Letter from England

A huge thanks to all who have helped with recruitment for the Attingham courses this year. We received a bumper crop of excellent candidates for the Summer School and faced the hardest selection on both sides of the pond that I have known. The standard was very high which is great news and I hope disappointed applicants will consider applying again. The course is shaping up well with Lizzy Jamieson and David Adshead now at the helm. David (Att ’94) succeeds Andrew Moore, who stepped down last summer, and as a former trustee of The Attingham Trust and previously Head Curator for the National Trust he knows Attingham well.

David will also be running the London House Course in October, which again is being well-supported by American alumni and new recruits, highlighting the success of your marketing strategy and the pertinent interest in the subject. The programme should prove very stimulating given David’s encyclopaedic knowledge and love of the city. Andrew will be running the Study Programme to Rome and Naples with the capable assistance of Rita Grudziel, also the administrative director of the Summer School. Andrew has researched the Grand Tour over many years and is ideally placed to run this programme. The unprecedented response to attend has made selection very difficult so the decision has been made to run it again in 2019. Next year in September, Lizzy will be running the Study Programme in England by popular demand. The theme will be the Horse and the Country House, a subject on which she too has done substantial research. Planning has already started and positive interest has been widespread, which is very encouraging. Also in 2018, we will be running French Eighteenth-Century Studies again, an in-depth study of French fine and decorative arts that has proved of great appeal.

Royal Collection Studies, founded by Giles Waterfield in 1996, is to be directed by Rebecca Lyons this September ably assisted by Sara Heaton. Rebecca (RCS ’16) has worked with Royal Collection Trust, and closely with Giles, in her role as Director of Fine and Decorative Arts at Christie's Education and in the course of her PhD on George IV and his picture collecting. Giles is sorely missed but there has been a huge response to fund an Attingham scholarship in perpetuity in his name that has been very heart-warming.

– Annabel Westman, Executive Director, The Attingham Trust
SAVE THE DATE!
2017 AFA ANNUAL MEETING—NEW YORK CITY

Come join fellow alumni at the 2017 Annual Meeting at the Bard Graduate Center, 18 West 86th Street, New York, on Friday, October 6. Alexis Mucha ’14 and Nina Stritzler-Levine ’87 are AFA’s hosts and invite you to also view the exhibition, John Lockwood Kipling: Arts and Crafts in the Punjab and London. Reception to catch up with friends. More details to follow.

AFA ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT LECTURE AND RECEPTION

LIFE IN THE RUSSIAN COUNTRY HOUSE

Featuring Tessa Murdoch
Deputy Keeper of Sculpture, Metalwork, Ceramics and Glass Victoria & Albert Museum

Tuesday, October 24, 2017
The Explorer’s Club, 46 East 70th Street, New York City
6:30 p.m. Lecture,
7:30 p.m. Reception

Please join Attingham alumni and friends for our 2017 Fall Benefit Lecture and Reception, a special evening featuring Tessa Murdoch ‘01, RCS ‘06.

Tessa will share her experiences exploring the Russian country house through successive visits to Russia since 2011. Following her curatorial role in an exchange of exhibitions in 2012 and 2013 between the V&A and the Moscow Kremlin Museums – The Golden Age of the English Court from Henry VIII to Charles I and Treasures of the Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts and the Russian Tsars, and the accompanying publications in English and Russian—Tessa benefited from a Likhachev scholarship in May of 2014, studying country houses in and around St. Petersburg and researching their rich history. Her presentation in October for the American Friends of Attingham will illustrate houses belonging to the Russian Imperial Family, the aristocracy, and the homes of Russian artists and writers, drawing on collections in the V&A, at Hilwood, and in Russian museums. Following a lecture on this subject Tessa gave at the V&A to a full house in March of 2015, the micromosaic scene on a Russian jewel casket in the V&A’s Gilbert Collection, originally thought to depict the Gothic Priory at Gatchina, was re-identified as the Children’s House, a playhouse in the grounds of the Alexander Palace, Tsarskoye Selo. Tessa will share this and other discoveries with us as she revisits her Russian travels.

