



THE ATTINGHAM TRUST

FOR THE STUDY OF HISTORIC HOUSES AND COLLECTIONS

2009 • NUMBER 7

NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Foreword

It seems only yesterday that I was writing last year's Foreword and certainly the new team which I mentioned then, both here and in the US, are now happily very much part of the fabric of the Attingham Family, together with those of us who were there before. There is one sad loss, however, Libby De Rosa, the administrator for the American Friends, who has retired after five years of invaluable service to Attingham. We have enjoyed working with her very much and will miss her involvement. She has provided a vital link across the Atlantic and we would like to record our thanks for her dedicated efforts. We warmly welcome her replacement, Mayuri Amuluru, who seems an inspired choice and we look forward to working with her in the future.

After serving for over fifty-five years as one of our leading patrons, the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire has, very much to our regret, decided to step down and make way for someone younger. The inclusion of Chatsworth on the Summer School has always been a highlight of the programme since 1952 when Attingham was founded and the Duchess so kindly welcomed the group as she has done continually since then. She has always been a warm and generous patron over the years and her personal welcome has become legendary and looked forward to by each year of members. We thank her enormously for the time and effort that she and her staff have put into each of our visits. The privileged access she allowed us to examine the collection so extensively has been hugely appreciated and we look forward to seeing her in future years as a friend. However, I am delighted to report that our close links with Chatsworth continue with the present Duke and Duchess. They are keen to meet the course members and play an active role in the enjoyment and richness of each visit.

Attingham depends on its dedicated supporters and their loss is felt deeply by us all. It is with great sadness that I report the death of Nina Stanton during the year. Nina has for many years flown the flag for Attingham in Australia. Her enthusiasm and love for the Trust was reflected in her tireless work to secure a Copland scholarship for an Australian to attend each year. Her dedication is not only appreciated by everyone in the UK but will also, for years to come, be acknowledged by scholars from Australia. When she knew she was ill, she spoke to us about making a bequest under her Will, and calmly, with the professional and affectionate concerns she has always shown towards the Trust, agreed the relevant provisions with us. Her bequest allows for "not less than one" scholarship each year which means that, in addition to the Copland Foundation, it will be possible to grant scholarships to two suitable candidates (and for different programmes). The Stanton Scholarship will be available to Australians working abroad as well as Australians from that continent. We thank her for everything she has done for Attingham and will always remember her with great affection.

On a happier note, I have referred in previous newsletters to the importance of Historic Houses – our *raison d'être* – to our economy. This is especially so in these straitened times. It is therefore cheering to see that the Historic Houses Association, with whom we are proud to be closely associated, has very recently appointed an officer specifically responsible for this aspect of its work – a positive sign for the future.

JOHN LEWIS
Chairman

Commentary

The Duke of Devonshire KCVO, CBE, DL

The Duchess and I are both closely involved with every aspect of the management and arrangement of the house opening, supported by a brilliant series of House teams, including collections, maintenance, marketing, the sewing room and housekeeping.

The annual Attingham Summer School visit in July, with its friendly scholars and their searching questions, makes me think hard about how we balance the needs of conservation with the needs of everyday living at Chatsworth *and* with welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. It is impossible to get this balance right for everyone, when there are so many potentially contradictory things to consider/achieve, so there have to be compromises.

Our aim is to display the collection and the rooms in an intelligible way and thus to explain the history of the house, but private houses don't have many notices in their sitting rooms or halls and nor do we. Private houses move furniture, pictures and other works of art on a regular basis and so do we. Private houses have family visiting and occasional parties and so do we, even if this means sometimes closing rooms normally open to visitors. Old houses need constant repair and restoration. At Chatsworth, this used to be done during the few weeks we are not open in the late winter but now we carry out as much of that work in front of the visitors as we can. They find it interesting and it gives us an excellent opportunity to thank them

for paying for the work through their admission ticket.

