



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM

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

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the greatest pleasures of working with the American Friends of Attingham is the opportunity to get together with old friends among our alumni and meet new ones. Maine in summer seems to attract numbers of us. My husband and I are lucky to have a cabin near Blue Hill/Deer Isle, as well as a boat, and this past July **Beth Wees '81, RCS '04; Christopher Monkhouse '66, RCS '01; Bill McNaught '70, RCS '97;** and I (left) journeyed out to join the flotilla greeting the replica of the French frigate *Hermione*, which had brought Lafayette to the colonies in 1780, as she sailed up Penobscot Bay heading for Castine Harbor. We were speechless at the drama of her emerging from the fog, appropriately attired crew aboard, and could almost imagine ourselves as time travellers.



On another occasion, **David Maxfield '85** and **Anne Verplanck '92** (below) joined us for an evening boat excursion. Every August, Woodlawn Museum, Gardens, and Park in Ellsworth, Maine hosts America's longest running antique show. Among the opening night attendees were **Tom Michie '81, RCS '14; Christopher Monkhouse** and former AFA Director, **Phillip Johnston '75** who has joined Woodlawn's Board. I enjoyed sitting at his table at the opening night dinner, where we were joined by **Arlene Schwind '74**. Next summer's dates for the Woodlawn show are August 17- 20, 2016—come to Maine and join the fun!



Finally let me recognize everyone who has donated, or will contribute to the Annual Appeal before the end of 2015, and to all of you who have given so much of your time. Thank you! And all best wishes for 2016.

— **Sheila ffolllott '79, RCS '98, SP '11, '12, '15** PresidentAFA@gmail.com

LETTER FROM ENGLAND

Attingham lost two splendid stars this summer without whom the Trust and the AFA would not be what they are today. The death of **Dr Geoffrey Beard** followed within days by **Sybil Bruel** was a heartfelt reminder of those heady days of the 1980s/90s and early 2000s. Tributes have been many and the thanksgiving service held for Geoffrey in London at the end of October was well-attended by many friends and colleagues wanting to celebrate the life of this energetic man. He was inspiring, generous and exceptionally kind whose involvement with the Summer School from 1966, becoming its director in 1987, made him many life-long friends. The sharing of his encyclopaedic knowledge was legendary and many a person has reason to thank Geoffrey for the encouragement he gave with their careers – not least myself. (see [www.attinghamtrust.org/Newsletter 2015](http://www.attinghamtrust.org/Newsletter2015))

Geoffrey was one of Attingham's best ambassadors to the States. It was a country he loved and who loved him. He made great friends with Sybil, the American Friends administrator for some twenty years often staying with her and her husband, Jack, in their New York apartment. Together they made a strong team often working around her kitchen table placed under a shelf full of books incongruously entitled 'Beard on Food' (not one of his many tomes I hasten to add). A similar sense of humour and laughter bound them together and the room would rock with their stories and reminiscences as Attingham blossomed under their care and dedication.

When Geoffrey retired as director of the Summer School in 1994, the Trust put together an album of poems and pictures for him with contributions from many of the alumni. It is full of wonderful memories which perhaps the Trust should consider making viewable online. In true Attingham fashion, Sybil wrote a poignant poem for the album (pg. 9) a fitting tribute to them both.

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

2016 Attingham
Application Deadlines

The London House Course
April 19-25, 2016
Due January 11, 2016

Study Programme
The Historic House in Denmark
June 1-8, 2016
Due January 24, 2016

**The 65th Attingham
Summer School**
June 30-July 17, 2016
Due January 31, 2016

Royal Collection Studies
September 4-13, 2016
Due February 12, 2016

**French Eighteenth-Century
Studies at the Wallace Collection**
October 9-14, 2016
Due April 30, 2016

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

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The AFA welcomed new Board members at the Annual Meeting in September. This year's slate of Directors was unanimously approved by the members and includes **Rich Aste '14, RCS '15; Sarah E. Lawrence RCS '06; Sean Sawyer '02; Mary Riley Smith SW '08, SP '13; Steven Spandle '11, LHC '14; Diana Toole '11; David Wilton SP '12.** In addition to the four new Directors, **Philip Reeser '15** will serve as class representative. **Margaret Civetta '89, LHC '10, SP '97, '09, '10, '13, '14, RCS '15** rotated off the Board but has kindly agreed to remain as AFA's legal counsel. **Jeffrey Herr '98, SP '15** also stepped off the Board after many years including service as VP Recruiting. Thanks to all.

