

# AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM

# Letter from the President

I write today with a deep sense of sadness, realizing that some of you have suffered unconscionable losses over the past few months. I sincerely hope that for most of you, the pandemic and other current events have left you physically unscathed. The urgent worldwide call to examine longstanding issues of racism and social injustice is much on our minds, and it is a topic we will continue to address, on both sides of the Atlantic. It is at times like this that engagement with a community such as ours is at once comforting and informative. The cancellation of all of the Attingham Trust courses is just one of many disappointments we are experiencing, but happily all of the candidates selected this year have been invited to join the same programs next year. Thus far, everyone seems amenable, which is wonderful news indeed.

As we lament the loss of so many of our usual activities, there is hopeful news to share. The Board of the American Friends of Attingham is striving to offer both educational and social events to help keep us connected. The creation of our new Alumni Engagement

Committee is an initiative that could not have been more timely. Along with the Attingham Trust in London, we are working towards creating an online Alumni Directory, which we hope will facilitate contact with our international community. We have begun to hold regional events online, so that alumni in different parts of this country are able to meet one another virtually. And, we are currently busy planning our Annual Meeting and Annual Fall Benefit Lecture, both via Zoom. These events normally take place in Manhattan, which makes it difficult for some of you to attend. This year, alumni across the country will be able to participate in what are two of our most rewarding and enjoyable programs. We will share further details in due course, but plans for both look very promising.

In this Newsletter we bid farewell to two remarkable alumni who passed away this spring: Lisa Cook Koch, Class of 1965, who served as President of the Board of the AFA from 1995 to 1998, and J. Peter Spang, Class of 1990. Remembrances of both follow on page 7 in addition to a tribute to textile historian Gloria Allen, Class

of 1983 and Study Programme 1997. All will be truly missed.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our exceptional, tireless Administrator, Mary Ellen Whitford, who is expecting her first child in August. We have hired a thoughtful and experienced Interim Administrator, Jennifer Clarke, who will provide temporary coverage during her maternity leave, but we anticipate welcoming Mary Ellen back in December. I commend as well our all-volunteer Board for their steadfast efforts to keep the mission of AFA strong despite these most difficult times. And to you, our devoted alumni and supporters, thank you for your ongoing support. We have heard from a number of you on a wide range of topics; please keep those emails coming. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our upcoming virtual events. In the meantime, please stay safe.

> — Beth Carver Wees '81, RCS '04 President, American Friends of Attingham

# Letter from England

My first concern is to hope that you are all keeping safe and well - and sane - during these unprecedented times. Who would have guessed when I was in New York in late January that by June we would have cancelled all the Attingham courses running in 2020 as a result of Covid-19. We tried hard to think of ways to sidestep the virus but with international travel restrictions and social distancing measures in place for the foreseeable future, we would have been unable to offer the chance for close study in situ and for making life-long international friendships, both of which are such hallmarks of Attingham. Fingers crossed that 2021 will prove a happier year for all. We have offered all participants their places for next year and, across the board, the majority has accepted with alacrity. Zoom meetings have and will take place on the first day of each course so that at least the group can make virtual contact and whet the appetite for next year. (Please follow The Attingham Trust Instagram account to revive memories too).

My trip to New York to coincide with your Mid-Winter Reunion, The Winter Show and publication of my book (Fringe, Frog and Tassel) was made on the spur of the moment, and what a visit! It was wonderful to see so many of you from over the years and be so warmly welcomed at your alumni gathering. There was such a stimulating and engaged spirit — one wanted to bottle it. There are many people I would like to mention, so perhaps you will forgive me for just thanking Beth Wees and Mary Ellen, who did so much to make my stay an enjoyable one.

One of the more positive sides to this pandemic is the huge increase in virtual lectures and meetings, enabling us all to keep in touch. I am sure it will become an additional tool to learning and make our experience of studying on site all the richer. In this light, you can rest assured that Attingham will survive and will continue to provide those enriching and life-enhancing opportunities. Meanwhile, please everyone take care.

— Annabel Westman
Executive Director The Attingham Trust

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# **Alumni News**

#### **NEW APPOINTMENTS**



In February 2020, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City named **Dr. William Keyse Rudolph** '04, RCS '12 as its new Deputy Director, Curatorial Affairs, a key leadership role that will help shape the museum's dynamic exhibition program and curatorial team. Rudolph comes to Kansas City from the San Antonio Museum of Art (SAMA), where he was the co-interim director. In his seven years at SAMA, Rudolph served as Chief Curator and the Marie and Hugh Halff Curator of American and European Art and led the curatorial staff, collections, and exhibits department.

