecca Parker

The Attingham Society kicked off 2012 in tremendous, and rather raucous, style at its Annual Reunion, this time held in the wonderful surroundings of the Society of Antiquaries. Particular thanks must go to Professor Maurice Howard, President of the Antiquaries, and long-time friend of Attingham, for welcoming us so warmly in his introductory talk.

As this newsletter goes to print we are getting ready for our 60th anniversary conference, 'Looking Ahead: the Future of the Country House' on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th October at the Royal Geographical Society. On the Friday evening we will be holding a drinks party for alumni at the House of Lords and are extremely grateful to one of our patrons, Lord Crathorne, for his help with this. We hope that it will be a

joyful gathering of alumni from all over the world, and a fitting way to toast 60 years of The Attingham Trust.

As 2012 comes to a close the mission of the Attingham Society remains the same in encouraging the spirit of friendship on which Attingham thrives. The launch of our new website will make it easier for alumni to post information about what they are up to and it is hoped that this will stimulate an already vibrant network.

In tandem with this we continue to try to build on the Society's Scholarship fund, which is entirely supported by alumni. Our target of a full scholarship for an attendee on the Summer School and more is making slow but steady progress. If you would like to give more than you already do please do not hesitate to contact me.



SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

• **Annabel Westman, Executive Director**

The Attingham Trust is very pleased to have discovered new sources of scholarship funding this year through the efforts of our Trustees and Council members and to have encouraged others to continue. We particularly welcome the generosity of the Michael Bishop Foundation for supporting scholars on Royal Collection Studies for the second year, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for its new donation, and the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Sir Siegmund Warburgh's Voluntary Settlement for their financial support.

On the US Study Programme, we were delighted that a Dutch participant received a scholarship from The Netherland-America Foundation –another first. Our thanks and gratitude go to all donors not least the many faithful contributors over the years without whom we would not have been able to maintain the academic standard of our courses. Buoyed by this anniversary year and with the conference as our focal point, we hope to build on our initiatives to improve our core and scholarship funding.

MAJOR DONORS

Errol Clark; Alex Copland Foundation; Elisha-Bolton Foundation (Gilbert Schafer III); Gerry Charitable Trust; Lillian Hirschmann; J. Stewart Johnson; The Samuel H. Kress Foundation; New York Community Trust, Edward Maverick Fund; Peter and Wilhemina Minet; The Monument Trust; Stewart G. Rosenblum; The Royal Oak Foundation; Basil Samuel Charitable Trust; Brunschwig & Fils

STUDY PROGRAMME

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ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES

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Copland Foundation
J. Paul Getty Institute
J. Paul Getty Museum
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