

## THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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Honorary Patron: Sir Philip Thomas, KCVO, CMG HM Consul General

April 2006

Dear Friends,

Our season so far has offered several pleasant surprises. Most of us were unaware of the exquisite residential wonder lurking behind the rather severe façade of the John Russell Pope house we toured in February. Our gracious hosts, Carlton Hobbs and Stephanie Rinza, showed us all the painstaking work they have done to restore this beautiful mansion to its original condition. Now a showroom for their collection of unusual antiques, the house made a perfect setting for our first event of the year.

A few weeks later we were entertained and enlightened by William H. Bates III of the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston. This brand-new school is dedicated to passing along centuries-old techniques of masonry, plaster work, iron mongery, and other architectural crafts to future generations. The faculty is drawn from an international group of masters, and students will graduate with a four-year degree in building arts. We were surprised and delighted to hear about the fledgling enterprise and look forward to a return engagement from Mr. Bates. We were given a warm welcome at the Collectors Club on 35th Street, a historic building designed by Stanford White and a lovely place to hear a lecture and sip a glass of wine.

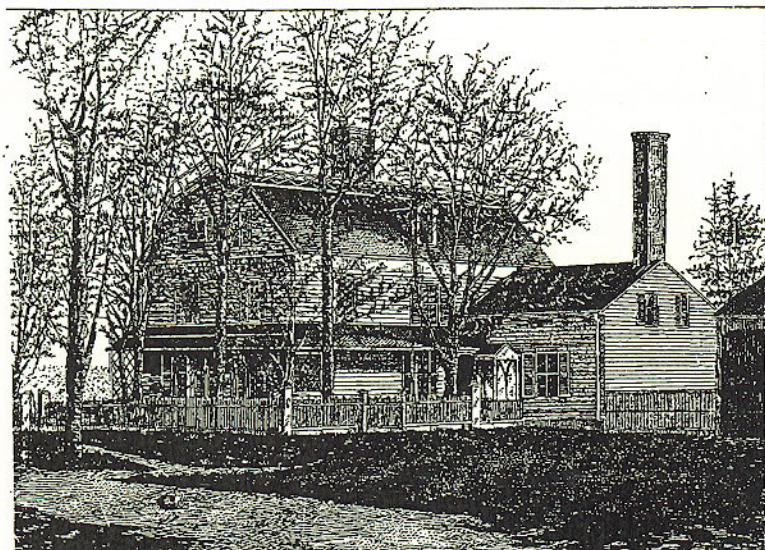
By the time you receive this newsletter we will have enjoyed the lecture by J. Michael Kelley on the installation of the early Dutch Daniel Winne House at the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum. We are pleased to return to the Leash for this event and I look forward to seeing many of you on April 10.

Our field trip in May will take us to Ridgefield, Connecticut, where we will visit several classically inspired private houses. The day will include lunch at the Elms Inn. We are particularly pleased that our friends at historic Hyde Hall, in Cooperstown, New York, are arranging a wonderful two-day event for us in July. Details of both trips and sign-up forms are overleaf.

Be sure to mark OCTOBER 20–25, 2006, on your calendars now and save these dates for our exclusive country house trip to England. Details will be available shortly but we can take preliminary reservations now. As always, this trip is open to members only.

Our fall program also includes a wonderful talk by John Danzer on Georgian garden design elements, a day trip to Millbrook, New York, and a gala benefit wine tasting. Watch your mail for more information about these special events.

Our latest calendar listings are on our new web site, [www.americangeorgians.org](http://www.americangeorgians.org). Some events are open only to members; if you would like to join us, you can do so at the web site and we hope you will.



A. RESSEGUI'S HOTEL.

Best wishes,

John Kinnear  
President



### Field Trip to Ridgefield, Connecticut

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Bus departs from the southeast corner of  
72nd Street and Park Avenue

promptly at 8:15

we will return to NYC at about 6:30



Historic Ridgefield, Connecticut, is considered a fine example of Colonial-era town planning. Twenty families living on the Connecticut coast purchased twenty thousand acres from the local Indians for £100 in 1708. The area has three prominent ridges, the middle of which constitutes the town's main street. A stroll down the main street of Ridgefield today is a dream come true for early domestic architecture buffs.

We will visit private houses, including a 1735 farmhouse and a fine Georgian revival house built in 1933. Also on the program is the Keeler Tavern, an inn built in the 1750s and restored by architect Cass Gilbert, and lunch at the delightful Elms Inn, a historic tavern in continuous operation since Colonial times. In the mid nineteenth century the railroad brought wealthy New Yorkers to Ridgefield for weekends and summers and the town still features outstanding examples of American domestic architecture from many periods that we will see on our wonderful tour.

Space on this trip is limited and reservations will be honored in the order in which they are received. We must receive your reservation and payment by May 10.

