

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

20 West 44th St. #508, New York, NY 10036 • (212) 991-9191 • office@americangeorgians.org

December 2010

Dear Friends,

Looking back at 2010 is a satisfying occupation. What an event-filled year it was! As we reflected at the annual meeting on December 6, the year brought lots of travel opportunities, lively gatherings, the chance to follow up on specific themes and interests, and to make new friends and catch up with old ones.



Particularly gratifying was Oliver Gerrish's enthusiastic description of the progress on the **windows at 6 Fitzroy Square**. So many of you have made generous donations to this important aspect of the restoration of the Georgian Group headquarters and we were pleased to hear that your efforts have been rewarded. Oliver came over from London to give us this news at the annual meeting and it was certainly a pleasure to meet this distinguished young member of the Georgian Group executive committee. One of his responsibilities is the Young Georgian Group and our own American Young Georgians were also represented at the meeting by Maggie Moore and Korin Mediate, who reported on their very successful Guy Fawkes party.

The October trip to Weston Park in Shropshire and the private country houses of the region, was well subscribed and enjoyed by all. It rounded off a year's worth of exciting journeys, from South Carolina to ancient Rome. In 2011 we will have a wonderful tour to **Classical and Baroque Sicily**, about which more is enclosed.

We are happy to offer an exclusive tour and luncheon at the **Winter Antiques Show** as our first event of the new season. This year we have an extra added treat: **Lee Manigault** will deliver a lecture on the **Miles Brewton House** on the same day as the antiques show, where treasures from **Charleston** will be featured. In February we will learn the latest about discoveries at the site of **Rosewell** in Virginia. Our old friend **Wendell Garrett** will entertain us again in April with another of his talks on **scandalous behavior** in eighteenth-century England.

Other events we are working on for later this coming year include day trips to Salisbury, Connecticut, and to the Yale Center for British Art. Farther afield is a proposed trip to the Eastern Shore, probably in the fall, for which plans are being made. Our **American Young Georgian** friends are planning a tour of the **Baker House** on the Upper East Side in January. Those of you under 40 can find the AYG at our web site.

The auguries point toward an exciting 2011. Don't forget to keep up at www.americangeorgians.org. Have a jolly holiday season and we look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Best wishes,

John Kinnear
President

How about those windows?



Winter Antiques Show
exclusive preview tour, special Historic Charleston exhibit, and luncheon in the Tiffany Room
Friday, January 21, 2011, 11:00 a.m.
Seventh Regiment Armory
Park Avenue at 67th Street

The first event of the year for the American Friends of the Georgian Group will be a private preview tour of the Winter Antiques Show on Friday, January 21, 2011. Sarah Donnem, of the Historic Charleston Foundation and one of our hosts, will greet us. She is looking forward to seeing our members who were on the trip to Charleston last year. This event is always very special, but this year's emphasis on the treasures of Charleston will make it particularly attractive to AFGG members. You may sign up for the antiques show alone, or join us after our visit for the lecture described below.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by January 14.

\$120 per person.

Our visit to the antiques show will be followed by a wonderful lecture at Richard Jenrette's townhouse.

Charleston's Miles Brewton House
lecture and reception

Lee Manigault

Friday, January 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.

69 East 93rd Street

(Seating is limited for this lecture; please reserve early)



Friday afternoon we will have a double treat. In honor of the Charleston loan exhibit at the Winter Antiques Show, we are pleased that Ralph Harvard, who has worked on the Brewton House, will introduce Lee Manigault, who will speak to us about the Miles Brewton House. The Brewton House, arguably America's finest colonial townhouse, sits proudly on a double lot in Charleston, South Carolina. It was built in the 1760s and is still owned by descendants of the builder's family. It contains an outstanding collection of inherited decorative arts, much of which dates to before 1825. Lee Manigault lives in the house and will give a spirited talk on its history and the challenges of occupying this landmark mansion.

Richard Jenrette has kindly invited us to attend this lecture at his own townhouse, itself a landmark. After the talk, Mr. Jenrette will serve libations and give us an informal tour of his house.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by January 14.

\$50 per person

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ATTEND BOTH THE ANTIQUES SHOW TOUR AND LUNCHEON AND THE BREWTON HOUSE LECTURE, THE COST WILL BE \$150.

THE LECTURE IS SPONSORED JOINTLY WITH THE DECORATIVE ARTS TRUST AND SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PLEASE RESERVE EARLY.