Sponsorship Opportunities: The evening will include a festive reception with Tessa and friends after her lecture. Lecture/reception tickets go on sale in August, but lecture sponsorships are available now. This is the American Friends of Attingham’s only annual benefit. Sponsors are invaluable supporters of Attingham activities. In addition to the Lecture and Reception, Sponsors join the speaker for dinner after the lecture and receive recognition in the program and the AFA newsletter.

For information on how to join the Sponsors, please contact the AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM, 205 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10016; (212) 682-6840 admin@americanfriendsofattingham.org www.americanfriendsofattingham.org
Recent Events

NOLA STUDY TRIP (MARCH 29–APRIL 2, 2017)

The New Orleans Study Trip was expertly coordinated by AFA Board members Jennifer Klos ’12, SP ’13, ’16, LHC ’14 and Steven Spandle ’11, LHC ’14. They engaged the Attingham spirit and Southern hospitality of local architects, curators, historians, and preservationists, several of whom are AFA alumni. Ann Masson ’76 hosted our welcome reception in her elegant home in the Vieux Carré. The next day, Ann and Hilary Irvin ’91 gave us an introduction to New Orleans history before we toured the Louisiana State Museum, led by Interim Director Tim Chester ’83. At the Historic New Orleans Collection, we met Decorative Arts Curator Lydia Blackmore, who is attending the Summer School this year. Our day in the French Quarter also included visits to several historic homes, as well as a cocktail reception in the handsome abode of Richmond Ellis and Thomas Jayne ’81, SP ’88, ’91, ’94, ’09.

The next day was filled with tours of plantations in the countryside beyond New Orleans, including Laura Plantation, Oak Alley, and San Francisco. Our final day took us to the Garden District, where we saw a variety of 19th-century architecture. We also visited one of the oldest homes of our tour, the 18th-century Pitot House, and the newest, 20th-century Longue Vue Home and Gardens. Mel Buchanan ’15 gave us a sneak peak of her new decorative arts galleries at New Orleans Museum of Art. Our visit to this remarkable city ended with a wonderful dinner at the famed Arnaud’s Restaurant in the Quarter. Our group appreciated learning about Spanish and French influences on Creole architecture, and how houses, decorative arts, and gardens figure into the cultural history of New Orleans.

– Kristen Miller Zohn ’16
(continued on page 7)

MIDWINTER REUNION

Prior to Attingham’s winter gathering at the Downtown Association, a tour of the Wall Street Area was offered by the noted NY architectural historian John Tauranac. Undaunted by the inclement weather, 25 stalwart alums (who came from all over the country) met at Trinity Church (Richard Upjohn, 1846) to learn about some of the Wall Street area’s special ‘secrets’ admired by Mr. Tauranac.

The first stop, just beyond the church entrance, was the Cherub Gate, so named for the stone sculpture of a cherub, a gift to Trinity Church from St. Mary-Le-Bow, a surviving remnant from Christopher Wren’s 18th-century church destroyed in the 1941 London Blitz. We then proceeded to #1 Wall Street, an Art Deco skyscraper originally built for the Irving Trust Company by the architect Ralph Walker; on to the J P Morgan bank at 23 Wall Street, where we could still see the remaining scars of shrapnel that shattered windows and walls, the scene of the mysterious terrorist bombing of September 16, 1920. Then onwards to the New York Stock Exchange, the landmarked George B. Post building with its massive Corinthian columns and pedimented sculpture by John Quincy Adams Ward depicting sources of American prosperity. Nearby, we examined another Wall Street ‘secret’, a brass compass embedded in the sidewalk outside of the Wall Street subway station. Finally we admired another landmarked icon, the Equitable Building at 120 Broadway, the largest office building in the world when completed in 1915; the subsequent fury that erupted due to its 38-story walls rising straight up without setbacks lead to the establishment of the city’s first zoning laws. We continued along the ‘canyon of heroes’, named for the ticker tape parades held there where markers in the pavement indicated the names and dates of those honored. Though there were many more ‘secrets’ to be explored along the Wall Street area, by 6:00 some very thirsty alums were glad to join their compatriots in the warmth and cheer of the Downtown Association.

