



# THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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

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](http://www.americangeorgians.org) and reserve by e-mail at [office@americangeorgians.org](mailto: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.*



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## **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](http://www.royal-oak.org), or call Robert Dennis at 212/480-2889, ext. 201.

*Space is limited; register early.*

*\$30 per person.*



**Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England**  
*lecture and reception*

**Amanda Vickery**

Monday, April 12, 2010, 6:00  
 The Collectors Club  
 22 East 35th Street

What was everyday life in a Georgian household really like? Some of the revelations in this new book by Amanda Vickery may come as a surprise. She tells us that although women were expected to obey their husbands, some husbands were considered tyrants when they took too great an interest in the wallpaper or the porcelain. We think of eighteenth-century bachelors as dandies enjoying a frivolous life, but many of them actually yearned to forsake their solitary take-out dinners and replace them with wives who would look after them. The book also discusses the concept of privacy, which was quite different from our own. Amanda Vickery is professor of modern British history at Royal Holloway, University of London, and she lectures on British social, political, and cultural history from the seventeenth century to the present. She is also the author of *The Gentleman's Daughter*. Copies of *Behind Closed Doors* will be available for purchase at our lecture.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by April 5.

*\$45 per person.*

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**Palladio and His Legacy: A Transatlantic Journey**

*Private tour*

Monday, May 17, 2010, 3:00

The Morgan Library

37th Street between Madison and Park Avenues

*use the staff entrance*



Andrea Palladio is a hero to lovers of Georgian architecture. Last year the AFGG sponsored a fabulous trip to the Veneto to commemorate Palladio's 500th birthday and visit some of his outstanding buildings. Now we are happy to offer this exclusive tour of a travelling exhibit focusing on original drawings and books by Palladio. The exhibit examines his artistic development and the influence he achieved through his *Quattro Libri dell'Architettura*, the Four Books of Architecture, which disseminated his principles throughout Europe and especially in America. The three sections of the exhibit feature drawings that show Palladio at work; how his legacy was transmitted to later generations; and Palladio's transatlantic legacy—how so many important public buildings in the United States were designed after the Palladian idea. We are fortunate to have this private tour at the Morgan Library while the exhibit is in New York.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by May 10.

*\$45 per person.*



## Conserving Priceless Objects

### *tour and reception*

Thursday, May 27, 2010, 3:00

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Fifth Avenue at 81st Street

*Meet at the tour desk at the southwest  
corner of the main lobby*



The Sherman Fairchild Center for Objects Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum is a world-renowned research facility that provides for the preservation and technological study of ten curatorial collections within the museum. Their laboratories are furnished with the most up-to-date scientific equipment used to conserve archaeological objects, sculpture, furniture, ceramics, and glass. The conservationists and scientists investigate the mechanisms of deterioration, preservation treatments, and historical technology. They develop and test methods for treating deterioration in stone sculpture, as well as methods for monitoring and controlling biodeterioration. We will be given an exclusive tour of this fascinating department.

Our lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by May 20.

*\$65 per person.*

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## Spring Visit to Gracie Mansion

### *tour and tea*

Thursday, June 3, 2010, 12:45

88th Street and East End Avenue

We are privileged to visit Gracie Mansion, the charming official residence of the mayor of New York City. This Federal gem is nestled in Carl Schurz Park and early June will be a perfect time to enjoy it. Originally built in 1799, Gracie Mansion was probably designed by Ezra Weeks and/or John McComb, Jr., both of whom were active in New York at the time. It was the country house of Archibald Gracie, who enjoyed the view overlooking Hell Gate. Gracie Mansion became the official mayoral residence during the term of Fiorello LaGuardia in 1942. We will have tea in the new wing designed by Mott Schmidt that was added in the 1950s.

Please make your reservation on the enclosed form and return it to us by May 27.

*\$65 per person.*

**AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP**  
***RESERVATION FORM SPRING 2010***

***George Baker House***

private tour and reception, **Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 3:00**

69 East 93rd Street

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reserve by March 24

***Reflected Glory***

lecture and reception, **Wednesday, April 7, 6:00**

Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium, 417 East 61st Street

Please reserve directly through Royal Oak

***Behind Closed Doors***

lecture and reception, **Monday, April 12, 6:00**

The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reserve by April 5

***Palladio and His Legacy***

private tour, **Monday, May 17, 3:00**

The Morgan Library

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reserve by May 10

***Conserving Priceless Objects***

tour and reception, **Thursday, May 27, 3:00**

Metropolitan Museum, 81st and Fifth Avenue

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$65 per person

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reserve by May 20

***Gracie Mansion***

tour and tea, **Thursday, June 3, 12:45**

Gracie Mansion,

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$65 per person

enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reserve by May 27

***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*

## **DON'T FORGET THESE OTHER TERRIFIC EVENTS!!**

### **The Beautiful Houses of Delano and Aldrich: lecture by John Foreman**

Wednesday, March 10, 6:00, The Collectors Club, 22 East 35th Street, *\$45 per person*

