

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

Summer 2008

Dear Friends,

This past spring we have enjoyed a number of delightful events and, I am happy to say, many of you have been able to participate. Our visit to the showroom of Clinton Howell, a distinguished dealer in eighteenth-century antiques, was a treat. Mr. Howell is a fount of information and anecdote. He has graciously given us his **tips for cleaning antique furniture**, which you will find in this newsletter. Maureen Cassidy-Geiger took us on a wonderful tour of the Arnhold collection of Meissen porcelain at the Frick Collection. Wendell Garrett's entertaining lecture on the characteristics that define Georgian grace was accompanied by slides of art and objects from the period. Michael Kathrens used slides to illustrate his lecture on the great houses of New York, including pictures of vanished mansions from a vanished era. By the time you read this we will have had a tour and light lunch at Gracie Mansion and Calder Loth, Tim



Macfarlane, and John Lee will have delivered their lecture on the classical ruin Menokin. The American Friends of the Georgian Group is one of several organizations interested in British-American relations that sponsored a reception on June 11 to celebrate the 82nd birthday of Queen Elizabeth.

AFGG members spent an exceptional weekend at Winterthur and other historic houses in the area. Our thanks to Tom Savage for arranging the tour, which is described in this newsletter. We are planning another trip in the fall together with the Georgian Group. AFGG members are invited to join the Georgian Group to **visit eighteenth-century houses of Newport** at the end of September. In October we will have our

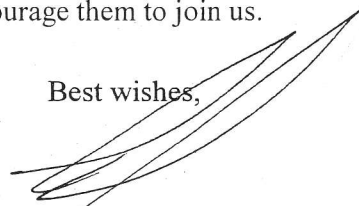
annual visit to England. This year we will visit the **stately houses of Gloucestershire** and stay at historic Lower Slaughter Manor. There is still time to sign up for this very lovely trip.

Also coming up are a number of other lively events we hope you will enjoy. In July we plan an exclusive tour of the exhibit at the Bard Graduate Center of the **work of Thomas Hope**, a major figure in British Regency design. The fall will bring lectures on the materials and techniques used to build **Drayton Hall** and other houses by **Matthew Webster** at the Collectors Club and on **historic preservation in New York State** by **Winthrop Aldrich** at the Harvard Club. We will visit **Chesney's** fascinating display of **antique fireplaces**, hear a talk on **George IV** by **Giles Waterfield**, and be guided by **Oliver Bradbury** to **the Lost Mansions of Mayfair**. Be sure to save the date, December 8, for the **annual general meeting**, which is always a delightful event.

Next year the American Friends will offer a very special trip to **the Palladian Villas of the Veneto** in April. Be sure to **mark your calendars now for April 21 to 28**. Details will follow.

The AFGG web site, www.americangeorgians.org, lists all our events and has links to the Georgian Group and other sites of interest to our members. Membership information is also available at the web site. If you have questions, our e-mail address is office@americangeorgians.org. If you have friends who share your interest in preserving Georgian art and architecture we hope you will encourage them to join us.

Best wishes,



John Kinnear
President

AFGG members at Winterthur

Thomas Hope: Regency Designer

private tour and reception

Thursday, July 24, 2008, 6:00

Bard Graduate Center

18 West 86th Street

New York City

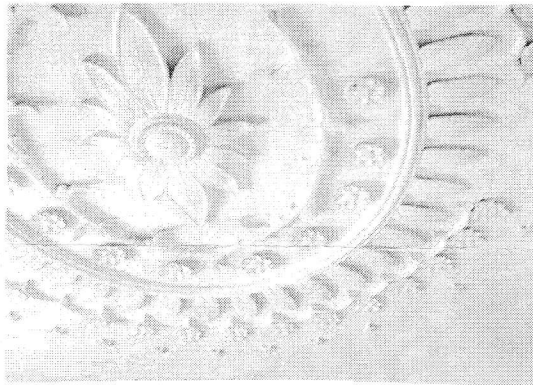
This exhibit offers us the unusual opportunity to see the works of Thomas Hope (1769–1831), a perhaps neglected figure in the history of British design. In addition to being a designer, Hope was patron and collector and helped define the Regency style that remains influential today. About 140 items have been loaned to the exhibit, including sculpture, furniture, silver, and other objects seldom seen together. Rebecca Allan will be our guide to the exhibit, which was organized by the Bard Graduate Center and comes to New York from the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.



