



# THE ATTINGHAM TRUST

FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORIC HOUSES AND COLLECTIONS

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## ANNUAL REVIEW

2020

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

*Sir John Lewis*

As with everyone else, I didn't imagine that this year, my last as Chairman, would coincide with a pandemic that has shifted the cultural landscape. How significant these changes will be only time can tell, but the closure of historic houses and museums over the spring and summer months has hit these institutions hard, dependent as they are on revenue generated by the domestic and international visitor. Job losses are cutting swathes across the heritage industry, leaving many reeling from the loss of expertise and experience that will be hard to replace in the forthcoming years. The importance of the Attingham Trust's courses will be ever more relevant to encourage and sustain academic excellence among its participants. Despite the popularity of virtual talks, it is widely recognised that nothing can replace learning and the interaction of participants in situ, the essential vision of our founders 69 years ago.

My involvement with the Trust has given me much pleasure since being asked to take over the chair in 1988 by its Director, the late Helena Hayward. Her erstwhile stewardship and many who followed her, including

the late Geoffrey Beard and Giles Waterfield, have strengthened and broadened this unique organisation. This year we were running five courses before Covid-19 forced their cancellation, as reported elsewhere in this Review. I want to thank in particular the American Friends of Attingham, without whom we could not survive, and the assistance received from Australia and New Zealand. Annabel Westman, our excellent longstanding executive director, Rosalind Savill and Martin Drury also need a special mention. Their generous and unstinting support throughout my terms of office have been exemplary. With their help and that of many others, not least Rosemary Lomax-Simpson, who has been involved with the Trust long before any of us and whose wise counsel has carried us all forward, the Trust is in good shape with an enviable reputation stretching across five continents. Despite the ravages of recent months, I am confident that it will pursue its pioneering spirit under the knowledgeable and experienced new Chairman, Tim Cooke, with whom I have worked over the last few months and will continue to do so as a trustee. I warmly welcome him to the role.

## AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ATTINGHAM

*Beth Carver Wees • AFA President*

My first year as President of the AFA Board witnessed both joys and challenges. It began in October 2019 with a splendid Annual Fall Benefit Lecture delivered by Tim Knox, Director of Royal Collection Trust, who captivated the sold-out audience at the Explorers' Club in Manhattan. In November, my predecessor Sheila Ffolliott and I were privileged to attend the London book launch for Annabel Westman's brilliant volume *Fringe, Frog & Tassel* at Drapers' Hall. It was there I last saw John Lewis and I am delighted to have this opportunity to congratulate him as he steps down as Chairman. Although we cannot imagine Attingham without you, John, the American Friends thank you heartily and wish you all the very best.

January 2020 brought Annabel to New York, where she was warmly welcomed by American alumni at our popular Mid-Winter Reunion at the Winter Show. And then, just two months later, the pandemic struck, and

activities around the world came to a frightening halt. As we faced the disappointing cancellation of the Attingham Trust courses and our own scheduled programs as well, we sought other ways to keep our alumni connected, for instance through regional Zoom gatherings around the United States organized by our Alumni Engagement Committee. These events have helped remind us of the strength and collegiality of our community. Joy returned in August with the announcement that our AFA Administrator, Mary Ellen Whitford, gave birth to her first child, a son.

Finally, just weeks ago we held another outstanding Fall Lecture, albeit remotely this year from Brighton Pavilion, where Annabel joined Keeper David Beevers for a highly engaging and instructive tour and conversation. We look forward with hope to a brighter 2021 and to continued fellowship and scholarship with all of you.

# THE ATTINGHAM SUMMER SCHOOL

David Adshead and Tessa Wild • Course Directors; Lorna Gartside • Administrator



Seminar on the silver collection, Boughton House, Northamptonshire

For the first time since its foundation in 1952, it proved impossible to hold the Summer School this year. In the wake of the pandemic, all plans for the 69<sup>th</sup> Summer School were postponed and places have been deferred until 2021. However, although we were so sorry not to be able to meet in person at West Dean in Sussex on the inaugural day, we were delighted that 43 of the 48 course members were able to join

us for a virtual gathering instead. This was an international event entered into with great enthusiasm by participants from Scandinavia, Europe, America, China, India and New Zealand. It provided us all with the opportunity to make connections, to learn more about the history of the Summer School and gain a deeper understanding of what lies in store next year. This includes unrivalled access to great houses, gardens and collections and looking and learning in situ with a host of expert tutors and lecturers, which enables the fostering of fellowship and professional collaborations across disciplines and countries and the chance to enhance careers and make life-long friendships.