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Estella Chung '15, director of collections, curator of material culture, historian, and head of oral history at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, has been appointed chief curator at the Wisconsin Historical Society. On the Hillwood staff for 12 years, she began her new position in March. Chung has also served as curator at the Autry National Center, and the Chinese American Museum, both in Los Angeles. At the Wisconsin Historical Society, Chung will lead the Artifact Curatorial Section within the Library, Archives and Museum Collection Division and work with the Wisconsin Historical Society's museums and historic sites across Wisconsin.



Amanda Lahikainen '05, has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Ogunquit Museum of American Art in Ogunquit, Maine. Dr. Lahikainen was previously the Chair of the Art Department and a tenured Associate Professor of Art History at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she oversaw the art gallery.



Michael Yonan SP '16, beginning this fall, will be the inaugural Alan Templeton Endowed Chair in European Art, 1600-1830 at the University of California, Davis, He was previously Professor of Art History at the University of Missouri.



In January, Catherine Futter '88, RCS '06 was named Senior Curator of Decorative Arts at the Brooklyn Museum. Futter was previously with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art where she had been a member of the curatorial staff since 2002, and was most recently the Louis L. and Adelaide C. Ward Senior Curator of European Arts and the Director of Curatorial Affairs. At the Nelson-Atkins, Futter completed several reinstallation projects, a major international loan traveling exhibition and numerous contemporary art and design exhibitions.

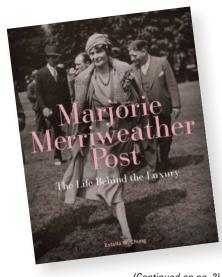
#### **RETIREMENTS**

Jeffrey Herr '98 has retired as curator of Frank Lloyd Wright's Hollyhock House in Los Angeles, where he served for fifteen years. His tenure included a major restoration of the 1921 Frank Lloyd Wright icon, which was inscribed on UNESCOs World Heritage List in 2019. Beginning in 2007 he concurrently assumed conservation responsibilities for Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts. He previously served as Director of the Banning Residence Museum in Wilmington, California. Between 2006 and 2014 Herr served on the AFA Board of Directors, coordinating Summer School recruitment. Those were great years for the AFA and included co-organizing a Los Angeles Study Tour in 2009 with Thomas Michie '81. Herr currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.



#### **EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Estella Chung '15, Chief Curator at the Wisconsin Historical Society has published the biography Marjorie Merriweather Post: The Life Behind the Luxury (D Giles Limited, 2019). Post led an extraordinary three-estate lifestyle detailed in Chung's previous book Living Artfully: At Home with Marjorie Merriweather Post. Now, in The Life Behind the Luxury, Chung adds an array of delightful details, including the "Travel Luxe" chapter of journeys by private railcar, personal yachts, and customized aircraft. Post's



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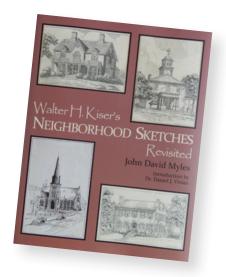
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life was indeed one of luxury. Chung goes further, however, in revealing Post to be not only an elegant public figure, but also an astute business executive and a deeply caring humanitarian and philanthropist.

Amy H. Henderson '17, Independent Scholar, has published "French & Fashionable: The Search for George and Martha Washingtons' Presidential Furniture," American Furniture 2019, a publication of the Chipstone Foundation (https://chipstone.org/issue.php/46/ American-Furniture-2019). Since the time George Washington stepped down from the presidency, dozens of chairs have been associated with his tenure in the first presidential mansion. Souvenir hunters have especially been fixated on the suite of French drawing room furniture the Washingtons purchased from the French ambassador in 1790. For the first time, this work brings together all the contenders-side and arm chairs, stools and a sofa-to suggest which surviving pieces actually belonged to the Washingtons. Amy hopes to bring greater clarity to this guestion of authenticity, as well as to expand our understanding of French furniture in the early American republic. Adam T. Erby '16, LHC '19, and Philip D. Zimmerman '77 also contributed chapters to this issue.