Our tour will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by July 17.

\$45 per person



**Architecture through the Trades: Building
Drayton Hall, Kenmore, and Other
Houses of the 18th Century**
lecture and reception

Matthew Webster

Thursday, September 25, 2008, 6:00

The Collectors Club

22 East 35th Street

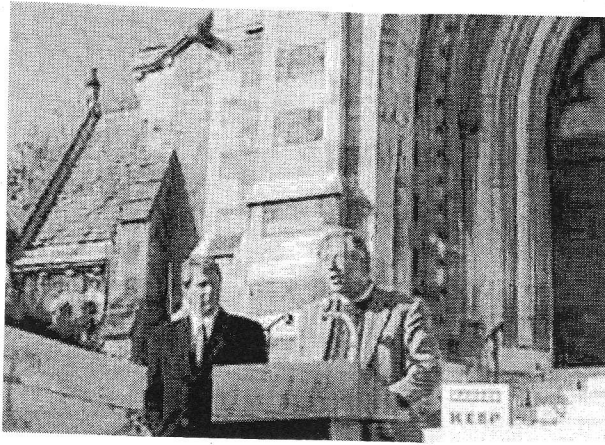
New York City

In recent years historic preservationists have done extensive research on the materials and techniques used to build the classical houses of the eighteenth century. Prominent among them in this country is Matthew Webster, director of preservation at Drayton Hall, in Charleston, South Carolina. A specialist in architectural archaeology, Matthew Webster has also worked on such projects as 1770s Kenmore, 1720s Ferry Farm, and 1740s Accokeek. He has used modern methods of material analysis as a means of replicating early methods of construction. His lecture will be centered around his researches at Drayton Hall as well as at Kenmore, Menokin, and Falmouth.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

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

\$45 per person



Historic Preservation in New York State *lecture and reception*

Winthrop Aldrich

Thursday, October 2, 2008, 6:00

The Harvard Club

35 West 44th Street

New York City

New York State Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation, Winthrop Aldrich, has graciously agreed to speak to us about the astonishingly rich and diverse architectural heritage of New York State and the programs designed to preserve it. Winthrop Aldrich was active in establishing the Hudson River National Historic Landmark District and has been a passionate student of the Hudson River area, where he has lived all his life. He has worked devotedly to preserve the land and historic architecture of the region and of New York. His talk will focus on the upstate area; however, he will discuss preservation programs in New York City as well.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by September 25.

\$45 per person

Mantles and Chimneypieces

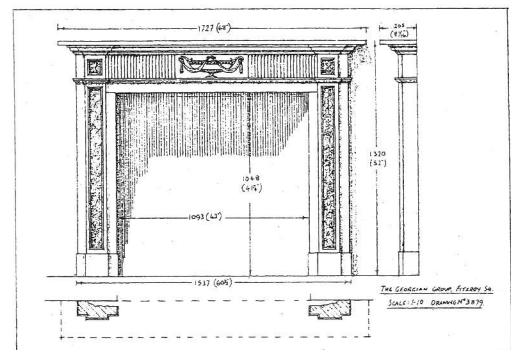
tour and reception

Thursday, October 16, 2008, 6:00

Chesney's

979 Third Avenue, #244

New York City



Chesney's, specialists in reproduction and antique chimneypieces, began in London in 1984, when Paul Chesney found an old discarded fireplace in a Dumpster. His company now produces six thousand marble and stone mantles a year. The newest design is called the Fitzroy, an authentic reproduction of the chimneypiece designed by Robert Adam in the 1790s for the principal drawing room at 6 Fitzroy Square, now the headquarters of the Georgian Group in London. Alistair McCowan, of Chesney's USA, will be our host during our visit to Chesney's New York showroom.

A reception will follow our tour.

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

\$45 per person



George IV
lecture and reception

Giles Waterfield

Thursday, October 23, 2008, 6:00

The Collectors Club

22 East 35th Street

New York City

George IV (1762–1830) was made regent in 1811 owing to his father's insanity. Extravagant and dissolute, he was unpopular with his subjects. Nevertheless, the cultural flowering that was fostered during the reign of

George III was maintained while he was on the throne. Giles Waterfield is an independent curator and writer who is director of Royal Collection Studies and an associate lecturer at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He served as joint curator of the exhibitions *Art Treasures of England* at the Royal Academy of Arts in 1998, the *Art of the Country House* at the Tate Gallery in 2000, and *Below Stairs*, in London and Edinburgh, in 2003–2004.