We anticipate that the Summer School will prove even more enriching for the participants in 2021 after the enforced lockdowns and



Blickling Hall, Norfolk

uncertainty of 2020. We look forward to reconvening in July when we have a wonderful 18-day itinerary planned. In addition to the usual time spent in Sussex and Derbyshire, the final leg will be based in Norfolk - a coastal county of rich contrasts and exceptional houses and collections where amongst others, we will study Blickling Hall, Houghton Hall, Holkham Hall and Sheringham Park.

*In 2021, the Summer School will take place from 1 - 18 July*

## ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES

Rebecca Lyons • Director; Sara Heaton • Administrator

Royal Collection Studies 2020 came together on Zoom on 4 September, marking what would have been the first weekend of the course. It marked also the first time the programme has not run since its inception in 1996. We began with a short presentation of the palaces setting the scene for the itinerary and outlining some of the different elements of the chronological development of royal buildings and royal ways of living, before turning to focus on objects and collections as a key part of the programme. Then each participant spoke about themselves and their motivation for taking the course. It was lovely to join across the world from India



George IV: Art and Splendour exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

to America, from New Zealand to Europe and the sense of shared enthusiasm and passionate expertise meant that everyone felt ready for the opportunity to come together in real life in 2021. Thank you all, particularly those who woke early or stayed up very late!

Our colleagues from Royal Collection Trust and Historic Royal Palaces have stayed in regular touch this year through an immensely challenging period of closures and furlough. Working closely with them, Rebecca contributed a chapter to the Royal Collection Trust book *George IV: Art and Splendour*, which accompanied the exhibition in The Queen's Gallery, and she joined Dr Lucy Worsley, Co-Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces, in a BBC Two television programme about George IV. Together we look forward with hope to 2021.

*In 2021, Royal Collection Studies will take place from 5 - 14 September*

# THE ATTINGHAM STUDY PROGRAMME

## THE HISTORIC HOUSE IN IRELAND

Elizabeth Jamieson • Director; Rita Grudzień • Administrative Director



Selection of books on the historic house in Ireland

Looking on the bright side, one advantage of delaying this year's Study Programme, is that it has allowed us to add at least one more special visit to our already packed timetable. We are fortunate to have a wonderfully warm, friendly and supportive group of Irish alumni who have helped enormously with all aspects of planning this course. Many work with the houses we will be visiting and, together with Terry Dooley from the Centre for the Study of the Irish Country House, staff and members of the

Irish Georgian Society, the Historic Houses of Ireland and the Office of Public Works, they form part of the forty-strong group of individuals we will be meeting next June. Course members will hear from a diverse group of guest speakers on a range of topics encompassing architecture, the domestic interior, colonialism and patronage. We have included places not normally

open to the public as well as focusing on some of the larger historic houses in Southern Ireland, such as Castletown, Curraghmore and Bantry House.

While numerous arts organisations offer visits to Ireland aimed at a global audience, our course members are made up of an international

network of professionals, many of whom represent major cultural institutions and heritage bodies. Next year, as we experience each house in situ, we will examine how distinct models of ownership create contrasting experiences in their approach to display and presentation. This, together with our more traditional emphasis on the intensive study of architecture, landscapes and collections will make for a stimulating and enjoyable nine days.

*In 2021, the Study Programme will take place from 2 - 10 June*



Bantry House, Co. Cork

## FRENCH EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES

Helen Jacobsen • Director; Rebecca Parker • Administrator

As with all the other courses, unfortunately FES had to be cancelled this year. Despite the Wallace Collection being open, it proved impossible to run the course with social distancing measures in place and it has been rescheduled for next October. We hope that as many as possible of the successful 2021 applicants will still be able to join us next year, and we held an introductory session on Zoom on what would have been the first day of the course to enable us all to get to meet each other in advance. Applicants come from all over the world, including Australia



Detail of Sèvres 'vase à monter Daguerre', c.1785, Wallace Collection

and California, which made the timing of our Zoom call challenging but we were thrilled that so many participants were able to join. With almost a year to go, we have sent out this year's reading list with a greater hope than usual that much of it will have been read! We look forward to studying the French works of art at the Wallace Collection and at Waddesdon Manor with renewed vim and vigour next year, all being well.