Maureen Cassidy-Geiger '85, RCS '10, SP '15, '17, LHC '19, is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication Living With Architecture as Art: The Peter May Collection of Architectural Drawings, Models and Artefacts (Paul Holberton Publishing, 2020). One of the largest private collections of architectural drawings in the world has been assembled over 30 years by investor and philanthropist Peter May with guidance from the late Steve Andrews. Comprising more than 700 sheets that have all been carefully preserved and handsomely framed, the drawings and related models and artefacts date from 1691 to the mid-20th century. This handsome two-volume publication will introduce amateurs and specialists alike to the largely unknown collection. The book includes a catalogue and innovative texts by leading authorities that present the raison-d'être for the production and preservation of these sometimes neglected by-products of architectural training and practice that have been collected off-and-on through history by individuals and institutions. A selection of French drawings from the collection, entitled Architectural Drawings from the Peter May Collection: Training and Practice at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, will be exhibited at New York Historical Society in early 2021.



John David Myles '19 recently published Walter H. Kiser's Neighborhood Sketches (Crescent Hill Books, 2019), which catalogues the largely forgotten artist's sketches of historic buildings across Kentucky and southern Indiana. This past spring, the book won the 2019 Book Award from the Louisville Historical League.



Several Attingham alums have contributed articles to the latest issue of *White House History Quarterly*.

Melissa Naulin '03, Assistant White House Curator, presents the newly restored Bellangé suite, ordered for the "Oval Room" by President James Monroe in 1818 and now re-gilded and reupholstered to its original splendor. The Bellangé firescreen, re-acquired for the White House collection in 2012, is seen fully restored for the first time in this issue. The White House Historical Association funded the recent restoration.

Robert Kelly '93, traces the journey and history of the elegant antique French scenic wallpapers hung in the Diplomatic Reception Room and Private Dining Room during the Kennedy administration.

Former White House Curator **Betty Monkman** '95 shares the stories of those who have held the title of White House Curator, a small group of only eight people over the course of nearly 60 years.

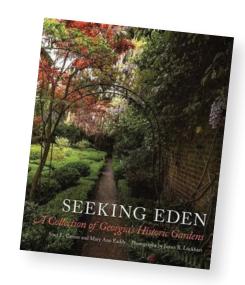
#### **AWARDS**

For the past seven years, Marsha Fader '76, a licensed architect specializing in historic restoration and preservation, has been restoring the Seneca Boston-Florence Higginbotham House (c. 1774), which is the Nantucket site of the Museum of African American History—Boston and Nantucket. This national treasure has remained in African American ownership for 200 years. The project recently won the 2020 Architectural Preservation Award from the Nantucket Preservation Trust. For more information on the project, please visit: <a href="https://www.nantucketpreservation.org/announcing-the-2020-preservation-award-winners-7858">www.nantucketpreservation.org/announcing-the-2020-preservation-award-winners-7858</a>.



The Boston-Higginbotham House, courtesy Museum of African American History

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc. (CBHL) presented its 2019 Annual Literature Award to Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia's Historic Gardens by Staci L. Catron '19 and Mary Ann Eaddy with photography by James Lockhart (University of Georgia Press, 2018). The award honors works that make significant contributions to the literature of botany or horticulture. CBHL called Seeking Eden "an important work documenting the significant gardens of Georgia."



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Cecilia Gunzburger '18, Adjunct Lecturer, Smithsonian Institution & George Washington University, and PhD Candidate at the University of Virginia has been awarded a 2020 grant as part of the Decorative Arts Trust (DAT) Summer Research Grant program. Each year the DAT awards research grants to graduate students working on a Master's thesis or PhD dissertation in a field related to the decorative arts and encourages projects that advance diversity in the study of American decorative arts. Gunzburger will continue her study of the traditions and ornamental function of 16th-century European lace and related textiles at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

#### THE MOVEMENT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Many thanks to those who submitted information on plans and projects at their places of work addressing the movement for racial justice. Please continue to keep us updated on future projects.

At the 1820 Davenport House Museum in Savannah, Georgia, there are plans to expand the museum's facility by moving the shop and offices out of the house's above ground basement and across the lane to another building, allowing for the interpretation of the entire four-story structure from attic to basement. Using architectural forensics and other documentation. the above ground basement will be restored, and an immersive exhibit on the lives of the thirteen enslaved workers in the Davenport household of the 1820s installed. The basis for the experience is research uncovered by scholar Kelly Westfield on the enslaved workers owned by the master builder Isaiah Davenport. In 2017 her work began with an 1828 sheriff's sale ad for a portion of Davenport's estate, including nine people. Using reverse deed analysis, wills, and newspaper documentation, she traced the lives of the nine individuals, and four others, back through their chain of sale. In doing this she was able to craft narratives about their lives. Using their stories, the museum design firm DMDG2 is creating an exhibit that gives life and humanity to the stories of Nancy, Bella, Isaac, Jacob, Jack, Polly, Ned, Davy, Mary, Ann, Deeping, and Tom, as well as providing context for understanding the realities of slavery in the urban port city.

