

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

20 West 44th Street, #508, New York, New York 10036 212/991-9191 E-MAIL: office@americangeorgians.org

Spring 2008

Dear Friends,

Winter has brought a number of pleasures to the American Friends of the Georgian Group. We had a wonderful time at the Winter Antiques Show in January. We had a preview tour of the show and a delightful luncheon in the historic Tiffany room. Early this month we re-created an eighteenth-century grand tour, visiting the new Greek and Roman galleries at the Metropolitan Museum and then seeing how this aesthetic was translated into eighteenth-century art and architecture as demonstrated in the wonderful new American wing of the museum. Our guide was the very erudite and entertaining Thomas Gordon Smith, an architect and professor of architecture at Notre Dame. He gave examples from his book, *Vitruvius on Architecture* (2003, Monacelli Press), of how the classical influenced the neo-classical. Our tour was followed by a delightful reception at the lovely apartment of Mrs. David Prager, one of our board members. We returned to the Collectors Club at the end of the month for a fascinating lecture on Georgian revival architecture in the major cities of the East Coast. Francis Morrone, a noted historian and author, discussed the preservation of buildings designed to evoke Georgian forms.



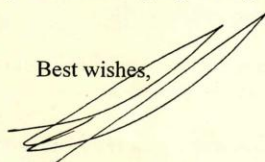
Our spring calendar is full indeed. A visit to the showroom of Clinton Howell Antiques will be accompanied by a talk on the care of antiques. Porcelain lovers will not want to miss our exclusive tour of the Meissen exhibit at the Frick Collection, which will be followed by a reception in the private upstairs rooms. Georgian Grace is the subject of a lecture by Wendell Garrett at Sothebys in April and the Great Houses of New York will be remembered by Michael C. Kathrens with a lecture at Stanford White's Collectors Club. In May we are planning a very exciting trip to Winterthur and great houses in the neighborhood. This promises to be a very elegant as well as educational two-day tour. Back in New York we will have a tour and tea in June at Gracie Mansion, one of the city's architectural treasures. Also in June will be a lecture on Menokin, a fascinating Georgian-era house, which is in partial ruin today. The AFGG has contributed to the Menokin Foundation's conservation efforts.

As part of the AFGG's continuing purpose to support the work of the Georgian Group, we made a \$5000.00 contribution at the end of 2007. The gift will be used for the archival research and administrative areas at the Georgian Group headquarters in Fitzroy Square in London.

Your membership in the American Friends of the Georgian Group is vital to the successful projects of the group to preserve Georgian architecture on both sides of the Atlantic. Your enclosed issue of the *Georgian* magazine will give you a good idea of the important work being done. If you have not yet renewed your AFGG membership for 2008, be sure to do so right away so that you do not miss out on our upcoming events and future issues of the *Georgian*. We have a fabulous trip to see the eighteenth-century houses of Newport, Rhode Island, planned with the Georgian Group for the end of September. October will bring our annual trip to England, when we will visit the stately houses of Gloucestershire. Georgian paintings will be the object of another visit to the Metropolitan in November. Our annual meeting and Christmas party will be held in December. Many of these activities are open only to members of the AFGG and we hope to see you at every event. You can also get up-to-date information from our web site, www.americangeorgians.org.

Thomas Gordon Smith at the Metropolitan

Best wishes,



John Kinnear
President

Preserving Your Antiques

private tour and reception

Tuesday, March 25, 2008, 6:00

Clinton Howell Antiques

150 East 72nd Street

New York City

We are invited to the very fine antiques showroom of Clinton Howell, well known expert on the care and preservation of antique furniture. We will tour the showroom and see his wonderful collection of English furniture from the Georgian period, as well as learning tips on how to treat our historic treasures.

Our tour will be followed by a reception.



Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by March 18.

\$45 per person



Meissen at the Frick

private tour and reception

Monday, April 14, 2008, 3:00

The Frick Collection

1 East 70th Street

New York City

This exhibit will focus on examples from the collection of Heinrich Arnhold, who, with his wife, Lisa, collected Meissen from 1926 to 1935. These rare porcelains are well known among scholars but not familiar to the public. The collection was organized by Maureen Cassidy-Geiger and is considered one of the greatest private holdings of early Meissen to be assembled in the twentieth century. The pieces have never been shown publicly before.