NEW DIRECTORS:



Sarah E. Lawrence RCS '06, is the Dean of the School of Art and Design History and Theory at Parsons School of Design, a division of The New School. She received her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College, and her masters and doctorate from Columbia University in Renaissance Art History and in Theory and Criticism. Prior to her appointment as Dean, she spent ten years as Director of the MA Program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design, run jointly by Parsons School of Design and The Cooper-Hewitt Museum. Previously she was the Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Curatorial Fellow at the Jewish Museum. In her scholarship, Dr. Lawrence's focus is the visual culture of Early Modern Europe. Her research has focused on the work of Valerio Belli, Jacopo Strada, and Giovanni Battista Piranesi. She has curated such exhibitions as "Crafting a Jewish Style: The Art of Bezalel, 1906-1996" (1998-1999); and "Piranesi as Designer" (2007-2008). In addition to courses on the Decorative Arts of the Renaissance, she teaches the Historiography and Theory of Decorative Arts; Exhibition Design; Proseminar; and Design Criticism.



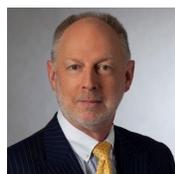
Sean Sawyer '02, is the Washburn & Susan Oberwager President of The Olana Partnership, the non-profit partner of the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation in the operation and interpretation of Frederic Church's Olana in Hudson, NY. Sean is the former Executive Director of The Royal Oak Foundation, the American partner of the National Trust of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. From 2001 to 2007, Sean served as Executive Director of the Wyckoff House & Association, a Brooklyn-based organization focused on the opera

Sawyer continued. tion of the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum in East Flatbush.

A native of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, Sean received a B.A. summa cum laude from Princeton University in 1988 and his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1999, specializing in 18th- and 19th-century British architectural history. Sean has taught at Columbia, Fordham and Harvard universities as well as Parsons School of Design, a division of The New School, Master's Program in the History of Decorative Arts & Design at the Cooper-Hewitt. He has contributed essays and articles to numerous publications on late Georgian architecture and urbanism as well as Dutch-American history and architecture. In 1996, he was awarded the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain's Hawksmoor Essay Medal, and in 2002 he attended the Attingham Summer School as a Royal Oak Fellow.



Steven W. Spandle '11, LHC '14, is a classical architect with Fairfax & Sammons, where his primary focus is residential design. He was raised outside of Savannah, Georgia, and the architecture of the South had a profound influence upon him since early childhood. After receiving a Bachelor of Architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology, he began his professional career in Atlanta working with Norman Davenport Askins. Steven earned a Master of Architecture in Classical Design from the University of Notre Dame. Before moving to New York City, Steven lived in Boston, where he served on the board for the New England Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art. His hobbies include traveling and expanding his library of architecture and decorative arts books.



Collector **David Wilton SP '12**, is a Managing Director with Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners where he leads initiatives in Investing with Impact. David is currently the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Emerging Markets Private Equity Association and a Member of the International Development Working Group of the G8 Impact Investing Task Force.

Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, David was Manager and Chief Investment Officer, Global Private Equity for the International Finance Corporation. He lead IFC's investment program of around \$400-500 million per annum in emerging market funds globally and management of IFC's portfolio of \$4 billion in commitments.

SUMMER SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015 REPRESENTATIVE:



Philip Reeser '15, is a senior editor at Rizzoli International Publications, focusing on architecture and interior design. His professional history includes work with archives and art installations at Condé Nast Publications and the estate of photographer Ernst Haas. Reeser received a BA in Fine Arts from the University of Virginia with a summer spent in Vicenza, Italy, studying the architecture of Palladio. Recently, he received an advanced degree in library science (MLIS), specializing in rare books and special collections, with a practicum at the Library of Congress researching books on architecture and design from the fifteenth through early twentieth centuries.

American Friends of Attingham 50th Anniversary song to the tune of "Land of Hope and Glory"

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

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

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

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

—Sybil Bruel

Cover images: (Top) Courtesy of Dustin Wees (Bottom) Courtesy of Shepard Krech III

ALUMNI NEWS

Do you have news? E-mail *Alumni News* to admin@americanfriendsofattingham.org

Colin Fanning '15 participated in a symposium at the Bard Graduate Center in conjunction with the exhibition "Swedish Wooden Toys." He also reviewed the Art Institute of Chicago exhibition, "Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690-1840," for the *Decorative Arts Trust* magazine.

Rich Aste '14, RCS '15 curated the exhibition "Impressionism and the Caribbean: Francisco Oller and His Transatlantic World" on view at the Brooklyn Museum through January 3, 2016.

Peter Trippi '95, RCS '00 and **Penny Hunt McCaskill '95** organized a Summer School class reunion in Philadelphia in October. It was so successful that they urge other classes to follow suit!



Summer School Class of '95 at Mt. Pleasant

Catherine Futter '88, RCS '06 is now the Louis L. and Adelaide C. Ward Senior Curator of European Arts at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City.

Emily B. Neff, RCS '09 has been named Executive Director at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art in Tennessee.

Jennifer Carlquist '03 has been named Curator at Boscobel House & Gardens in Garrison, New York.