On the visitor route the two biggest conservation problems are light and touch. Light is an implacable enemy and often it seems to be doubly victorious. The rooms are shown with much less light, both natural and electric, than hitherto and yet the tapestries and furniture are still damaged. Inquisitive fingers multiplied by many thousands are damaging too, but we have copied the Wallace Collection and got rid of nearly all the 'please do not touch' signs. We have also removed at least some of the protective floor coverings, as we found that grit from shoes did more damage to the marble floors when they were covered with a carpet than without, so now no carpet and the marble floors can be enjoyed by everyone.

In an innovation to come, in 2011, we will be displaying a rotating selection of Old Master Drawings in a room specially fitted out to show them and that is a compromise between access and conservation with which all departments are very happy. I look forward to the Attingham reaction when that year's Summer School join us.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire warmly welcome the Summer School to Chatworth each July, a much valued tradition established by the 11th Duke and the Dowager Duchess since the foundation of the School in 1952.

THE ATTINGHAM TRUST 2009

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The Attingham Study Programme

7 – 16 June 2009 • Giles Waterfield, Director

THE PRINCELY COURTS OF GERMANY

For the first time, the Attingham Trust went to Germany in June 2009. The extraordinary wealth of German museums and princely collections is relatively little known by British and American art lovers. The course was able to offer a stimulating overview of these collections.

The course began in Dresden. Working closely with the staff of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, notably Dr Dirk Syndram, Director of the Green Vault, we embarked on three days of visits. These allowed us to trace the history of electoral and royal collecting in that remarkable city, from the Renaissance Green Vault to the academically-based Picture Gallery of the nineteenth century. There was an opportunity to see many elements of the Foundation's astonishing collections, notably the Print Cabinet, the dazzling Porcelain Collection, the Old Master Gallery, and the Armoury, in the company of learned and dedicated curators. Travelling by boat along the Elbe we saw Schloss Pillnitz with its rich collections of decorative arts, and later Schloss Moritzburg, the hunting castle of the Electors and Kings of Saxony.

It was moving to hear about the destruction of the city in 1945 and the current re-creation of the architectural ensemble. A tour of the interior of the royal Schloss in Dresden revealed the re-creation of this building to house three major museums, including the Green Vault. The confiscation of many works of art by Soviet troops after the Second World War, and their partial return, was a recurring theme.

Wörlitz, in Anhalt-Dessau, is perhaps the greatest of all German landscape gardens. In the company of Thomas Weiss, the Director, and Uwe Quilitzsch, the Chief Curator, we were able to trace the history of these gardens and their houses, a remarkable survival of Enlightenment taste. A visit to the Bauhaus in Dessau and the nearby Artists' Houses provided a startling contrast.

We stayed for five days in Berlin, though most of our

time was spent in Potsdam. Samuel Wittwer, Director of Palaces and Collections, Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten Berlin-Brandenburg, was our guide and host during this period, providing for every need. Beginning with Schloss Charlottenburg in Berlin, we were able to visit most of the important buildings in the extraordinary ensemble of palaces and gardens formerly owned by the Hohenzollerns. We gained a powerful impression of their changing character, from the sophisticated Rococo of Frederick the Great's Sans Souci and Neues Palais, through the Neoclassical Schloss Charlottenhof, to the weightier interiors of the mid-nineteenth century Neue Orangerie. It was instructive to hear about plans for the future, as well as to talk to curators who worked at Potsdam during the Communist era. A visit to Schloss Tegel, the house of Wilhelm von Humboldt which is still inhabited by his descendants, was a particular privilege.

The group included members from the UK (16), the USA (15), New Zealand (2), and one each from Australia, Estonia, the Netherlands and Austria. Numerous heritage organisations, museums, architectural practices, universities and art dealers were represented among the participants.

We are very grateful to those who provided financial support for scholarships for the Study Programme, and notably the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Monument Trust which funded a number of places for European scholars. It is hoped that the level of bursaries for attendance on the Study Programme can be sustained in future years.

It was a privilege for me personally to plan this programme with the able and charming co-operation of Kate Morgan and to play some part in revealing the cultural riches of Germany to an international expert group.