### **Leisure in Georgian England: lecture by Wendell Garrett**

Wednesday, April 14, 6:00, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ambler, 655 Park Avenue, *\$45 per person*

### **Quaker Hill, Pawling, New York: day trip and luncheon**

Saturday, June 12; bus leaves promptly at 8:30 a.m. from the northeast corner of Park Avenue and 72nd Street, *\$185 per person*

**SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE, CALL 212/991-9191, E-MAIL [office@americangeorgians.org](mailto:office@americangeorgians.org)**



***SAVE THE DATE!!***

**MAY 12, 2010**

**6:00**

**FEDERAL HALL**

**26 Wall Street**

## **Moving and Restoring the Grange**

**Lecture and reception**

The Grange, the home of Alexander Hamilton, was recently moved to St. Nicholas Park and is being restored by the National Park Service. Steve Spaulding, the architect in charge of the project, will give a talk about the move and the restoration. The Grange was named after the Grange in Stevenston, Scotland, the Hamilton family seat. Hamilton engaged his friend John McComb, Jr., to design his house in the Federal style. McComb was the architect of City Hall and, probably, Gracie Mansion (which we will be visiting in June).

This event is being sponsored together with the American Scottish Foundation. Invitations will be mailed separately. Be sure to mark your calendars for this very interesting lecture.



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## *Luxury Tour of English Country Houses* *October 17—22, 2010*

Shropshire has a wealth of country houses, many rarely open to visitors. It also offers an opportunity to experience living in an historic country house as we shall be staying in Weston Park, former home of the 7th Earl of Bradford. When the 7th Earl moved from his ancestral home, family treasures were left behind to furnish the house, which was redecorated to provide spacious and comfortable accommodation for special parties. It means that during our exclusive stay, we have the opportunity to be surrounded by Gobelin and Aubusson tap-

estries, paintings by Van Dyck, Stubbs, Reynolds, Gainsborough as well as Dutch and Italian works of art, superb 18th-century furniture, rare Worcester and other porcelain. The charming library, lined with books and with a warming fire, makes a welcoming place to gather for pre-dinner drinks served by the butler. All these treasures will be ours to enjoy during our stay. Such a valuable collection merits a curator and Gareth Williams fills that role. Formerly with the National Trust, Gareth Williams comes from Shropshire and there cannot be a house or family he does not know. He will be our guide and mentor throughout this privileged tour.



Each day we shall visit two to three houses, often lunching with owners. Houses will include a variety of styles. **Shipton Hall** is Tudor, but its delightful rococo and classical interiors reflect changing fashions of taste. We lunch at **Orleton Hall**, an ancient house with a moat and gatehouse. Sir William Chambers, King George III's architect, worked at **Walcot Hall**, home of Clive of India. **Stokesay Court** is a mammoth Victorian house, the main location for the film *Atonement*, starring Keira Knightley, which contrasts with nearby medieval **Stokesay Castle**. **Acton Round** is a charming William and Mary house. We will also explore the ancient town of **Ludlow**, with its magnificent Border castle. These are but a few of the visits on our exclusive program, which will begin in London on Sunday evening, October 17, with a private reception and will end in London late Friday afternoon, October 22, after a final privileged visit and lunch.

*Acton Round Hall*



## *Luxury Tour of English Country Houses*

The tour to Shropshire, October 17—22, 2010, will begin and end in London. The party leaves London on Monday morning, October 18th, returning late Friday afternoon, October 22nd. The cost of the trip is \$3865.00\* per person, which includes the program of visits, entrance fees, accommodation, all meals with wine, and transportation. An additional \$350.00 is added for those requesting a single room. **Please note: flights to and from London are not included.** A non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person is required to hold your reservation. There has been much interest in the tour and if it becomes full, we will establish a waiting list. The balance of your payment is due by July 16, 2010. Unless full payment is received by that date, reservations may be cancelled and openings filled from the waiting list.

Cancellations must be made in writing before July 16, when all payment except the deposit will be refunded. No refund can be made after July 16, 2010.

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 October 17—22 tour of Shropshire at \$3865.00 per person.

Deposit (\$800.00 per person) is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Single-room supplement (\$350.00) is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a current member of the American Friends of the Georgian Group, please add \$100.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone..... E-mail .....



*Stokesay Court*