John H. Waters '14 published an article in the spring 2015 issue of the *Magazine of the Victorian Society in America* titled "William Morris Changes Abodes", partly based on his Summer School experience at Kelmscott Manor.

In October, **Gwendolyn L. Smith '13** and **Robert MacKay '75** presented at a symposium held at The Long Island Museum titled "Gilding the Coasts: Art & Design of Long Island's Great Estates." Ms. Smith is now a Specialist of European Furniture & Decorative Arts for Skinner, Inc.

Jon Frederick '12 gave a lecture,

"Objects Collected: Recent Research on Decorative Art Objects at the National Gallery of Art" at the gallery in November.

A new book by Stephen G. Hague '04, *The Gentleman's House in the British Atlantic World 1680-1780*, was the topic of a luncheon talk and book signing at the Philadelphia Club in October (Palgrave Macmillan, June 2015).

"St. Louis Modern," curated by **David Conradsen '95** and **Genevieve Cortinovis '14**, examines the mid-century modern design movement of artists, designers and architects in the St. Louis area from 1935-65. The exhibition at the Saint Louis Art Museum commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Gateway Arch by Eero Saarinen and is on view through January 31, 2016. An in-depth review of "St. Louis Modern," by **Kate Eagen Johnson '96**, appears in the December 11, 2015, issue of *Antiques and the Arts Weekly*.

Curt DiCamillo '03, RCS '10, gave an enthusiastic lecture in New York City in November as part of the Royal Oak Foundation's fall lecture series entitled "Tartan Tales: Stories from Historic Scottish Houses."

In addition to helping support a participant in the Attingham Summer School, **The Decorative Arts Trust** awarded grants to the following Attingham Alumni: **William Strollo '14**, Wilton House Museum, to attend the MESDA Summer Institute; **Jonathan Tavares '09**, to speak at, and **Colin Fanning '15**, Philadelphia Museum of Art, to attend, their Spring Symposium in Chicago. Thank you DAT!

Sequoia Miller '14, co-curated the exhibition "The Ceramic Presence in Modern Art" at the Yale University Art Gallery, closing on January 3, 2016.

What have you done lately related to Attingham? Do you have a new book? A forthcoming exhibition? A new job or promotion? An award? A recent get together with colleagues? **Please let us know!**

OTHER NEWS

Society of Architectural Historians, Call for Session Proposals, Glasgow, June 7-11, 2017. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a session featuring the research of Attingham alums at this

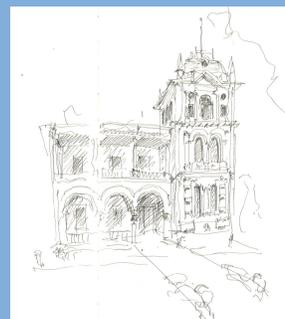
conference location? SAH membership required to propose, chair, or present research at the conference. More information at the SAH website: www.sah.org/conferences-and-programs/2017-conference-glasgowproposal. **Deadline** January 16, 2016.

The American Friends of Attingham was a proud Sponsor of the **North American Conference on British Studies**, held in Little Rock, Arkansas, November 13-15, 2015.

The AFA welcomes the Royal Oak Foundation's newly-appointed Executive Director, **Lori Brittle!** Lori joins Royal Oak from the Riverside Park Conservancy, where she served as Chief Operating Officer. We look forward to our continued work with Royal Oak and hope Ms. Brittle can join an Attingham course in the future!

CALL FOR SKETCHES!

We would like to make new American Friends of Attingham notecards featuring artwork by alumni done during courses or Study Trips. If you have sketches to donate for consideration, please e-mail a few samples with identifying information to AFA's administrator. Of course, those artists whose works are chosen will receive credit on the end product. (Please do not send photographs or anything from properties where you were specifically requested not to photograph.) **Deadline: February 15, 2016.**



Sketch of Villa Finale by Shawn Evans '00.

Image: Class of 1995 courtesy of Peter Trippi and Penny McCaskill

UPCOMING AFA PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Registration fees may be submitted online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org, or by check payable to American Friends of Attingham, sent to: AFA, 305 Lexington Ave., Suite 1600, New York, NY 10016. For questions, contact admin@americanfriendsofattingham.org or 212-682-6840.