The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Please make your reservation on the form enclosed and return it to us by October 16.

\$45 per person

Lost Mansions of Mayfair

lecture and reception

Oliver Bradbury

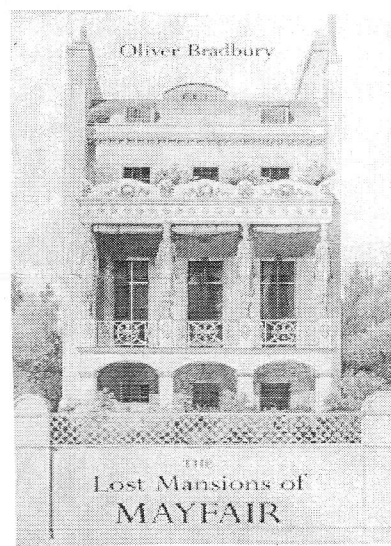
Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 6:00

The Union Club

101 East 69th Street

New York City

The historic Mayfair district of London is notable for its elegant squares, broad Georgian thoroughfares, and beautiful parks. Although Grosvenor, Hanover, and Berkeley squares survive, many architectural gems in the neighborhood have been lost. Mayfair was known for its inhabitants' taste in distinctive architectural expression. Oliver Bradbury has done extensive research on this famous but sometimes overlooked area of London and his work is presented in his new book, *The Lost Mansions of Mayfair*, published this June. Oliver Bradbury is Assistant Architectural Advisor to the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and the author of an earlier book, *Cheltenham's Lost Heritage*, as well as numerous articles on his architecture. Copies of his book will be available for purchase.



The lecture will be f

Please make your re

\$45 per person

Early Architecture of Newport

Monday, September 29—Wednesday, October 1, 2008

The American Friends of the Georgian Group is delighted to join with the Georgian Group to offer this tour of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century architecture of Rhode Island. The tour will provide a rare opportunity to enjoy privileged access to extraordinary buildings of real distinction and historical interest, many of which are privately owned and not open to the public.

Nowadays thought of as the playground of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century plutocrats, tiny Newport was one of the most significant cities in American history. Newport was an early haven of religious freedom, a prosperous trading port, and even a base for pirates; today there are more than three hundred restored eighteenth-century buildings from that golden age—more than in any other part of the country.

AFGG members will join the Georgian Group in Providence for lunch on Monday, followed by a walking tour that will include the John Brown House (1788), the Nightingale-Brown House (1792), the First Baptist Church in America, and Brown University. We will arrive in Newport in time for dinner. On Tuesday we will visit Hunter House; the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, oldest circulating library in America; and Cozzens House, built in 1750 and now the home of AFGG member Mary Riggs, who has invited us for a champagne reception. On Wednesday our focus will be on early houses of worship: Touro Synagogue, the Baptist Meeting House, the Quaker Meeting House, Trinity Church, and Colony House, where the French troops under Rochambeau attended Catholic mass. Rochambeau's headquarters, Vernon House, is still in private hands and its owner has invited us to tea.