– Pauline C. Metcalf ’66
(continued on page 7)
Warm welcome to the Attingham Summer School Class of 2017 and thank you to our alumni who recruited an outstanding group of applicants. This year the 24 American residents selected for the program were chosen from a highly competitive pool of 35 candidates. They will join an equally outstanding group of 24 scholars selected by the Attingham Trust from the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Hungary, Ireland, India, the Netherlands, Poland, and Sweden. Together the 48 scholars will maintain the strong international community that has characterized the Attingham program in recent years.

The American scholars bring a wide range of skills and expertise to the program. They include 9 curators, an archivist, museum educators and other museum personnel, 3 university professors, 1 historic house director, 1 president of a collection of historic houses, and 2 auction house specialists. They represent institutions located in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

This year we were able to offer scholarship assistance to 15 American scholars who requested financial aid. As always we are extremely grateful to the individuals and organizations that make scholarships available to our candidates. Many worthy applicants would be unable to attend without their continuing generosity.

Our thanks to the Selection Committee members who faced the difficult task of choosing the class from among so many excellent candidates. The Committee received valuable input from non-voting committee attendees: the chairs of the American Friends of Attingham Finance and Recruitment Committees, the AFA Administrator, Cynthia Drayton, and Co-Director of the Attingham Summer School, Elizabeth Jamieson.

Thanks too to the members of the Recruitment Committee, Jessa Krick, Quillan Rosen, Tom McGeehe, Rod Thompson, and Sheila folliott, who worked diligently to assure that promising candidates were encouraged to apply to the program. Most of all we thank our active alumni. As we remind you often, 98% of our applicants hear about the Summer School from an alumnus. To all of you, please keep those wonderful applicants coming, and thank you for your patience and forbearance if your candidate did not get a place in the 2017 Summer School class. It is a credit to all of you that the applicant pool is so outstanding.

With warmest regards,

Jason Busch, ’01; Vice-President for Recruitment
Libby De Rosa, ’05, SP’10, RCS’07; Vice-President for Selection

ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL
Zara M. Anishanslin, PhD
Assistant Professor of History & Art History, University of Delaware
Royal Oak Foundation Scholar
Elizabeth M. Bailey
Partner, Senior Designer
Katie Ridder, Inc.
American Friends of Attingham Scholar
Lydia B. Blackmore
Decorative Arts Curator
Historic New Orleans Collection
Decorative Arts Trust Scholar and Gilbert P. Schafer, III, Scholar
Nicole A. Blackwood, PhD
Independent Curator/Consultant
Disegno LLC (founder)
New York Community Trust/Edward Maverick Fund Scholar
Barbara D. Bohem, PhD
Paul and Jill Roduck Senior Curator for The Met Cloisters
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
David Wilton Metropolitan Museum of Art Scholar
Edward R. Bosley
Director, The Gamble House, University of Southern California Architecture
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Associate Professor of Art History
Ithaca College
New York Community Trust/Edward Maverick Fund Scholar
Courtney L. Harris
Curatorial Research Fellow, Decorative Arts and Sculpture
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Royal Oak Foundation Scholar and Summer School Class of 2016 Scholar
Amy H. Henderson, PhD
Independent Art Historian, Museum Consultant and Research Associate, George Washington’s Mount Vernon
Walter E. (Edwin) Jackson
Manager/Docent
Pilgrimage Garden Club
Irina Y. Klyagin
Processing Archivist (formerly Rothschild Archivist)
Houghton Library, Harvard University
The Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation Scholars, Summer School Class of 2016 Scholar, and American Friends of Attingham Scholar
Gina G. Lewis
NHF Research Assistant, American Art Department
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Royal Oak Foundation Scholar
Patrick Lee Lucas, PhD
Director, School of Interiors, University of Kentucky, Lexington Fairfax and Sammons Scholar
Rebecca L. Martin
Director of Education and Guest Experiences, George Mason’s Gunston Hall
The National Society of Colonial Dames Scholar
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Carl R. Nold
President and Chief Executive Officer, Historic New England
Elise K. Owens
Curatorial Assistant, The Frick Collection
Decorative Arts Trust scholar
Katherine A. Paul, PhD
Curator, Arts of Asia, Newark Museum
Sara M. Puttermann
Associate Specialist, English and European Furniture
Sotheby’s
Christian Roden
Programming and Communications Coordinator
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The Ida and William Rosenthal Foundation Scholar, Robert Morris Bush Scholar, and Summer School Class of 2018 Scholar
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Anne A. Verplank, PhD
Associate Professor
American Studies and Heritage Studies
Penn State Harrisburg