AFA Mid-Winter Reunion – Friday, January 22, 2016

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York City
RSVP by January 16: \$35 per person - You and a guest are invited. Let us know if you plan to attend the Preview and Discussion prior to the reception.*

5:00-6:00 p.m.: The British Galleries Project: a Preview and Discussion
 Art Study Room, Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education (Please use the Fifth Avenue and Eighty-First Street Entrance)

6:00-8:00 p.m.: Mid-Winter Reunion Reception
 Annie Laurie Aitken Galleries (Gallery 518)

Join Attingham alumni and friends for the annual Mid-Winter Reunion. We are privileged that this year's gathering will take place in the Annie Laurie Aitken Galleries of British decorative arts at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**. Let us celebrate in true Attingham fashion and join the museum in recognizing a moment of transition before the galleries close in mid-2016 for an ambitious renovation program that promises to present a fresh view of British decorative arts from 1500-1900. We will have the galleries to ourselves for this reunion evening—a wonderful opportunity to engage with each other and the collections. Drinks will be served in the Kirtlington Park Room, one of the greatest English 18th-century interiors in America. Kirtlington's austere Palladian exterior gives no hint of the dining room's exuberant plasterwork decoration which celebrates Ceres and Bacchus, an appropriate theme for our event.



At 5:00 p.m., prior to the Reunion, **Luke Syson RCS '02**, Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Chairman of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts and **Ellenor Alcorn '83, RCS '01**, Curator, will present a preview of the gallery project with contributions from **Mecka Baumeister**, Furniture Conservator, and **Chris Noey '15**, General Manager of Creative Production.

*There is no additional fee for the Preview and Discussion, but there are a limited number of seats so reservations are required and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Priority will be given to alumni as space is limited.

The AFA would like to offer special thanks to The Met staff including Luke Syson, Ellenor Alcorn, Mecka Baumeister, Chris Noey, **Erin Pick '05** and **Kristen Hudson** for helping us coordinate this wonderful reunion.

Image: John Sanderson (English, act. 1730–d. 1774). Dining room from Kirtlington Park, Oxfordshire, 1742–48. Wood, plaster and marble, 432 x 287 x 243 in. (6.09 x 10.97 x 7.32 m). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Fletcher Fund, 1931, (32.53.1).

The Woolworth Building Tour

Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

233 Broadway (Financial District between Barclay Street and Park Place)

RSVP by January 12: \$50 per person. Attendance is limited to 30 people.

Please join us for a private tour exploring the iconic Woolworth Building which was completed in 1913 with the distinction of being the tallest building in the world for seventeen years. The magnificent lobby, designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert, recalls a Romanesque cathedral nave with vaults surfaced with Byzantine mosaics, cornices of gilded tracery, and lunette murals framing a gracious marble staircase. This 90-minute tour also includes a rare visit to the gorgeous mezzanine. This grand entrance is a landmarked interior space unrivaled by any other on the North American continent for its scale, craftsmanship and beauty.



Image: The Woolworth Lobby, photo by Carol Highsmith courtesy of Look LLC - Woolworth Tour

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., AFA Alumni Reunion for those attending the **College Art Association** meetings in Washington, D.C. RSVP to presidentafa@gmail.com for details.

Washington D.C. Area Alumni Reunion at Mount Vernon, late afternoon on **Tuesday, May 10, 2016**.

Spring Day Trip, Saturday, May 14, 2016, Visit **Untermeyer Gardens** and other sites of historic interest near Yonkers, NY!

AFA Annual Meeting, Friday, September 23, 2016, in New York City

2016 Annual Fall Lecture, Monday, September 26, 2016, in New York City



Walled Garden, courtesy of Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy

Stay tuned for details!

RECENT EVENTS

September Weekend Events



Photos: (Top) Stewart Rosenblum, Steven Spandle and Barbara File at the Annual Meeting (Bottom) Catherine Brawer at Temple Emanu-El

The Annual Meeting of the American Friends of Attingham took place on September 18 at the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation near Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. Foundation Director **Dr. Susan Fisher** welcomed us along with Curator of Collections **Sasha Davis** and introduced us to the Gross family and their evocative house and studio, a tangible reminder of Chaim Gross's (1901-94) activity as a sculptor and their joint activity as collectors. After the business meeting, **Sibyl Groff '73** eulogized long-time AFA Administrator Sybil Bruel (see 50th Anniversary song on pg. 2) and the President read a reminiscence of Geoffrey Beard written by **Morrison Heckscher '66, RCS '00, Rich Aste '14, RCS '15** reported on the Royal Collection Studies course, **Linda Weld '08, LHC '10, SP '15** on the Czech Study Programme, and David Wilton/Metropolitan Museum Scholar **Chris Noey '15** on the Summer School.

Before the Friday meeting and on the Saturday following, a group of very lucky alumni and friends were treated to visits of sites around New York City featuring the work of Hildreth Meière, a pre-eminent mural painter and mosaic designer, active in various cities from the 1920s through the 50s. The sites included the Red Banking Room at One Wall St., the AT&T Long Distance Building, St. Bartholomew's church and Temple Emanu-El. Our expert guides included **Catherine Coleman Brawer**, co-author, with Kathleen Murphy Skolnik, of *The Art Deco Murals of Hildreth Meière* (Andrea Monfried Editions, 2014) and **Hilly Dunn**, granddaughter of the artist, who has photographed most of the artist's works. Meière deserves to be much better known and this beautiful book should help bring her work to a wider audience.