While waiting for the expansion to begin, the Museum already uses the stories of the enslaved in interpreting the house on docent-led tours. However, the building project will be the opportunity to promote the narrative and deepen the experience. According to museum director Jamie Credle '16, "Our job is to expound on the Davenport household in the 1820s. You cannot do that without presenting the stories of everyone who lived on the site and how their circumstances differed from one another depending on race and gender. Understanding the institution of slavery in the American south and antebellum culture provides context for the brutish nature and violence of current events." The building expansion should be completed by 2022.

In response to the movement towards racial justice, **Mount Vernon** has created a specially curated webpage of resources to help anyone interested in learning more about this subject at the museum. The result is <a href="www.mountvernon.org/dialogue">www.mountvernon.org/dialogue</a>. In a statement from Mount Vernon's president, Dr. Doug-

las Bradburn notes, "Our resources for understanding George Washington and slavery and the reality of the individual lives of the enslaved is a strength that can and should be shared by those eager to understand better the history of race, slavery, and the founding of the United States. This is a history of promise as well as tragic inhumanity, and it is our history... I believe the road to justice is guided by the light of education, and Mount Vernon's role in this crisis of the moment is to educate those willing to learn about our past and to help support productive and informed conversations..."



Jug made of Creamware, c. 1820-1840 (England). Reeves Museum of Ceramics Collection.

Ron Fuchs '05. Senior Curator at the Reeves Museum of Ceramics, has curated "Breaking the Chains: Ceramics and the Abolition Movement," which looks at how activists used ceramics decorated with anti-slavery images to raise awareness of the plight of the enslaved, to give supporters a tangible way to show their commitment to the cause, and to raise money for other anti-slavery activities. The exhibit was displayed at the Reeves Museum of Ceramics at Washington and Lee University and is slated to travel to other museums at academic institutions once they reopen; it also available online at https://exhibits-museums.omeka.wlu.edu/exhibits/show/breaking-thechains. In addition, Ron will be co-teaching a Politics class at Washington and Lee this fall titled "The Material Culture of Protest," which looks broadly at how people use objects to advance their cause.

In the context of national conversations around monuments, Stenton Museum in Philadelphia is completing "Inequality in Bronze: Shared Authority and Collaborative Commemoration at Stenton, the Dinah Memorial Project." funded by the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage. In 1912, the NSCDA (Colonial Dames) in Pennsylvania, who administer Stenton, and a local Historical Society memorialized Dinah, a once-enslaved woman who saved Stenton from burning by British soldiers in 1777, on a plague that described her as Stenton's "Faithful Colored Caretaker." The multi-faceted project has many components including fruitful historical research that has deepened understanding of Dinah's life and appreciation of her humanity, new and closer working relationships with immediate neighbors in Stenton's largely African American neighborhood, examination of Mamie stereotypes in American culture, a Mid-Atlantic Plantations Conference, and a new memorial to Dinah, conceived by community-chosen artist, Karyn Olivier, who has designed a questioning and reflective landscape space. We hope to unveil the new Memorial in spring, 2021. For more information, please visit www.stenton.org/dinah.

- Laura Keim '07, AFA Board Member, Stenton
Curator, and Lecturer, Graduate Program in Historic
Preservation, University of Pennsylvania

#### **OTHER NEWS**

The Gamble House, the 1908 National Historic Landmark of the Arts and Crafts movement in Pasadena, Calif., has successfully completed the transition of its stewardship from the University of Southern California to the Gamble House Conservancy, a newly formed nonprofit, under the leadership of Edward R. Bosley '17. Mr. Bosley is now Executive Director and CEO of the Conservancy, and Jennifer Trotoux '16 serves as Director of Collections and Interpretation.