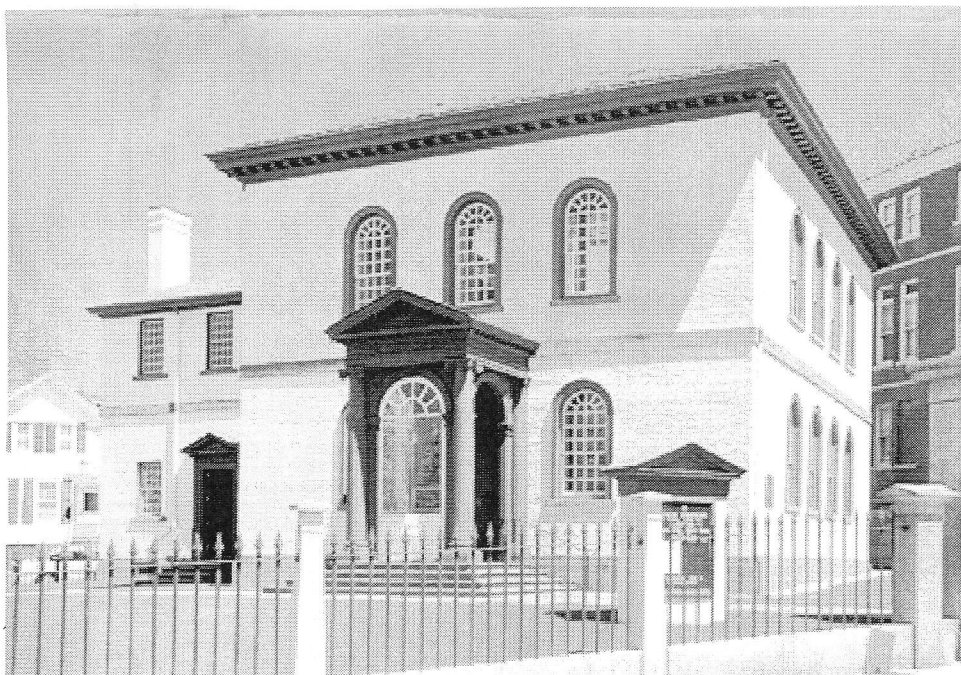
We will enjoy meals at private clubs such as the Hope Club in Providence and the New York Yacht Club, home of the America's Cup races for fifty years. Lunch on Tuesday will be at a colonial revival mansion built by Ogden Codman and dinner on Wednesday will be at the White Horse Tavern (1652), the oldest in America. The American Friends will stay at the luxurious Viking Hotel in Newport, which is registered with the Historic Hotels of America.

The Georgian Group members will begin their tour in Boston on September 27 and will stay in Newport Thursday and Friday to visit the famous "cottages" and other of Newport's many non-Georgian-era but nonetheless special architectural treasures. Their visit will conclude with a gala dinner at Marble House on Friday evening before they depart from Boston on Saturday. Arrangements have been made to accommodate members of the AFGG who wish to join the Georgian Group tour at either or both ends.

Please reserve your place on this delightful trip on the form (over) enclosed and return it to:

Sterling Brownell Travel
4914 Fitzhugh Avenue, #102
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Please do not send your reservation for the trip to Newport to the AFGG office.



Early Architecture of Newport
Monday, September 29—Wednesday, October 1, 2008

The tour costs \$1600.00 per person for double occupancy; there is a \$400.00 supplemental charge for a single room. The cost includes two nights at the Viking Hotel, breakfast daily, three lunches, one tea, two cocktail receptions, two dinners, local transportation and sightseeing, plus a \$100 tax-deductible contribution to the American Friends of the Georgian Group.

*Payment is not refundable. A deposit of \$750.00 per person is required with your reservation. The balance of your payment, plus payment for the single-room supplement if applicable, is due by June 30, 2008. Members wishing to extend the trip at the beginning and/or the end must also send payment for the extension by June 30. Travel insurance is required at the time of the deposit. Please be advised the tour will include **considerable** walking.*

REGISTRATION

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the September 29–October 1 trip to Newport at \$1600.00 per person.

Deposit (\$750.00 per person) is enclosed _____

I wish a single room (\$400.00 is due by June 30) _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

_____ I would like information about travel insurance

AFGG members may join the Georgian Group tour. If you wish to do so, please complete the following portion of this form:

Reserve _____ place(s) for Boston and Providence, September 27–29, at a cost of \$1250.00 per person, plus \$500.00 for a single room. *Payment due by June 30.*

Reserve _____ place(s) for extended days in Newport, October 2–4, at a cost of \$1950.00 per person, plus \$550.00 for a single room. *Payment due by June 30.*

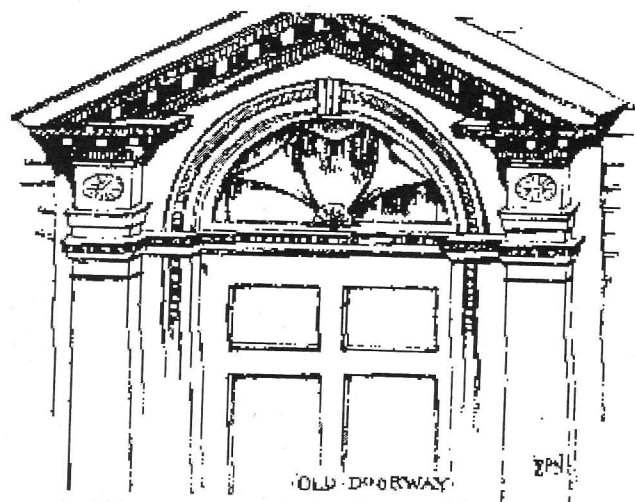
Total enclosed (make checks payable to **Sterling Brownell**) _____