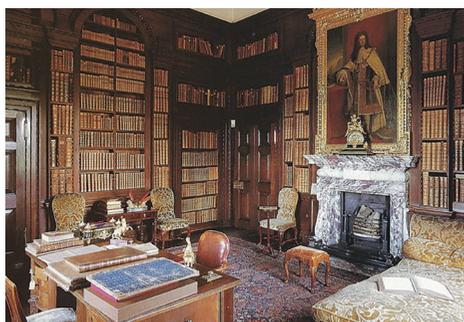
*In 2021, French Eighteenth-Century Studies will take place from 4 - 8 October*

# FROM COLLEGE TO COUNTRY HOUSE

Dr Andrew Moore • Course Director; Lorna Gartside • Administrator

It has been a great joy to plan a five-day Attingham course based on the Cambridge College book collections and their library rooms, alongside four of the great house libraries in the East of England. Our hosts and guest lecturers have been immensely supportive of this new approach to their collections and interests. Having to postpone the course for exactly a year until September 2021 means that we already feel well prepared to welcome everyone to a brand new Attingham short course.

To give an idea of what members will experience, the course is designed to provide an intensive and in situ experience of book collections in their context. The college libraries are witness to



*Library, Houghton Hall, Norfolk*

how early modern book rooms were stocked and managed in the historic houses of Britain. The programme is conceived from the perspective of the British aristocracy and gentry whose education prepared them to run the country estate and argues for the importance of books and their display in this process. From our base at the centre of the university

and the city, our focus will be on some of the most important collections in the UK, while also studying the historic interiors in which they are housed. We shall visit six College libraries, and also the Cambridge University Library, to study two early English Renaissance book benefactions. Country House libraries will include Houghton Hall and Holkham Hall in Norfolk, as well as

Wimpole Hall and Anglesey Abbey in Cambridgeshire. We also plan to study the collections of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society in Lincolnshire and the Founder's Library in the Fitzwilliam Museum to view the founder's books and print portfolios.

*In 2021, From College to Country House will take place from 13 - 17 September*

## Desmond Guinness (1931–2020)

'Desmond was such an admirer of the Summer School and Attingham' wrote Penny Guinness, Desmond's wife recently and the feeling was mutual. Our records don't precisely say when he first became involved. He may have been first introduced by his aunt Debo, Duchess of Devonshire, who received the Summer School every year at Chatsworth since its foundation in 1952, a warm welcome still enjoyed with the present Duke and Duchess today. Alternatively, it was possibly the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosse, Chairman of the Georgian Group and Vice-Chairman of the National Trust, or Helen Lowenthal herself, our erstwhile founder whose connections spread far and wide. Whoever it was, Desmond was very much involved in planning the 'third week' of the Attingham Summer School to Dublin in 1959.



*The Hon. Desmond Guinness at Leixlip Castle, Co. Kildare in 1963.*

The group stayed in Trinity Hall Hostel and gathered for a lecture at 9pm following a flight from Liverpool. A rigorous programme had been devised – little has changed.

Desmond's involvement with The Attingham Trust as a founder member and patron coincided with his re-founding of the Irish Georgian Society in 1958 alongside his first wife, Mariga Guinness. Their keen determination and

energy to preserve 'what is left of Georgian architecture in Ireland' was palpable and, combined with their enormous powers of persuasion and charisma, they succeeded against the odds to create in Ireland a greater appreciation of the country's historic houses. Their purchase of Castletown, County Kildare, now owned by the state, was one of their greatest achievements.

This June the Attingham Study Programme was due to visit Castletown and Desmond's own home of Leixlip Castle, renowned throughout for its generous hospitality. Sadly it was not to be although plans are in place for 2021. But we shall miss Desmond whose personal charm was legendary. He remained a valued and interested patron to the end.

