



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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February 2010

Dear Friends,

Since our last letter we have confirmed plans for additional events this winter and spring and we are very pleased to offer such a rich assortment of activities. So far this year we have enjoyed a lovely luncheon and tour at the Winter Antiques Show and we are looking forward to visiting the **Zuber Cie wallpaper collection** at 5:00 on February 24 (*please note the change of time and date.*)

In March we will visit the classical **George Baker House**, on the Upper East Side. It is a real Georgian-style treasure. We join our friends at the Royal Oak for a lecture in April by **Tessa Murdoch on gilded furniture**, and a few days later **Amanda Vickery** will talk about her new book, *Behind Closed Doors, At Home in Georgian England*.



Two exceptional tours are scheduled for May. We will visit the **Morgan Library exhibit on Palladio**, and we will also have an exclusive tour of the **objects conservation department of the Metropolitan Museum**. In early June we will have **tea at Gracie Mansion**, which is always a delight.

Our wonderful trips to Charleston and the Carolina Low Country in March and to Rome in May are sold out. You will be pleased to know that we plan to continue our Grand Tour with visits to Herculaneum, Paestum, Sicily, and other classical sites in the future. We will keep you informed.

Enclosed with this newsletter is your invitation to take part in our annual English trip. This year we are offering a **luxury tour of English Country Houses**, a very special opportunity to visit private houses in Shropshire that are rarely open to visitors. Our group will stay at **Weston Park**, where we very happily stayed a few years ago and look forward to visiting again.

Here at home, space is still available for most of the other events planned for the season, so you can still sign up for the **John Foreman** lecture on the houses of **Delano and Aldrich** and the entertaining lecture by **Wendell Garrett on leisure in Georgian England**. Our day trip to **Quaker Hill** is filling up; be sure to reserve for that soon. Don't forget you can also check our program at our web site: www.americangeorgians.org and reserve by e-mail at office@americangeorgians.org. You can also get membership information at the same web address; why not give a gift membership to someone you know who loves Georgian architecture and would like to help preserve it.

Best wishes,

John Kinnear
President

George Baker House

tour and reception

Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 3:00

69 East 93rd Street

We are pleased to visit the lovely George Baker House on the Upper East Side. George F. Baker, a friend and colleague of J. P. Morgan, was a prominent New York banker and philanthropist. His neo-classical house was designed by Delano and Aldrich; it features high ceilings, a spiral staircase, and a domed skylight. Beautifully restored by Richard Jenrette, this charming townhouse contains period furnishings and exquisite art work. The house is not open to the public and we are fortunate to have been invited to tour it. This is a rare opportunity you won't want to miss.



Our tour will be followed by a reception.

Please reserve on the enclosed form by March 24.

\$45 per person.



**Reflected Glory—From Sun King to Sideboard:
the Taste for Silver and Gilded Furniture in Europe 1660–1750**

lecture and reception

Tessa Murdoch

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 6:00

Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium

417 East 61st Street

When Ralph Montagu returned to England after serving as British ambassador to the court of Louis XIV, he brought with him a taste for the silver and gold leaf furniture he saw at Versailles. He commissioned suites of gilded furniture for his own palace, Montague House, and later for the royal palaces of Charles II. Much of this furniture was made by the Pelletier family, leading Huguenot carvers and gilders. Dr. Tessa Murdoch is the deputy keeper in the department of sculpture, metalwork, ceramics, and glass at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and is an expert on giltwood furniture. She is author and editor of numerous works on the subject and we are very pleased to sponsor her lecture together with the Royal Oak Foundation.

Please make your reservations through the Royal Oak Foundation: www.royal-oak.org, or call Robert Dennis at 212/480-2889, ext. 201.

Space is limited; register early.

\$30 per person.