In 2010, The Attingham Study Programme will take place in the Netherlands between 31st May and 8th June



Schloss Charlottenburg

The Attingham Summer School

3rd - 21st July 2009 • Lisa White, Director

The 58th Attingham Summer School took place in Sussex, the East Midlands and Yorkshire with 48 scholars from ten countries and a wide range of professional backgrounds. In addition to our regular 23 scholars from the USA we enjoyed the company and expertise of fifteen scholars from the UK, five from Europe, two from India, one from Australia and one from New Zealand. The Attingham team consisted of myself, Christopher Garibaldi as Assistant Director and Rebecca Parker as Administrator.

During our travels we welcomed many distinguished visitors, whose interest in and support of the Summer School are greatly appreciated. These included Fiona Reynolds, Director-General of the National Trust, Martin Drury, formerly Director General of the National Trust and currently Chairman of the Landmark Trust and Vice-Chairman of the Attingham Trust, Tom Appelquist, President of the American friends of Attingham, Mayuri Amurulu, Administrator of the American Friends of Attingham, Jim Mundy, Co-Chairman of the Fundraising Committee of the American Friends, Jackie Riding, Chairman of the Attingham Society, Rosemary Lomax-Simpson, Trustee of the Attingham Trust, and other officers of the Attingham Trust.

The programme followed its usual schedule for two-thirds of its duration, based firstly at West Dean College in West Sussex from 3 – 9th July and then at the University of Nottingham from 9th – 15th July. Introductory lectures and seminars on many aspects of house ownership, architecture, the Grand Tour, collectors of works of art, and the relationship between town and country houses supported on-site study at Arundel Castle, Petworth House, Uppark, Parham Park and Brighton Pavilion.

In Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire our programme explored in greater depth the complexities and challenges of interpretation, conservation and education in historic country houses, lucidly delivered in lectures and seminars by distinguished scholars and witnessed at Kedleston Hall, Calke Abbey, Chatsworth, Bolsover, Hardwick Old and New Halls and Flintham Hall. During our time in the Midlands course members also enjoyed warm hospitality in private houses and the personal interest of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire over lunch and seminars



Tapestry Studio, West Dean College, Sussex

at Chatsworth, where we were given special insight into the current Masterplan for the house.

The final part of the Summer School (15 – 21 July) was based at the University of York, an ideal base for access to many of Yorkshire's great country houses and indeed the city of York itself, which we explored on foot and enjoyed a magical tour of Fairfax House, The Treasurer's House and dinner in the Mansion House. Adam White, Chairman of our Scholarship Committee and Curator of Lotherton Hall gave an invaluable introductory lecture to our Yorkshire studies, as did Christopher Ridgway, Curator of Castle Howard, on the Yorkshire Country Houses Partnership. Rain-swept visits to Brodsworth Hall and Nostell Priory gave practical insight into complex conservation schemes while at Castle Howard we were treated to special access to the Mausoleum and the magnificent archives. Newby Hall and Harewood House revealed the sophistication of Robert Adam's interiors and the magnificence of their collections, while a day spent with Dr Patrick Eyres exploring the conservation of Wentworth Castle, and the extraordinary architecture at Wentworth Woodhouse made us all aware that the future of the country house can still be at risk. Throughout our sojourn in Yorkshire we were received by owners, staff and academics with most appreciated hospitality and interest, which increased our sense of the special place the Attingham Summer School continues to enjoy in heritage studies.

In 2010, the Attingham Summer School will be based in West Sussex, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and Bedfordshire between 2-20 July.

Royal Collection Studies

6 - 15 September 2009 • Giles Waterfield, Director

The fourteenth session of Royal Collection Studies assembled an outstanding group of curators, museum directors, academics, independent experts and representatives of the art trade. The membership was extremely diverse, with the largest groups from the United Kingdom (11), the United States (6) and Continental Europe (12). The European members included participants from Germany (4), France (3), Sweden (2) and one each from the Czech Republic, Russia and Belgium, with one participant from Australia. Given the increasingly international nature of curatorial work, a number of curators work with collections in countries that are not their own, and on this course there were six participants of German birth, of whom two live in England.