*Annabel Westman*

## THE LONG ARM OF ATTINGHAM



*The Attingham Summer School Class of 1989 (Eloy, far right)*

Late September this year, one of the last beautiful autumn days, I visited one of the astonishing castles of the Netherlands, De Haar Castle in Haarzuilens ([www.kasteeldehaar.nl/english](http://www.kasteeldehaar.nl/english)). Together with my friend and colleague prof. Conrad Ottenheim, we showed two young Ph.D. scholars of our Palamusto program ([www.palamusto.eu](http://www.palamusto.eu)) around this medieval castle that was rebuilt between 1892 and 1912 by the renowned Dutch architect, Pierre Cuypers, for the then owners, Étienne baron van Zuylen van Nyevelt and his wife Hélène baroness de Zuylen de Nyevelt, née de Rothschild.

How much this visit reminded me of that gorgeous summer of 1989. As one of the first Dutch participants I joined the Attingham Summer School that year. As is still the case, we started in West Dean and visited Arundel, Petworth and Uppark among other houses. During the rest of the course, several other 'grand classics' were waiting for us, including Hardwick Hall, Chatsworth, Woburn Abbey, Luton Hoo, Stowe and the well-known English Rothschild mansion, Waddesdon Manor. The course ended with a lovely garden party at Syon Park where we had to say goodbye to all our new friends and the full

Attingham team of that year: the late Geoffrey Beard and Catherine Norman and also Annabel Westman. Even now, more than thirty years later, I've still vivid memories of these marvellous and intense weeks.

What I could not predict that summer, however, is how essential these three weeks were going to be for the rest of my career. The interdisciplinary approach of houses, collections and disciplines - the common and probably major thread of each Attingham programme - is something that has turned out to be essential for everything that has happened since. In the intervening years I obtained my Ph.D. at the Leiden University, researching seventeenth and eighteenth century gilt leather hangings, and worked as a private consultant for the American art collector and benefactor, the late John H. Bryan. I then had several short-term positions at institutions including the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Noordbrabants Museum and 'Vereniging Hendrick de Keyser', the historic houses association of The Netherlands, before being appointed in 1997 to my current job as Historic Interiors Specialist at the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency. Working at the research department of this

governmental office means that I'm acting as an expert consultant in various building conservation projects throughout the country, as well as developing activities to advance knowledge and research, such as organising seminars, giving lectures, training students, and writing articles and books, all within the discipline of historic interiors in the broadest sense. It is no overstatement to say that the seeds that were planted during the Attingham Summer School 1989 landed on fertile soil and have been growing ever since. I am experiencing the benefits every day.

Knowing how important Attingham has been for me personally, I'm very pleased to say that I have been able to pass on this message, encouraging many Dutch art historians, curators, conservators and others to apply for one of the Attingham courses. The snowball has steadily grown and today no less than 70 Dutch participants have attended one or more of the Attingham programmes. Attingham has definitely influenced the Dutch heritage field! The fact that the 'Dutch friends of Attingham' had to cancel the planned reunion this spring (regularly organised since 2008) due to Covid-19 was not only sad for all alumni and the invited Dutch participants of the (sadly also cancelled) Attingham 2020 courses, but also for our very dear friend and keynote speaker, Annabel Westman, Executive Director of The Attingham Trust.

*Eloy Koldeweij (SS 1989; SP 2003, 2012)*

*Specialist Historic Interiors, Cultural Heritage Agency, the Netherlands  
Part time professor Historic Interiors, Utrecht University  
Attingham Ambassador since 2014  
Chairman of the Dutch friends of Attingham*

# THE ATTINGHAM SOCIETY

Annabel Westman • Executive Director; Rebecca Parker • Assistant to Executive Director

What a year this has been with so many events cancelled and jobs at risk. We at the Attingham Trust wish you all well and are grateful to you and all our donors for your continuing support, so vital to us in providing financial support for future applicants.

With regard to our Society events, we look back at last February and realise how fortunate we were to hold the 'special' annual reunion at the Royal Academy, which attracted a record number of house owners, alumni and guests. Following a welcome by Rosemary Lomax-Simpson, Ptolemy Dean, conservation architect (SS 1997), gave an excellent talk in the lecture theatre, before the reception in the Collections Gallery. In November, we held a well-attended Webinar talk given by Ben Cowell, Director General of Historic House, and hosted by David Adshead. We plan to hold more virtual events next year if visits remain restricted.