Our exclusive tour will be followed by a reception on the second floor of the beautiful mansion that houses the Frick Collection.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by April 7.

\$45 per person

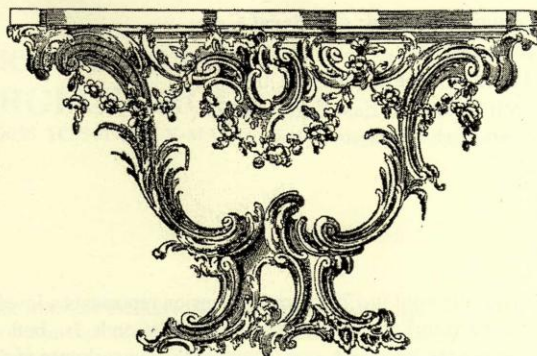
Georgian Grace
lecture and reception

Wendell Garrett

Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 6:00

Sotheby's

1344 York Avenue at 72nd Street, 9th Floor
New York City

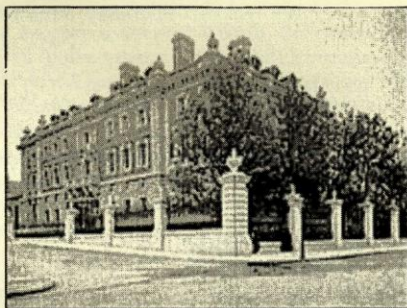


Our very distinguished friend, Wendell Garrett, will once again talk about defining characteristics of the Georgian era. "Georgian Grace: Life and Leisure in Hanoverian England," will be his subject. The age was notable for its "politeness," for the very general admiration for good manners, civilized behavior, elegance and stateliness. These qualities were reflected in the art, literature, and architecture of the period. Wendell Garrett serves on the advisory board of the American Friends of the Georgian Group; he is a senior vice president at Sotheby's and a well-known expert on eighteenth-century art and architecture.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by April 9.

\$45 per person



Great Houses of New York
lecture and reception

Michael C. Kathrens

Tuesday, April 29, 2008, 6:00

The Collectors Club

22 East 35th Street

New York City

Michael C. Kathrens will talk to us about the *Great Houses of New York, 1880-1930*, the subject of his widely acclaimed book. A historian specializing in residential architecture and interior decoration of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Mr. Kathrens will discuss some of the most elegant houses built in New York: their lavish rooms and furnishings, as well as the elegant lives of their owners. Many of these, such as the Andrew Carnegie Mansion, now the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, were Georgian in style and inspiration. His lecture will take place at the Collectors Club, a lovely example of the architecture of Stanford White. Copies of Mr. Kathrens's book will be available for purchase.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by April 22.

\$45 per person

Spring Visit to Winterthur and Historic Delaware Houses
Friday, May 9–Saturday, May 10, 2008

We are pleased to invite our members on a very special two-day visit to Winterthur and its environs. Located in the beautiful Brandywine Valley in Delaware, Winterthur was designed and built by Henry Francis du Pont and his father, Henry Algernon du Pont. They were inspired by the country houses of Europe and Winterthur, set in a sixty-acre garden, is one of the loveliest estates in America. It contains an unparalleled collection of antiques and Americana. In addition to our visit to Winterthur, we will visit Oberod, built in 1937 for Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lurger and donated by them, together with forty acres of rolling hills, to the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. On Saturday we will have a private tour of the George Read House, built in 1801 by one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence; visit Amstel House, built in the 1730s by John Finney; see the Collins-Sharp House, with its picturesque log and frame structure from the 1700s; explore the Corbit-Sharp house, built 1772-74, and one of the great late-Georgian houses of the area; and tour the Wilson-Warner house, a typical eighteenth-century Delaware house dating from 1769. Dinner on Friday evening will be at the fantastic Greenville Country Club, a Tudor Cotswold house built by H. T. Lindeberg in 1917 for Eugene du Pont; it has a beautifully restored garden by Ellen Shipman.