2015 AFA ANNUAL FALL LECTURE

THE PEOPLE'S GALLERIES: ART MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITIONS IN VICTORIAN BRITAIN

FEATURING **GILES WATERFIELD, FSA**

On Monday, September 21, well over 100 alumni and friends assembled at the Union League Club in New York to hear Giles Waterfield, Director of Royal Collection Studies, lecture on the topic of his newest book, *The People's Galleries: Art Museums and Exhibitions in Victorian Britain* (Yale University Press, 2015). Attendees enjoyed catching up with friends during a cocktail reception following the talk. Thanks to all who attended the event, which helps to support the continued operations of the American Friends of Attingham. We also express our **deepest thanks** to all the Lecture Sponsors who contributed substantially to make our main fundraising event a great success:

Mrs. Russell B. Aitken
Anonymous (2)
Tom Appelquist and
Charles Newman
Edward Lee Cave
Margaret Civetta
Mr. and Mrs. David W.
Dangremond

Elizabeth and Paul De Rosa
Nancy deWaart
The Felicia Fund
Sheila ffolliott and
Shepard Krech III
Barbara and Jonathan File
Merrily Glosband
Morrison and Fenella
Heckscher

Judith Hernstadt
Gail and Fred Kahn
Jane Karotkin
David Parsons
Charles Savage
S.J. Shrubsole, Corp.
Yale Center for British Art



Giles Waterfield and attendees at the 2015 Annual Fall Lecture

2015 AFA STUDY TRIP: ST. LOUIS NOVEMBER 5-8

REMARKS BY **ALEXIS MUCHA '14**, MANAGER OF RIGHTS & REPRODUCTIONS / GALLERY ADMISSIONS & RETAIL AT BARD GRADUATE CENTER

The Attingham Study Trip to St. Louis was a thought-provoking experience. When I saw the announcement with the photo of Gyo Obata's Priory Chapel (below) and the "St. Louis Modern" exhibition, I knew it would check all the right boxes for me and it did not disappoint.



Photo by Alexis Mucha

The first day was spent in Forest Park starting at the engaging Missouri History Museum with **Anne Woodhouse '78, SP '90**, Curator of Domestic Life. In the afternoon, we were welcomed to the Saint Louis Art Museum by **Jason Busch '01**, the museum's Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs and Museum Programs and our Study Trip Host Committee Chair, before our whistle-stop tour of collection highlights, of which there were many, led by the departmental curators including **Mimi Huang '15**, Research Assistant for Asian Art and **Zoe Perkins '11, SP '12**, Curator of Textiles.

We were fortunate to be invited into the Priory Chapel at Saint Louis Abbey for the end of mass on our second day. It was fascinating seeing the Chapel both in use and empty. Continuing with modern architecture our next stop was the Frank Lloyd Wright House in Ebsworth Park, where the uniquely-shaped beds gave us something to talk about.

That afternoon brought us to Ulysses S. Grant's White Haven. Before we returned to the museum that evening for a preview of the "St. Louis Modern" exhibition, led by co-curators **David Conradsen '95** and **Genevieve Cortinovis '14**, our other fantastic committee host, we visited the private collectors, **Sherry and Gary Wolff** and **Anabeth and John Weil**.

Our third day was a high point for me, literally and metaphorically. **Catherine Coleman Brower** led a tour of Hildreth Meière's mosaics at the Cathedral Basilica, which was an excellent continuation of the tours of Meière's work she led in September. Our next stop was the Pulitzer Arts Foundation and the Contemporary Art Museum. I found the Pulitzer enlightening and was particularly struck by the use of only natural light in the galleries as well as their curatorial approach. Then it was on to something completely different at the City Museum. I knew nothing about it beforehand, so seeing a school bus hanging off the roof upon arrival and an airplane amidst construction material with people climbing all over was a surprise. The inside was a visual cacophony, unfortunately there was no time to try either the 10 or 5 foot slides. In the afternoon some of us went to the top of the Gateway Arch and saw the confluence of rivers



while the rest went to the Campbell House Museum where we later joined them for a tour of the original furnishings from the 1850s. **Rex Sinquefield** hosted us for dinner amongst his collection of American scene paintings.



Our final day took us out of the city to Ste. Genevieve in the Creole Corridor, followed by a stop at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cahokia Mounds. Our final visit of the trip was to Principia College on the bluffs overlooking a bend in the Mississippi, which we were lucky enough to see at sunset. The architect **John Guenther** led us on a tour of the Cotswold-inspired campus designed by Bernard Maybeck. The farewell dinner was given by Genevieve Cortinovis at her house in Lafayette Square. We sampled some delicious St. Louis barbeque and toasted Genevieve, Jason, Mary Ellen and Sheila for all of their work towards this fantastic trip.