During this time when travel has been drastically curtailed Elaine Hirschl Ellis LHC '10, President of Arts & Crafts Tours, is looking for scholarly article submissions to publish on their website www.artsandcraftstours.com. Arts & Crafts Tours designs small bespoke tours to study the Arts and Crafts Movement where it began in Britain. Over the past 25 years the tours have also taken people to Romania, France, Spain, and Scandinavia. The subject areas for which she is seeking articles this year relate to the 2021 tours: Utopian Planned Communities, William Morris and His Influence, Women of the Arts and Crafts Movement,

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 $\label{eq:and_solution} \begin{tabular}{ll} Art and Soul - Church Architects and Designers, and the Watts Gallery and Artists Village. Please contact her directly at: elaine@artsandcraftstours.com. \end{tabular}$ 

Alexandra Kirtley '99, the Montgomery-Garvan Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (PMA), has recently launched www.philafurniture.com. Inspired by research for the first-ever printed catalogue of the highlights of the PMA's collection of early American furniture to be published this fall, the website is designed to be a resource for the "design inspirations of Philadelphia furniture, construction techniques, and the artisans who made, carved, upholstered, and ornamented the furniture." For more information, visit www.philafurniture.com/about.



#### **SAVE THE DATE**

More information will be announced in due course.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 • 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Join virtually by Zoom

(Zoom joining information will be shared closer to date.) Please join AFA for the Annual Meeting to hear updates from the past year and to vote on the slate of nominees to the AFA Board of Directors. After the meeting, **Anne Grady** '18 and **Mecka Baumeister** RCS '16, Objects Conservators at The Met, will highlight conservation projects they undertook for the Met's new British Galleries.

#### **FALL BENEFIT LECTURE**

We are planning to have our Fall Benefit Lecture in a virtual format this October; please stay tuned for more details coming soon!

# **Upcoming AFA Programs and Events**



Cheers! Alumni on the Pennsylvania and Delaware Regional Zoom

#### **COCKTAILS & CAMARADERIE**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFA's Alumni Engagement Committee created a new virtual series to keep alumni connected throughout their regions. The result is Cocktails & Camaraderie, which are regional Zoom gatherings meant to facilitate introductions and conversations in the hopes of broadening and strengthening the network of our fabulous alumni. The gatherings are hosted by alumni located across the country. The inaugural Mid-Atlantic gathering (Virginia, DC, Maryland) was graciously hosted this past June by Anne Kenny-Urban '16, AFA Board Member and Executive Director of Agecroft Hall and Gardens in Richmond, and Keith MacKay '06, RCS '17, Executive Director of Wilton House Museum, also in Richmond.

The second gathering, in late July, brought together alums from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Southern New Jersey and was hosted by Philadelphians Laura Keim '07, AFA Board Member, Curator at Stenton and Lecturer in Penn's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, and George McNeely '16, AFA Board Member and independent architectural historian. Coming up in September is an event for alumni in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. If you would like to co-host a Cocktails & Camaraderie Zoom in your region please reach out to admin@americanfriendsofattingham.org, and be on the lookout for an e-mail announcing a virtual gathering in your region. We hope you will join us!

#### **SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

First the good news. The Selection Committee held its annual meeting at the AFA office on February 12, 2020 and elected an outstanding Summer School class of 24 applicants with two alternates. The new class forms the most diverse group in my six years as chair of the committee. In addition to curators and museum educators, the class includes architects, college professors, conservators, a rare books librarian, a cabinetmaker, and a landscape historian, among other fields.

The good news continues with our alumni who, once again, have done a truly outstanding job of spreading the word about the Attingham Summer School and encouraging well-qualified applicants to apply. Additionally, we are pleased to have a broader geographic spread

among the applicant pool than we have had in some years.

The unfortunate news you probably know already. Summer School this year had to be cancelled for the first time since the program began in 1952. So far members of the 2020 class-elect have indicated that they will plan to attend the program in 2021.

On a personal note, this was my final year as Chair of the Selection Committee. It has been a great honor and a great joy to serve in this role for the AFA. Please keep those talented, engaged applicants coming and I know that the Attingham programs will remain vibrant for many years to come.

Thank you all for your participation.

— Libby De Rosa 05, RCS '07, SP'12

### 2019 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 2019 (tuition and program fees are not included). Thanks to one and all for your generosity! Please note the symbols indicating gifts given in memoriam.