Discoveries and Reinterpretations at Rosewell

lecture and reception

Camille Wells

Thursday, February 10, 2011, 6:00

The Colonial Dames of America

417 East 61st Street



Rosewell, in Gloucester County Virginia, was the grandest dwelling built in colonial America. Towering three stories above a full basement and topped with not one but two cupolas, this early Georgian mansion was built by the Page family beginning about 1725. The massive house always taxed its owners, however, and Robert King Carter left a bequest to his daughter, Maria Carter Page, in 1732, specifically to complete the house. Situated on the York River, the property included paired flankers, formal gardens, a circular ice house, and roof walk where Jefferson is supposed to have fished. The great pile burned in the early twentieth century, but much of the walls with their superb brickwork survive as do bits of the interior woodwork. Now a haunting ruin, the site has been preserved and the American Friends of the Georgian Group has helped by contributing funds to stabilize the minaret-like chimneys. Camille Wells, eminent architectural historian, has worked for Colonial Williamsburg, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, and the state historic preservation offices in Kentucky, Maryland, and North Carolina. She will discuss this storied house and enlighten us on recent discoveries and reinterpretations.

The lecture will be followed by a reception. We are very pleased that the Colonial Dames of America are joining us in sponsoring this lecture.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by February 3.

\$45 per person.



Georgian Grace and Hanoverian Hubbub: the Paradox of the Georgian World

lecture and reception

Wendell Garrett

Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 6:00

Sotheby's Institute of Art

510 Lexington Avenue, 6th Floor

The superficial beauty and elegance of the Georgian age masked an underlying thirst for vice and violence. Wendell Garrett, whose delightful lectures on life in eighteenth-century England have entertained us many times, will give us a look behind the façade of harmonious proportions reflected in the work of Kent and Adam. The Georgian world was actually a paradoxical one, with ugliness and brutality lurking beneath the delicate surface. Art historian and author Wendell Garrett is an AFGG advisory board member and is editor-at-large of *The Magazine Antiques*. Our lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by March 31.

\$45 per person; \$25 for members of the American Young Georgians.

AMERICAN FRIENDS VISIT SHROPSHIRE, OCTOBER 2010

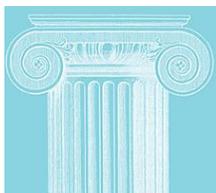
From our introduction to each other at the charming cocktail party of Jonathan and Bila Harris to our fond farewells in front of the Rembrandt Hotel in London five days later, the trip to Shropshire was a delight. We stayed at the impressively beautiful and comfortable Weston Park, where we were waited on hand and foot, including our delicious meals at the beginning and the end of the day. A proper English breakfast fortified us for the visits of the day and drinks in front of a roaring fire and dinner in the dining room surrounded by family portraits of the earls of Bradford finished off the days in style.

We saw eleven lovely and interesting country houses, each one of them fascinating in a different way and several of them still lived in by the families who had inhabited them for an unimaginable eight hundred years.

The beautiful Plowden Hall was mostly Tudor but had its beginnings in the fourteenth century and is still inhabited by the Plowden family. Robert Plowden, who is a busy farmer, gave us a lively tour. Chillington Hall is still lived in by the Gifford family, who came over with William the Conqueror, and John Gifford was a charming host who gave us not only a tour of his house but a wonderful dinner, with all nineteen of us stretched out the length of his dining room, its red-lined walls covered with portraits of his ancestors and the silver and crystal gleaming. Others of the houses could also trace their histories back in the same family, if not with the same surname because of descent through daughters and cousins. One very eccentric house is lived in by a family of extremely talented artists who made wonderful crystal chandeliers and beautiful scagliola tables and dabbled in taxidermy as well. There was a stuffed monkey hanging from the chandelier in the entrance hall.

We were wonderfully looked after at every turn and the trip went without a hitch, thanks to the planning and hard work of Caroline Rimmell and Sue Bradbury. It was a trip not to be missed.

—Betty Whiddington



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP
RESERVATION FORM WINTER/SPRING 2011

Winter Antiques Show

tour and luncheon, **Friday, January 21, 2011, 11:00 a.m.**

Seventh Regiment Armory

Please reserve _____ places at \$120 per person

enclosed \$ _____

*Reserve by January 14

Charleston's Miles Brewton House

lecture and reception, **Friday, January 21, 2011, 3:00 p.m.**

69 East 93rd Street

Please reserve _____ places at \$50 per person

enclosed \$ _____

*Reserve by January 14

****PLEASE RESERVE _____ places for BOTH the antiques show and the lecture at \$150 per person***

enclosed \$ _____

Discoveries and Reinterpretations at Rosewell

lecture and reception, **Thursday, February 10, 6:00**

The Colonial Dames of America, 417 East 61st Street

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

*Reserve by February 3

Georgian Grace and Hanoverian Hubbub

lecture and reception, **Wednesday, April 6, 6:00**

Sotheby's Institute of Art, 510 Lexington Avenue, 6th Floor

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person, Young Georgians \$25

enclosed \$ _____

*Reserve by March 31

Total enclosed \$ _____

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, N.Y. 10036

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

contact us at 212/991-9191 or at office@americangeorgians.org



AMERICAN YOUNG GEORGIANS

The American Young Georgians is an association of young adults under the age of forty who appreciate the best of British art, architecture, and design. We are the young members of the American Friends of the Georgian Group, and we too work with the Georgian Group in London to foster the appreciation and preservation of architecture, art, and design from the reigns of George I to George IV in England. We work together with the AFGG but we are also our own entity, organizing our own relaxed gatherings and events and getting together to network, socialize, and have fun.