SCHOLARS REFLECT ON THE 2015 ATTINGHAM TRUST COURSES THE 64TH ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL

"The visits have become a delightful whirlwind of gilt and plaster, tapestry and paintings, and gardens and fountains; there were moments of being left utterly breathless by a space, an interior, or an artwork." — **Edgar Garcia '15**, City of Los Angeles, *Royal Oak Foundation Scholar*

"Most of us on the course agreed that the country house is not a museum. There are many reasons for this distinction, but probably the most evident is that they are *homes*--repositories of family life, memories, and objects ... with a unique relationship to time." — **Jennifer Chuong '15**, Harvard University, *The Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation Scholar and AFA Scholar*



"Throughout the course the single most controversial discussion topic was interpretation. The debates over how something was restored or presented separated the group in different ways, prompting conversation and unexpected alliances among participants." — **Lydia Brandt '15**, University of South Carolina, *Royal Oak Foundation Scholar*

"... and delightfully, I was a mentor and in-turn was mentored by colleagues. It was a complete luxury to call out a question and have one or several peers have an immediate answer and point out examples from other houses." — **Estella Chung '15**, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, *David M. Maxfield Scholar and Gilbert P. Schafer III Scholar*.



"I have only begun to process the full extent of the program and its personal impact, but it is clear that the gifts of the Attingham experience are manifold and will be long-lasting." — **Colin Fanning '15**, Philadelphia Museum of Art, *David Wilton Scholar and AFA Scholar*

ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES

"Seeing the Royal Collection in a home—or rather a series of royal palaces—is not a context I often consider when interpreting objects with royal patronage as an art curator at a U.S. museum ... but the Royal Collection masterpieces are still very much at home. The exhibition *Victoria Revealed* was presented at her childhood residence and her words glossed the presentation of objects that had decorated her young world, e.g. "My earliest recollections are connected with Kensington Palace, where I can remember crawling on a yellow carpet spread out for that purpose. ... Our class was divided on the effectiveness of this approach and we discussed it with Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces." — **Rich Aste '14**, **RCS '15** Brooklyn Museum, *Paula Madden Scholar and Stewart Rosenblum Scholar*



STUDY PROGRAMME: THE HISTORIC HOUSE IN THE LANDS OF THE CZECH CROWN

Attingham Study Programme '15

Based on Percy Bysshe Shelley's sonnet, "Ozymandias"

I met some travelers from the Czech Crown lands,
Who said, "Two thousand monuments of stone
Stand in the country. Near them, in noble hands,
A group of royal portraits hang, whose crown,
And gilded frame, and crest of old command,
Tell that their painter well those fashions read
Which yet survive, embroidered on those artful sights.
The fabric's flocked, and here the brown turned red."
And on the travelers' badges, these words appear:
"Our name is Attingham, knight of knights:
Look on these works, conservators, and repair
Anything that remains. Make no delay
With everything that's Czech, rabbit or hare;
May restituted lands be here to stay!"

David M. Parsons '08, RCS '14, SP '11, '13, '15

June 15, 2015

"My research focuses on the Dietrichstein family and I observed their coat of arms in many of the houses to which we had privileged access. For the first time I could see the famous painting *The Dietrichstein's Dinner*, on display in Mnichovo Hradiště; and, in Hrádek u Nechanic, I discovered two unknown portraits of the children of Franz Eusebius, Count of Pötting, and his wife Maria Sophia of Dietrichstein, commissioned while he served as Imperial ambassador in Spain (1664-1674). I am deeply grateful to my fellow scholars for the continuous exchange of knowledge and interests. The international and multidisciplinary character of the group was fundamental for acquiring a broader knowledge about institutions and historic houses, from the United States to Russia, passing through United Kingdom. The theater and ballet performances at the exclusive Baroque theater in Český Krumlov castle, arranged solely for the participants of the course, were truly a once in a lifetime experience."

— Vanessa de Cruz Medina SP '15, Ph.D., Clo Tepper Scholar and AFA Scholar



"The preservation and presentation of the historic interiors and collections was instructive and impressive; with eyes so attuned to furnishings and settings in England, Germany and France, the quality, variety, originality and sophistication of the 'local' artists and manufacturers was profoundly affecting. I now see quite clearly that the effective assimilation of foreign tastes and traditions is what defines and distinguishes Central European art and culture, which looked to Vienna instead of Paris. One has a sense of the greatness, the great wealth and worldliness, of the families with residences in Vienna and Prague and estates in the Habsburg territories." — Maureen Cassidy-Geiger '85; RCS '10; SP '15, Independent Curator and Historian, Gerry Charitable Trust Scholar and American Friends of Attingham Scholar.