[June 2017]
The Material Culture of Art is a new book series edited by Michael Yonan, SP ’16, which will appear with Bloomsbury Academic. It seeks to publish book-length studies that explore specific object biographies, studies of medium and the procedures for making works of art, and investigations of art’s relationship to the broader material world that comprises society.

www.academia.edu/31356914/New_Book_Series_The_Material_Culture_of_Art_Bloomsbury_Academic

David Frazer Lewis ’16, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Yale Center for British Art, worked with other staff and participants in the Student Guide Program to produce an exhibition The British Castle: A Symbol in Stone on view at the newly reopened museum.

On April 18, 2017 ARTDAILY.COM celebrated the Newark Museum’s Chief Curator, Ulysses Grant Dietz ’83, in anticipation of his retirement at the end of 2017 after a 37-year career. Dietz, an American Friends of Attingham Board Member, notes that the museum has “an unbroken history of collecting modern objects that represent the idea that art is everywhere, not just in paint and marble and bronze … Our founding premise was that art should be accessible – intellectually and financially – to everyone who walked in our doors. In 1909 that was a radical vision and it has informed my work as a curator for 37 years.” Perhaps the Museum’s Gilded Age mansion, the Ballantine House, built in 1885 for the Newark brewing family, best reflects Dietz’s legacy. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985, the House was completely restored and reintegrated between 1992 and 1994.

The British Castle: A Symbol in Stone presents a case study for the idea of “home” as it existed by the 1890s in America, and the full range of the decorative arts collection is displayed to explore how Americans have always expressed themselves by the things they chose to fill their homes. “After 23 years, House & Home is still virtually unique among American museums and historic houses. It is perhaps my proudest moment as curator,” Dietz said. “Ulysses’s curatorial vision has helped build the Museum’s outstanding reputation in the local, regional, and national community,” said Steven Kern, the Museum’s Director and CEO. “We are grateful to Ulysses for his dedication to the Museum, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

On 7 February Antiques and the Arts Weekly, published a Q and A with Matthew Thurlow ’05, Executive Director of the Decorative Arts Trust.

www.antiquesandthearts.com/qa-matthew-a-thurlow

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www.antiquesandthearts.com/qa-matthew-a-thurlow

John W. Braymer, Ph.D., ’97; SW ’98, ’01, ’04, ’07; RCS ’99; LHC 14; FES ’16, has been honored upon his retirement as CEO of the Virginia AIA (American Institute of Architects) and the Virginia Foundation for Architecture. Recognizing nearly 30 years of service, AIA Virginia has named its past presidents’ council the John W. Braymer Leadership Circle. For his role as Founding President of the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design, the VFA trustees have designated trustees emeriti as Braymer Fellows and have established a travel scholarship in his name for young architects. Following his retirement, and inspired by his long association with both Attingham and the Center for Palladian Studies in America, John has established Art and Architecture Tours LLC to make focused study tours accessible to audiences whose professional backgrounds would not normally qualify them for admission to Attingham’s courses.

Sasha Davis ’16, organized the exhibition with catalogue Building Identity: Chaim Gross and Artists’ Homes and Studios in New York City, 1953-74, on until June 30 at the Gross Foundation in New York.

Jennifer van Horn ’03, Assistant Professor of art history and history at the University of Delaware, is the author of the just published, The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-century British America (University of North Carolina Press).

Zara Anishanslin ’17, delivered the Annual Martha Washington lecture at Mt. Vernon. An assistant professor of history and art history at the University of Delaware, she is the author of Portrait of a Woman in Silk (Yale University Press), in which she crafts an innovative object biography; beginning with a fascinating silk dress, she presents the stories of four intersecting lives: the women who designed the fabric and wore the dress as well as the man who wove the cloth and the painter who recorded it on canvas.

Aimée Keithan ’15, is the recipient of a Fellowship at The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon for her project, From the Garrets to the Cellars: Mount Vernon’s Role in the Development of American Domestic Service Architecture.