So far, the American Young Georgian group is off to a great start after the Guy Fawkes Night launch party on November 5 at **Jonathan Burden, LLC**, which was lively and fun. We also enjoyed Christmas drinks with **Oliver Gerrish**, chairman of the Young Georgians in London, on December 6 at Wine 30. Events for the spring are still being planned but you will certainly want to sign up for our tour on January 22. If you are interested in joining the **American Young Georgians**, you will find our link at the AFGG web site, www.americangeorgians.org.



ô Maggie Moore and Dr. Korin Mediate

George F. Baker House

private tour

Saturday, January 22, 2011, 3:00 p.m.
69 East 93rd Street

We are pleased that our first visit this season will be to the beautiful Georgianóstyle 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 in an almost English Regency style; it features high ceilings, a spiral staircase, and a domed skylight. Beautifully restored by Richard Jenrette, this charming townhouse contains late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century furnishings and exquisite art work. The house is not open to the public and we are fortunate to have been invited for a private visit. This is a rare opportunity you won't want to miss.

Please reserve on the form below and return it, with your check, to the AFGG office by January 10. *Note: you may also reserve at ayg@americangeorgians.org. You must still send your check to the AFGG office, 20 West 44th Street, #508, New York, New York 10036.*

\$20 for AYG members; \$25 for non-members.

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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

contact us at 212/991-9191 or at office@americangeorgians.org



Villa Palagonia

Sicily a Mediterranean melting pot of architectural influences and styles, from Graeco-Roman through Norman to its own brand of flamboyant Baroque. Join us for one of our most eagerly-awaited overseas trips as architectural historian Richard Garnier leads an exclusive seven-night island tour full of spectacular and contrasting highlights, from the breathtaking Baroque of the southeastern hill towns (collectively designated a World Heritage Site) to some of the finest surviving Greek temples in Europe.

We will start by exploring Palermo and the surrounding areas, including the ancient ruins of Segesta and the seaside town of Cefalu, before heading southwest to Selinunte and the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento. The tour continues with visits to the Baroque hilltop towns of the southeast and concludes in the ancient city of Syracuse. Additional highlights include the Norman Cathedral and Castle and the Baroque churches of Santa Caterina and San Guiseppe dei Teatini; luncheon at the Villa Boscofranco, the setting of Visconti's *The Leopard*; the Villa Palagonia,



Roman amphitheater at Syracuse

The Grand Tour Continues

Classical and Baroque Sicily

May 22–29, 2011



Selinunte

with its grotesques; the Baroque churches of Ragusa; and Scicli, once described as "the most beautiful town in the world." Our accommodations include the Central Palazzo Hotel in Palermo, the Baglio della Luna at Agrigento, and the Eremo della Giubiliana, a restored former convent.

More details about the program and itinerary are available by e-mail at michael@georgiangroup.org.uk. Please note that this program is provisional; there may be changes in the order and content of the itinerary.

The Grand Tour Continues

Classical and Baroque Sicily

May 22–29, 2011

The trip to Sicily, May 22–29, 2011, will cost \$3000.00. Members of the American Friends of the Georgian Group are invited to join this fabulous trip at the discount price of \$2350.00 if you reserve and pay the full amount by January 25, 2011. If you wish, you may reserve your place with a deposit of \$500.00 payable by January 25 with the balance of \$2500.00 due by March 1. Your payment includes accommodation with breakfast for seven nights in Sicily, one lunch and four dinners, transportation and sightseeing charges. **Please note: flights to and from Sicily are not included.** There is no extra charge for single rooms. Payment can be made to the AFGG by completing the form below and sending it to us with your check. If you wish, you may arrange to make an on-line payment directly to the Georgian Group by going to www.georgiangroup.org.uk, at which payment may also be made by credit card (£1500).

PAYMENTS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. Cancellation must be made in writing before March 1. We recommend that all travellers take out full travel insurance. The American Friends of the Georgian Group cannot be responsible for circumstances beyond our control. All participants must be AFGG members.

Registration

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the May 22–29, 2011, tour of Classical and Baroque Sicily at \$3000.00 per person.

Deposit (\$500.00 per person) is enclosed _____

My full payment, \$2350.00 per person, is enclosed _____

If you are not a member of the American Friends of the
Georgian Group, please add \$100 _____

Total enclosed (*please make checks payable to the American
Friends of the Georgian Group*) _____

Name
Address
Telephone
E-mail

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