2015 Attingham Trust Courses, image credits. Page 6: Summer School (a) The Summer School at Boughton House, (b) National Trust Curator Mark Purcell with Scholars; Royal Collections Studies, photo courtesy of Rich Aste at Kensington Palace; Page 7: Study Programme, Annabel Westman interviewed for Czech TV at Velké Losiny Zámek (Castle).

PLANNED GIVING: PHELPS WARREN SOCIETY

Named in honor of the longest-serving President of the American Friends of Attingham (1964-79), the *Phelps Warren Society* acknowledges those who have committed to AFA in their estate plans. Phelps (1906-85) co-founded the wallpaper firm Katzenbach and Warren, which encouraged American wallpaper designers as well as making European designs available to the U.S. market. He also regularly lectured and published on the history of wallpaper, as well as on ceramics and glass, including his authoritative book *Irish Glass*. Surely his model embodies the Attingham ideal. If you would like information about joining this august group, please ask. Thank you!

Thomas Appelquist

James Buttrick

Jay Cantor

Brigitte Fletcher

Jeff Groff

Harriette Hawkins

Judith Hernstadt

Jeffrey Herr

Thomas Jayne

Kathleen Eagen Johnson

Ann Keenan

Lisa Cook Koch

Julia Leisenring

W. Neil Letson

David Maxfield

Jane Lynn Merritt

Robin Michel

Christopher Molinar

Jan Mooney

Roger Moss

Charles Newman

Nicholas Pappas

Paul B. Parvis

William Pillsbury

Melissa Seiler

E. Clothier Tepper

Breffny Walsh

Beth Carver and Dustin Wees

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone, PLEASE let us know.

IN MEMORIAM:

Sadly we note the passing of Attingham alumni and luminaries:

Anthony Joseph Atkin '77 was a distinguished architect and teacher. He received a BA in anthropology from the University of Utah and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He taught in the Penn Graduate Architecture program for more than 30 years. His summer programs in Japan and China were exceptional highlights of the curriculum and much loved and remembered by participating students. A native of St. George, Utah, Atkin grew up riding horses and working on his father's ranch in the Arizona strip along the north rim of the Grand Canyon. His last 10 years in Santa Fe returned him to the landscape of his youth. He was gifted at drawing and painting and his sketchbooks from Asia and his later paintings of the Grand Canyon document a life of intense love of landscape, cultural heritage and beauty. Participants in the AFA Study Trip to Santa Fe will remember the farewell dinner hosted by Tony in his home overlooking the Sangre de Cristo mountains. His architecture firm, Atkin Olshin Schade, has offices in Philadelphia and Santa Fe.

Dr. Geoffrey Beard, OBE, FSA first became involved with the Attingham Summer School when he was asked to lecture in July 1966. At the time he was director at Cannon Hall near Barnsley and had just cofounded the Furniture History Society (1964) whose Journal he edited for the next ten years. From a career in museums he went on to become director of the new Visual Arts Centre at Lancaster University from 1972-82. His interests were wide but it is on the subjects of plasterwork and furniture that he is particularly well known. He was a prolific author publishing many seminal articles and 37 books. He was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 2007 for services to heritage. Geoffrey served as Director for The Attingham Summer School from 1987 to 1994 and chronicled its history in the book *Attingham, The First Forty Years*. His inspired teaching and generosity in imparting his encyclopedic knowledge were hallmarks of his success and his enduring legacy to Attingham.

Sybil Bruel was the longtime and much-admired Administrator of the American Friends of Attingham from 1985-2005. The apartment of Sybil and her husband, Jack and their 2 boys served as AFA's office during her tenure. Sybil's apartment was also a welcoming center and boutique hotel for visitors like Geoffrey Beard and Annabel Westman. With her creativity, Sybil expanded and arranged the many activities that augmented Attingham's growth and recognition throughout her administration.

Dr. Harry Willcox Pfanz '73 was a Civil War author and former chief historian of the National Park Service. He grew up on a farm near Columbus, Ohio and in World War II was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge serving as a lieutenant in the 912th Field Artillery Battalion. He earned a Ph.D. from Ohio State University and served as an historian for the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C. and for the Gettysburg National Military Park. In 1966, Dr. Pfanz accepted a position at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, and was its superintendent when the structure was opened to the public in 1968. In 1971, he returned Washington, becoming the National Park Service's chief historian in 1974. He received several awards for his accomplishments from the Department of the Interior and after his retirement in 1981 wrote three books on the Battle of Gettysburg which are considered some of the most definitive books on the subject.

THANK YOU SO MUCH SYBIL

A reflection from 2005 of Sybil Bruel's twenty years at the American Friends of Attingham

How can the Attingham Trust thank Sybil? She has been outstanding in every way. Her generosity, efficiency, kindness, dependability, her great sense of fun and her infectious laugh have made her a very valued colleague and great friend to us all. What would we have done had she decided to write novels instead of joining the Friends in 1984?*

There are so many fond memories. Her times in England have been frequent, attending our events over the years and joining in our parties both during and outside the Summer School and Study week programmes.