AFA Treasurer, Michele Hargrave ’07 is the new Deputy Director of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Numerous Attingham alumni participated in the recent ceremony honoring Patricia Kane ’90 with the 2017 Antiques Dealers’ Association of America Award of Merit. Kane, the Friends of American Arts curator of American decorative arts at Yale University Art Gallery, “has spent decades studying American furniture and silver. Most recently, she authored Art and Industry in Early America: Rhode Island Furniture, 1650-1830,” a project that culminated in a groundbreaking exhibition at Yale. She has acquired more than 225 works for Yale’s collections, including many twentieth-century pieces,” said AFA President Steven S. Powers.
2016 AFA DONOR HONOR ROLL

The AFA Board is deeply grateful for, and pleased to acknowledge the contributions of, the donors listed below. Their contributions include all charitable gifts, comprising scholarships, Fall Lecture sponsorships, and contributions to the Annual Appeal made in 2016 (tuition and program fees are not included). Thanks to one and all for your generosity. If we have inadvertently omitted a name, please let us know.

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More Alumni News & Recent Events

WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA ALUMNI REUNION

Nearly forty alumni and friends gathered on May 15th at Dumbarton House for a cocktail reception in the garden and a sneak preview of the mansion before the official opening to the public. Collections and Facilities Manager Jerry Foust ’15 and Curator Scott Scholz ’10 led tours of the recently restored building, the reinstallation of the objects, and the new open collection storage space.

In Memoriam

Susan Storey Lyman ’66 died on December 29, 2016, aged 97. A 1949 cum laude graduate of Radcliffe, she served on its Board from 1958-81. She was active in the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, now Historic New England, both as a Trustee from 1961 to 1968 and as a volunteer with a particular focus on her husband’s family place, The Vale in Waltham, where she developed and operated a wedding business that continues today. Among her awards is the Harvard Medal in 1984.

Liana Paredes ’96, who died on March 16, worked at Hillwood for over 25 years. “Liana’s death is a great loss, not only for us, but also for the field of European decorative art to which she contributed so much,” said Kate Markert, the museum’s executive director; “the level of academic excellence and true passion she brought to the study of Hillwood’s collection cannot be overstated, nor can the professionalism, graciousness, and quiet authority with which she interacted with her colleagues.” Her exhibitions and publications include the co-authored A Taste for Splendor: Russian Imperial and European Treasures from the

Hillwood Museum and Sèvres Then and Now: Tradition and Innovation in Porcelain, 1750-2000. This spring will see the release of her latest publication, Spectacular Gems and Jewelry from the Merriweather Post Collection, published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name that will open this June. Paredes was selected to participate at the Getty Leadership Institute’s program in Museum Management.

Editor’s note. Hillwood is an important part of the Attingham family.

Vernon Copeland Tancil ’64, of Washington, DC, died on March 30, 2017 at the age of 88. A 1951 graduate of American University, he received an M.A. in history in 1953 from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1958, the National Park Service hired Vernon as curator for Independence Hall National Historical Park. He was responsible for the acquisition, registration, and cataloging of furnishings, papers, books, and paintings needed for the Park’s restoration; he also fielded questions about the crack in the Liberty Bell. His weekly visits to auction houses resulted in notable purchases, including a desk used personally by Benjamin Franklin.

Vernon worked for the NPS in San Francisco, Denver, and Seattle, where he was Regional Historian for the Pacific Northwest, responsible for Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. He returned to Washington, DC in 1992 and led an active retired life: an avid reader and student of political affairs, history, customs, and culture. He was well traveled, in the U.S., Europe, and South Africa.

Editor’s note. Vernon took to heart the recommendation that our Annual Appeal welcomes gifts in any amount, invariably making a contribution.

The Houston Chronicle published a front-page obituary for Barthel “Bart” Julian Anthony Truxillo ’03, who died on April 19. The partner of the late Michael Brown ’79, Truxillo was a fixture on the Houston historic preservation scene. A passionate preservationist, he restored many properties, including the Historic Magnolia Ballroom, acquired in 1986; a Queen Anne Stick Victorian home on Harvard, his residence for over 40 years; and his Galveston home on Ball Street, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Bart was appointed to the City Architectural and Historical Commission, and he received the Houston Preservation Alliance Good Brick Award. He has left an indelible mark on Houston and the Heights, having received the Key to the City for his dedication to historical preservation.