*\$150 per person, which includes transportation and luncheon*

### REGISTRATION

Field trip and luncheon, May 20, 2006

price per person \$150.00 (amount enclosed)\_\_\_\_\_

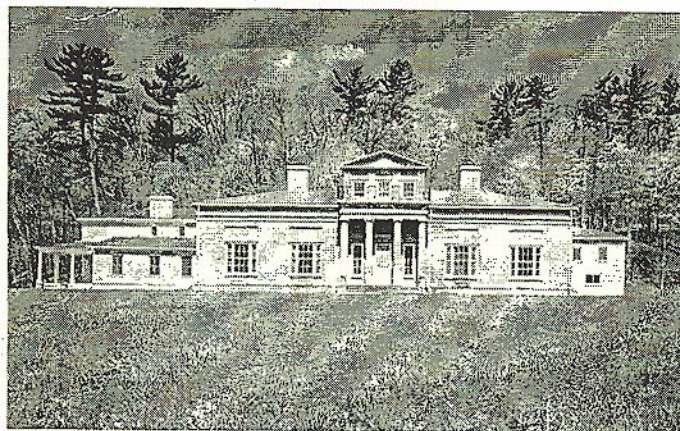
Please make your check payable to **The American Friends of the Georgian Group** and mail it to us at 122 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_





**Exclusive two-day trip to the Cooperstown,  
New York, area, Hyde Hall, and the  
Glimmerglass Opera  
Wednesday, July 26–Thursday, July 27, 2006**

We are pleased to offer this event-filled trip to Cooperstown, New York. Our distinguished guest will be AFGG honorary patron, Sir Philip Thomas, Consul General of Great Britain. We will tour the historic Cherry Valley area and have dinner there on Wednesday at Auchinbreck, a private historic house. On Thursday we will visit a number of Federal period and Greek revival houses in Cooperstown, including Lakelands (c.1802–1804), built by John Bowers; Prentiss House (1814), built by John Prentiss; and Edgewater (1810–1812), built by Isaac Cooper. Our tour will culminate at the famous Palladian Hyde Hall. Construction of Hyde Hall was begun in 1817; it is considered the leading example of the domestic work of Philip Hooker, the great architect of Albany and upstate New York. We are indeed fortunate to be invited to a gala dinner at Hyde Hall honoring Sir Philip. This festive evening will continue with a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* at the Glimmerglass Opera House, with an intermission cocktail reception honoring Sir Philip and the AFGG.

***THIS TRIP IS LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE AND IS OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY.*** You may join the AFGG by filling in the form below. Reservations will be taken in the order in which they are received. Rooms are being held for AFGG members at the Limestone Mansion in Cherry Valley. Local transportation will be provided from the hotel on Thursday for the tours and opera and return. *Please let us know if you are interested in transportation from New York City to the Cooperstown area and back; this is not included in the trip itself.* Program details and driving instructions will be provided. **Reservations, including full payment, must be received by May 29, 2006.**

*\$500 per person (MEMBERS ONLY)*

The cost of the trip does not include hotel. For hotel accommodations, call the Limestone Mansion, 607/264-3741, and tell them you are with the American Friends of the Georgian Group. The small number of rooms are available on a first-come-first-served basis; not all the rooms have private baths.

**REGISTRATION**

Cooperstown trip, July 26–27, 2006 price per person (members only) \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to become a member of the American Friends of the Georgian Group \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail checks before May 29 to *The American Friends of the Georgian Group*, 122 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_



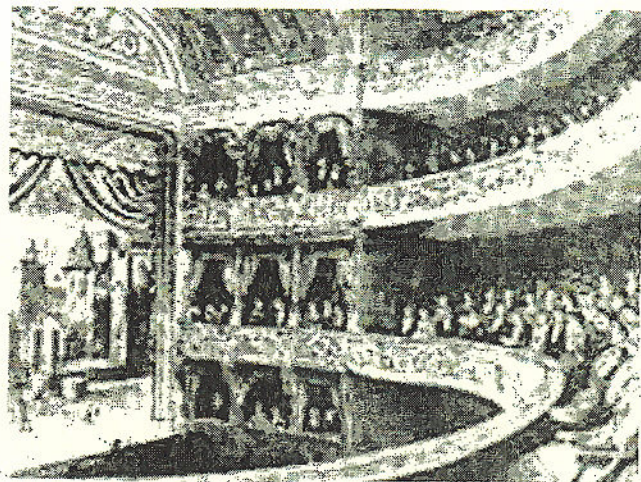
**AMERICAN FRIENDS  
OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

***Saturday, May 20***

Field trip to Ridgefield, Connecticut

***Wednesday, July 26–Thursday, July 27***

Trip to Cooperstown, New York



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***COMING IN THE FALL***

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***SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL TRIP TO ENGLAND!!!!!!***

**OCTOBER 20—25, 2006**

Save these dates for our exclusive country house trip arranged for the American Friends of the Georgian Group. We will stay at a magnificent stately home, Hartwell House, now a luxurious hotel surrounded by ninety acres of landscaped park land not far from London. Each day will have a program of visits to superb country houses. Preliminary reservations accepted now by mail or e-mail.

**This trip is open to members only.**

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***Thursday, September 14***

Georgian garden design will be the subject of a talk by John Danzer.

*The Arsenal, Central Park*

***Mid October—date to be announced***

Field trip to Millbrook, New York. Fine private Georgian era and revival houses with lunch at a local restaurant in a beautiful setting.

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***Monday, November 13***

A Georgian wine tasting. Wine expert and author Graham Harding will discuss and offer samples of wines popular in the Georgian period. This special benefit event will take place at the residence of the British Consul General.

***Monday, December 4***

*Our annual general meeting and Christmas party*

***For additional information, send an e-mail to [AFGGNYC@aol.com](mailto:AFGGNYC@aol.com).  
Membership information is at our web site: [www.americangeorgians.org](http://www.americangeorgians.org)***