Sybil occasionally joined the last week of the Summer School, quickly immersing herself in the spirit and mood of the group, and taking part in the often-hilarious antics of the 'last night party'. In 1992, the 'Gods and Goddesses' theme saw Sybil dressed as Sibyl, a priestess to Apollo with the gift of prophecy, eccentrically draped in a Japanese kimono carrying a pile of books (right).



All of us – Geoffrey Beard, the late Helena Hayward, John Lewis, myself, Giles Waterfield, Judith Goodison, Caroline Rimell, the late Catherine Norman, Kate Watts, Kate Morgan, Tricia Hill and all the Trustees, Patrons and Council members - owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all she has done for Attingham. But above all, those who have worked closest to her value her friendship.

Annabel Westman, then Director of The Attingham Summer School, now Executive Director of The Attingham Trust
April 2005

*Geoffrey Beard, *Attingham The First Forty Years 1952 to 1991*, pub. Maney and Son 1991 p.104

FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE

In recognition of Geoffrey Beard

From his friend and colleague

Sybil Bruel, 1994

I think that I shall never see
 A genius such as Geoffrey B.
 His clever wit and deathless prose
 Can turn a thorn into a rose.
 A gentleman compleat is he,
 Our fearless leader, Geoffrey B.
 Who talks to us of ancestry.
 Of furniture, plasterwork, history.
 Attingham will miss you badly,
 We wave goodbye, our heads bowed sadly.
 Your fans around the world will cry
 But certainly no one more than I
 For my colleague, my mentor, my jolly friend
 Is stepping down, but it's not the end...
 There'll be meetings, lectures, book signings galore
 And many new avenues to explore,
 Happiness, joy, a chance to relax,
 With Margaret, Helen, Chloë and Max.
 We send you on your way with cheers
 Loud applause echoing in your ears.
 We'll meet in New York or England I vow
 So no goodbyes will be said right now,
 Just au revoir, hasta la vista and ciao.



Geoffrey Beard and Sybil Bruel

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

As alumni, we can all take pride in the stature that Attingham Trust courses have achieved. As a result, some have become very competitive and especially for those of us who have not participated in an Attingham program in some time, I'd like to stress the necessity to prepare applications and letters of recommendation with great care. Course success results from a combination of sites and tutors with the active participation of course members. When I visited the Summer School this past July, Lady "X" mentioned how she loved it when Attingham came because she always learned so much from course members. In fact, I observed her in close consultation with participants over several objects in their collection.



Directors for all the courses confirm, in fact, that house owners increasingly base their decisions about admitting groups on what they can gain from the visit, e.g. members' expertise that will help them learn more about their buildings and contents and even modern interpretative and marketing strategies. This means that in addition to stating their qualifications and what they hope to learn, prospective students should address some specific ways in which they see themselves contributing to the course. To increase the impact of the course, moreover, applicants should describe how they plan to disseminate what they learn to a wider audience. Course directors feel that, for the Summer School especially, applicants who have acquired some years' experience stand to benefit more from/bring more to the course than those in the earliest stages of their careers. For the Study Programme, the directors reserve the right to give priority to those who did not take the course the previous year.

Finally, all the course descriptions contain words like "intensive," "rigorous", and "ambitious." Seriously, folks. One course member of the Study Programme in the Czech Republic wore a Fitbit. It confirmed that over the 9 days, participants climbed 269 flights of stairs and walked over 49 miles. Be prepared.

—Sheila folliott, AFA President



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HOW CAN YOU HELP ATTINGHAM?

At this time of year, Attingham alumni can help AFA in two very important ways!

Make a donation. As 2015 draws to a close, we ask that you give AFA special consideration in your annual contributions. More than one-third of our budget is funded through gifts received in the last six weeks of the calendar year. *The success of our year-end 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. If you have not yet made your annual donation, please consider what you might do to help. And remember, several anonymous alumni have pledged to match with \$50.00 all donations of \$100.00 or more from alumni who have not contributed in the past five years. Please take advantage of this opportunity, and to every person who is able to give, thank you! Donations can be made online at www.americanfriendsofattingham.org, or mailed to: American Friends of Attingham, 205 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10016-6022.

Spread the word. Applications are due in January and February, it's time to get colleagues, students, and friends thinking about the 2016 Attingham courses. Time and again we hear that people apply to our programs because you, our Attingham alumni, have told them about your own experience. Details are available online, www.americanfriendsofattingham.org/courses.html or mailed by request. There is also a single page flyer for all five courses online. So please, Tweet. Blog. Facebook. Instagram. E-mail. Snail mail. If you know a good candidate, please share the 2016 materials. And don't forget to mention the Summer School video, also available on our website. Thank you!