## *Rosemary Lomax-Simpson's welcome at the Annual Reunion*

"Having worked both for the Royal Academy and the Attingham Trust, it seems appropriate to welcome you all here this evening, especially our new President of the Royal Academy, Mrs Salter.

For those of you who have not been here before, the lecture theatre, designed by David Copperfield, replaces an earlier nineteenth century one, part of the old Senate House of London University, built on Lord Burlington's garden and now joined to Burlington House.

I should like to say three things:

Firstly to honour Helen Lowenthal who, with Lydia Bond-Powell of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, founded the Attingham Summer School nearly seventy years ago and whose nephews bought a seat here in her name.

Secondly, the enormous debt of gratitude we owe the Country House owners and the National Trust, for opening their homes to share their collections with us and without whom there would have been no Summer School and, latterly, Her Majesty the Queen and her curators with the addition of the Royal Collection Studies course.

Lastly, on the axiom that the last shall come first, for over thirty years Attingham has been blessed in having our sagacious chairman, Sir John Lewis, who quietly and wisely aided by Martin Drury, the late Giles Waterfield, Rosalind Savill, Annabel Westman and many

others has taken the Summer School to become the Attingham Trust, recognised for its high standards by the museum world, with members coming from all over the globe. THANK YOU JOHN!"

## **A CHANGE OF CHAIRMAN**

### **Thank you to John Lewis and Welcome to Tim Cooke**

As you have seen in this Review, John Lewis is retiring as Chairman. He will be much missed having devoted considerable time, energy and generous support over the years. He has been the Chairman for 32 years and has become part of the remarkable Attingham history. His astute judgement has guided the Trust to the successful position it holds today and we are delighted that he will remain as a trustee. Thank you John!

We now warmly welcome his successor, Tim Cooke, as Chairman, shortly to retire as Chairman of Lloyds Bank International. Among several related interests, he is Vice-Chairman of the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust and we all look forward to working with him.

## THE ATTINGHAM TRUST 2020

### **Trustees:**

Sir John Lewis OBE (Chairman), Diana Berry, Timothy Cooke OBE, Martin Drury CBE, FSA, Sarah Medlam, Rosalind Savill DBE, FBA, FSA

### **Patrons:**

HM Ambassador to Washington, The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry KT, KBE, FSA, FRSE, Dr. Thomas P. Campbell, Professor Sir David Cannadine FBA, FSA, Sir Timothy Clifford, The Lord Crathorne KCVO, KSTJ, FSA, The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, Judith Goodison FSA, The Hon. Desmond Guinness, John Harris OBE, FSA, The Marquis of Lansdowne LVO, DL, Rosemary Lomax-Simpson, Sir Jonathan Marsden KCVO, FSA, Sir Hugh Roberts GCVO, FSA, The Lord Rothschild OM, GBE, FBA, Coral Samuel CBE, Sir Hugo Swire KCMG

### **Officers:**

Chairman: Sir John Lewis OBE  
Vice-Chairman: Timothy Cooke OBE  
Executive Director: Annabel Westman FSA  
Treasurer: Ewa Manias  
Assistant to Executive Director: Rebecca Parker  
Directors (Summer School): David Adshead FSA, Tessa Wild  
Director (Study Programme): Elizabeth Jamieson  
Director (Study Programme): Dr Andrew Moore FSA  
Director (Royal Collection Studies): Rebecca Lyons  
Director (French Eighteenth-Century Studies): Dr Helen Jacobsen

### **Advisory Council:**

Errol Clark, Dr Ben Cowell FSA, Helen Dorey MBE, FSA (Chairman Scholarship Committee), Tim Knox FSA, Dr Martin Postle FSA, James Rothwell FSA, Beth Carver Wees (AFA President)

For further information about The Attingham Trust please refer to website [www.atinghamtrust.org](http://www.atinghamtrust.org) or contact: Rebecca Parker Tel 0044 (0)20 7253 9057.  
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