Given the strong historical relationship between German and English royalty, it is particularly satisfactory that Germany was so well represented this year by leading institutions. The battle to attract any applications from Italy continues, but so far without success.

Participants included representatives from the Swedish Royal Collection; the Prussian Palaces and Gardens Foundation, Berlin-Brandenburg, the Green Vault in Dresden, and Veste-Coburg; the *châteaux* of Compiègne and Versailles; the National Gallery in Prague; and the Gabor Art Conservation Centre, Moscow. From the USA came curators at the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Wadsworth Athenaeum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and the Governor's Mansion in Austin, Texas. British institutions who sent members of staff included the Victoria and Albert Museum, the two National Trusts (England and Wales, Scotland), English Heritage, Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Pavilion in Brighton, and Christie's UK. Universities represented included lecturers from St Andrew's University and Colgate University (Venice).

As in previous years, the programme aimed to make a chronological survey of the extraordinary wealth of the royal collections in palaces in and around London. Much of the teaching was carried out by members of the Royal Collection staff and by curators

from Historic Royal Palaces, the organisation which looks after the palaces not occupied by the Queen. The programme included numerous intensive visits and a series of lectures, and a great deal of privileged access was accorded. At Kensington Palace members of the programme were given a presentation about the proposed major reorganisation of the building and its collections.

New elements of this year's programme included a presentation by Michael Day, Chief Executive of Historic Royal Palaces; a visit to the Paper

Conservation Studio and the royal bindery at Windsor Castle, a special viewing of the miniatures, and a visit to Kew Palace with its innovative style of display. At Westminster Abbey the Keeper of the Muniments showed us the medieval muniment room with its twelfth and thirteenth century chests which must be among the earliest chests in the country, while our visit to the Tower of London

allowed the opportunity to see the exhibition *Dressed to Kill*, a memorable display on the theme of Henry VIII's armours. The reign of Henry VIII (who came to the throne of England in 1509) was a theme to which we returned throughout the course.

Staying at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park was a rare delight, and the comfort combined with peace and quiet and a series of delicious and inventive meals allowed participants some relaxation from the very long and arduous days. We much enjoyed hearing about the history of the house from Alastair Niven, the Principal.

We are greatly indebted to the many people who support the course with scholarships, which means that no suitable candidate is rejected on the grounds of financial means.

A major contribution was made this year, as in the nine previous, by our admirably efficient and caring administrator, Sara Heaton.

In 2010, Royal Collection Studies will be based at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor between 5-14 September



Hampton Court, Surrey

The American Friends of Attingham

Tom Appelquist • President

The past year has been an eventful one for the American Friends of Attingham. Perhaps most significant was the departure of our well-loved administrator, Libby De Rosa, who wished to return to her own scholarly and personal pursuits. One consequence of this change that was worrisome at first was the need to find a new office. Until now, the American Friends have never paid rent. However, we were very fortunate to find a small space within the English Speaking Union, conveniently located near Grand Central Station in New York City. The Union Jack and American flag fly together over the front door and we have the use of conference and lecture space, as well as congenial colleagues.

Our good luck continued when in June we hired an intelligent and energetic new administrator, Mayuri Amuluru, who came to us from the adult education program at the Boston Museum of Fine Art. Mayuri and I were able to attend several days of this year's Summer School and it was a great pleasure to meet and share with the Class of 2009 the treasures of Chatsworth and Hardwick and, for Mayuri, to get a glimpse of the Attingham experience.

Mayuri takes on a role that has become ever more complex as our organization matures. Her ability to use the technology we now rely upon for communication with our members, managing our budget, co-ordinating the work of our committees, and seeking financial support from individuals and institutions, is a great asset. We are delighted with Mayuri's enthusiasm and drive, helping us to become more organized and better at all the things we are trying to do.