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# In Memoriam



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Gloria Seaman Allen '83, SP '97, of Bonita Springs, FL. died last November in Naples, FL. She was 81, Allen was a historian who wrote and lectured extensively on 18th and 19th century textiles and textile workers in the Chesapeake Bay region. She graduated from Smith College in Northampton, MA and received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in American Studies from George Washington University. After working as an interior designer, she served as curator and then director of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C. Her meticulous research on young women's production of textiles in and around the Chesapeake Bay region during the 19th and 20th centuries was detailed in her four books: A Maryland Album: Quiltmaking Traditions, 1636-1934; A Maryland Sampling: Girlhood Embroidery, 1738-1860; Columbia's Daughters: Girlhood Embroidery from the District of Columbia; and Delaware Discoveries: Girlhood Embroidery, 1639-1850, which was published last year.

Lisa Cook Koch '65, Past-President of the AFA Board (1995-98), passed away on March 22, 2020. A 1961 graduate of Wellesley College, she worked at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, before beginning her distinguished career at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she was hired in 1975 as a Consultant to the Office of the Publisher, working for several years on trade licensing agreements. In 1978 she became General Merchandise Manager, a position she held until her retirement in 1999. Lisa's exceptional taste and trained eye made her the ideal person to oversee product development and the selection of objects sold in the Met's shops around the world. After nearly 30 years in Merchandise, she was asked by the President of the Museum to join the Development department, where she served for more than a decade looking after donors and cultivating new supporters. In 2000 she returned to the Museum Development office on a part-time basis as Program Coordinator for Fund for the Met.

A devoted proponent of Attingham and a superb administrator, known for her common sense and can-do approach to projects, Lisa was active on the Board of the American Friends of Attingham, first as Vice President of Development from 1989-95, and then as President from 1995-98. She was a steadfast supporter of the AFA's Annual Fall lecture, sponsoring it regularly since the 2009 inaugural lecture by Tom Campbell on tapestry collecting in America. Having traveled widely in her professional life, Lisa was an enthusiastic participant in study trips, often joined by friends she had made through Attingham. Outgoing, funny, smart, and great fun to be with, Lisa was also a loyal friend and a mentor to many colleagues. Her two great loves were the AFA and The Met, both of which were enriched by her presence.

 Many thanks to Missy McHugh, James Moske, and Morrison Heckscher for assistance with this remembrance.



Koch courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art

Joseph Peter Spang III '90, sixty-one year resident of Deerfield, Massachusetts, died at his home in Beverly, Massachusetts on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

"Peter", as he was known to all, was born in Chicago on May 11, 1934. The family returned to Boston in 1938, when Spang's father became President of the Gillette Company. Peter was educated at the Dexter School, the Brooks School in North Andover, Massachusetts, and Harvard College, and pursued graduate study at the Courtauld Institute in London.

Soon after his return from London, Peter learned that Helen and Henry Flynt were seeking a fledgling curator to assist them in managing their growing collection at Deerfield. Peter learned the history of Deerfield and became acquainted with the remarkable survival of books, manuscripts, and objects at the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and in Deerfield families. He worked with steady, but gentle,

persuasion to direct the Flynts to focus their collecting and furnishing more closely on Deerfield. He was for more than ten years the only professional staff member at Historic Deerfield and was involved with everything—the library, educational programming, and lecturing near and far on the Deerfield project. Peter retired early, in 1986, but continued to do research for Historic Deerfield part-time and became synonymous with Deerfield in the view of so many. He was widely known among curators and collectors in this country and abroad.

Peter's knowledge and accomplishments at Historic Deerfield were recognized by his election to the Club of Odd Volumes, the Walpole Society, the Somerset Club, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society. He served on the Visiting Committee at Old Sturbridge Village, the Council of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, as a Trustee of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Historic Deerfield, and the Massachusetts Historical Society, on the Standing Committee of the Trustees of Reservations, and the Lewis Walpole Library Board of Managers at Yale University.

Collecting wasn't just a professional responsibility for Peter, but also a personal pleasure. Especially of note was a choice collection of architectural pattern books that are now in the Joseph Peter Spang Rare Book Room in the Henry N. Flynt Library at Historic Deerfield.

Peter was an enthusiastic sponsor of the American Friends of Attingham's Annual Fall Lecture and a regular at the Mid-Winter Reunion, where he regaled fellow Attingham alums with his many stories and life experiences.

Peter was lovingly devoted to his brother, nieces, and nephews and will be missed by his wide global network of connoisseurs, curators, and enthusiasts for early American decorative arts. –Thanks to Donald R. Friary, director emeritus of Historic Deerfield and president, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, for contributing this remembrance of Peter.



Spang, courtesy Historic Deerfield



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