Rooms have been reserved for us for Friday and Saturday nights at the Hotel DuPont in Winterthur. To reserve your room, call the hotel at 888/579-8658 or go to their web site at www.hoteldupont.com. Tell them that you are with the American Friends of the Georgian Group; a special rate will apply. Travel to and from Winterthur and hotel accommodations are not included in the cost of the trip. The cost, which is \$575 per person, does include all meals, admission fees, and local transportation from Friday after lunch through Sunday brunch. **Please make your reservation by April 14, 2008.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$575 per person for the AFGG spring visit to Winterthur and historic Delaware houses.

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

We must have your check by April 14, 2008.

Please make your check payable to The American Friends of the Georgian Group and mail it to us at 20 West 44th Street, #508, New York, New York 10036.

**Gracie Mansion: a Federal Gem
tour and tea**

Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 1:00
88th Street and East End Avenue
New York City

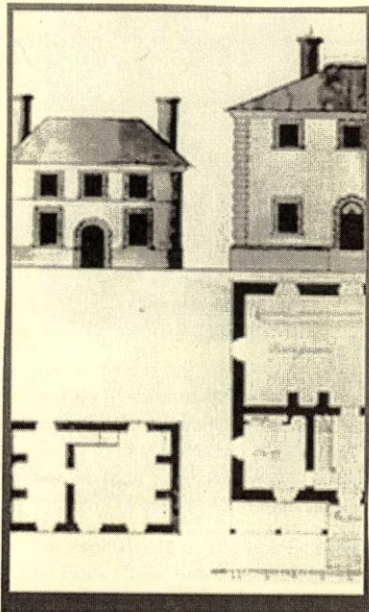


Originally built in 1799, Gracie Mansion represents a lovely example of Federal architecture. Its design is attributed to Ezra Weeks and/or John McComb, Jr., both active in New York at the time. The location, overlooking Hell Gate, was ideal for the country house of Archibald Gracie. It became the mayor's official residence during the term of Fiorello LaGuardia in 1942; a new wing designed by Mott Schmidt was added in the 1950s. Our tour will show off recent restoration and decoration on both floors of the house and on the grounds.

We will have tea in the Mott Schmidt addition following our tour.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by June 10.

\$65 per person



**Menokin: a Classical Ruin
lecture and reception**

Calder Loth, Tim Macfarlane, and John Lee

Thursday, June 19, 2008, 6:00
The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York City

Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his wife, Rebecca Tayloe Lee, of Mount Airy, lived at Menokin, a Georgian house built in 1769 in the Rappahannock River Valley in Virginia. Sarah Pope, executive director of the Menokin Foundation, describes the house as "in partial ruin," although she also says it is more of a "collapsed house" than a ruin. The American Friends of the Georgian Group have contributed to the restoration fund. Calder Loth is senior architectural historian at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and an honorary trustee of the Menokin Foundation; Tim Macfarlane specializes in structural glass and worked on the new planetarium at the Natural History Museum; John Lee is an architectural conservation expert whose firm focuses on saving historic buildings. These distinguished experts will describe the ongoing conservation of this remarkable house, which will be enclosed within a specially designed glass structure.

Our lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by June 12.

\$45 per person



**AMERICAN FRIENDS
OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP
RESERVATION FORM**

Preserving Your Antiques

private tour and reception, **Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by March 18

Meissen at the Frick

private tour and reception, **Monday, April 14, 3:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by April 7

Georgian Grace

lecture and reception, **Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by April 9

Great Houses of New York

lecture and reception, **Tuesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by April 22

Gracie Mansion: a Federal Gem

tour and tea, Tuesday, **June 17, 1:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$65 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by June 10

Menokin: a Classical Ruin

lecture and reception, **Thursday, June 19, 6:00 p.m.**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by June 12

Total enclosed \$ _____

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20 West 44th Street, #508, New York, New York 10036

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

COMING EVENTS—Dates to be announced

September: Fall trip to Newport

October: Annual trip to England
The Stately Houses of Gloucestershire

November: Georgian-era painting at the Met

December: Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