Among this year's initiatives is our first Annual Fundraiser. A lecture and cocktail reception will present Attingham alumnus, Thomas Campbell, the recently appointed Director of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, who has graciously agreed to speak about American Tapestry Collecting, and to take questions from the audience. This we hope will make for a lively interaction and set a pattern for future events.

Though we were not unscathed by the past year's turmoil in the financial world, we are optimistic about our future. We are working hard and are as convinced as ever of the value of the extraordinary Attingham programs we support.

The Attingham Society

Jacqueline Riding • Chairman

Since 2007, The Attingham Society has represented all non-US Alumni and we have recently revised our committee to better reflect the most recent courses and new members. We now have representatives from 2007, 2008 and 2009 as well as the Assistant Director and Administrator from the Summer School.

This year the Society contributed to a scholarship for the Summer School and we now aim to provide a full scholarship for one of the Attingham courses on an annual basis. I would like to thank the Society members who support this initiative through their generous donations. Our annual reunion continues to be the major Society and Trust social event of the year. In 2008 it was held at the Art Workers Guild and was a

huge success. In 2009 the reunion will be held at the Foundling Museum, Bloomsbury on Monday 30th November, with a welcome and talk by the Director, Lars Tharp. The story of the Foundling Hospital is a fascinating one, and the museum contains an extraordinary collection of British eighteenth-century art as well as one of the finest rooms from the 1740s. Our thanks go to Annie Kemkeran-Smith for once again organising a great event.

Finally, this is my last year as Chairman of the Society – a position I have enjoyed immensely – but my involvement with Attingham will continue through my role as Assistant Director of the new London House Course (April 2010).

The Attingham Trust, founded in 1952, runs three annual programmes: The Attingham Summer School, an eighteen-day course based at three different centres in Britain to study historic houses, their contents and setting; The Attingham Study Programme, which offers a similar course of nine or ten days sometimes held abroad; and Royal Collection Studies, a ten-day programme organised on behalf of Royal Collection, which studies the patronage and collecting of British monarchs. In April 2010 the Trust will also be running The London House Course studying the London town house.

Scholarship benefactors

Annabel Westman • Director of Studies, The Attingham Trust

Attingham has fared well in this year of financial turmoil thanks in large part to the generosity of its scholarship donors. Particular recognition must go to the Monument Trust and the Basil Samuel Foundation in the UK, and the Royal Oak Foundation in the US, who have all continued to fund a number of full and partial scholarships. This has helped to meet the demand received from participants on both sides of the Atlantic and further afield. This was the first year of the 'Simon Sainsbury' grant given in perpetuity by the Monument Trust in memory of his long-term support for Attingham. One of the Royal Oak scholars received the 'Dowager Duchess of Devonshire' scholarship, a founder Patron of the Attingham Trust, who will always be remembered for the warm and generous welcome she gave to the Summer School on its annual visits to Chatsworth.

A one-off donation was given this year by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. This contribution assisted two scholars on the Summer School and Study Programme and will be invested to cover further scholarships over the next couple of years. The Royal Collection has also been generous in supporting candidates on both the Summer School and Royal Collection Studies. We were very pleased to renew our link with India with one of the two Summer School participants being supported by an Indian benefactor. We were also delighted to establish a new contact with the Dr Hendrik Muller's Vaderlandsch Foundation which will provide support for a Dutch scholar over the next five years.

We are enormously grateful to the other institutions and individual donors listed who have been loyal over a number of years. In 2010, the drive for finding more financial support for the Study Programme will continue - the course benefited hugely this year from an increase in the number of scholars. We hope to continue this trend for all three courses and are constantly on the search for new supporters.

ATTINGHAM DONORS 2009

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(donations of more than £25,000 over the years)

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SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

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STUDY PROGRAMME 2009

The Attingham Trust
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ROYAL COLLECTION STUDIES 2009

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Royal Collection Trust
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Adrian Sassoon
St. Catherine Trust (Scotland)
Victoria and Albert Museum

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