By completing and signing this registration form the participant hereby agrees to waive all claims and suits against, defend, release and hold harmless The Georgian Group, The American Friends of the Georgian Group, Sterling Brownell Travel, Inc., and their officers, agents, representatives, and affiliated support organizations for any and all liability for personal injury, death, property damage or loss of any nature whatsoever arising from his/her participation in the tour.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail your check to Ellen LeCompte, Sterling Brownell Travel, 4914 Fitzhugh Avenue, #102, Richmond, VA 23230. For further information contact Ellen LeCompte, Sterling Brownell Travel at 877/893-7979 or ellen@sterlingtvl.com.

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



Thomas Hope: Regency Designer

private tour and reception, **Thursday, July 24, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by July 17

Architecture through the Trades

lecture and reception, **Thursday, September 25, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by September 18

Historic Preservation in New York State

lecture and reception, **Thursday, October 2, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by September 25

Mantles and Chimneypieces

tour and reception, **Thursday, October 16, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by October 9

George IV

lecture and reception, **Thursday, October 23, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by October 16

Lost Mansions of Mayfair

lecture and reception, **Tuesday, November 18, 6:00**

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person

enclosed \$ _____

Reserve by November 11

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, New York 10036

NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

AFGG MEMBERS VISIT GEORGIAN BUILDINGS IN DELAWARE

Over three days a congenial group of American Georgians saw an extraordinary range of Georgian-period architecture, as well as enjoying good food and company in the tiny state of Delaware.

The tour began on May 9, when the members assembled in the early afternoon in the lobby of the Hotel DuPont in Wilmington to go to the fabled **Winterthur Museum and Country Estate**. We were met by Tom Savage, the director of museum affairs, who organized the entire trip and arranged for the group to be shown an overview of the vast collections of furniture, paintings, and objects of every sort in a few hours. The group also learned about Henry Francis DuPont, who transformed the original building he inherited into what it is today and filled it with antiques and Americana.

The next day, we visited the **George Read House** in New Castle. Located in the heart of Delaware's colonial capital on the Delaware River, the house was built in 1801 by the son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Read House represents the height of Federal grandeur; with 22 rooms and 14,000 square feet, it was the largest house in the state when it was built and cost nearly \$12,000.

The next stop was **Rosemont House**, an early eighteenth-century house with original paneling intact; it is being restored by its owner, Keith Adams. He has sought to give the two-story house a period look and furnished it with Bermuda furniture, all bought within a thirty-mile radius of New Castle.

Next we visited the town of Odessa, where the members were served a hearth-cooked lunch from eighteenth- and nineteenth-century recipes at the **Collins-Sharp House**. After that we saw the Corbit Sharp House, a handsome Philadelphia-style residence built in 1774 by William Corbit, a leading citizen of the time who operated a tannery on the banks of the Appoquinimink Creek. The house remained in the Corbit family until 1938, when it was bought by Rodney Sharp, a relative by marriage of the DuPont family, who restored it along with other buildings in the town. Although the house was closed for renovation and the furniture had been removed, thanks to Tom Savage we were still able to go indoors and appreciate the rooms.

Virtually next door is the **Wilson-Warner House**, built by successful merchant David Wilson in 1769. The house is a fine example of Delaware Georgian architecture; however, the furnishings reflect those recorded in the 1829 family bankruptcy List of Sales.

Each of the houses we visited was a museum except that of Keith Adams. Our final stop was **The Big Bend**, home of George A. "Frolic" Weymouth, in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania. Located in the middle of a large property, with horses grazing and trees and meadows as far as the eye can see, it is perhaps as close as one can get to the look and feel of what it must have been like to live in the eighteenth century. The building has a long history. The ground floor is the oldest part of the house, built in the 1690s. The house was expanded upward by the addition of three floors in the eighteenth century in a Georgian style. It was a wreck when Frolic acquired it in 1961. Today The Big Bend has been beautifully restored and the gardens developed with the sympathy one would expect from the founder of the Brandywine Museum and Conservancy.

The traveling Georgians all agreed this was one of the most enjoyable and informative excursions the AFGG has offered. We are very grateful to Tom Savage and his Winterthur associates for making the arrangements.

—John Shannon



CLINTON HOWELL'S FORMULA FOR CLEANING FURNITURE

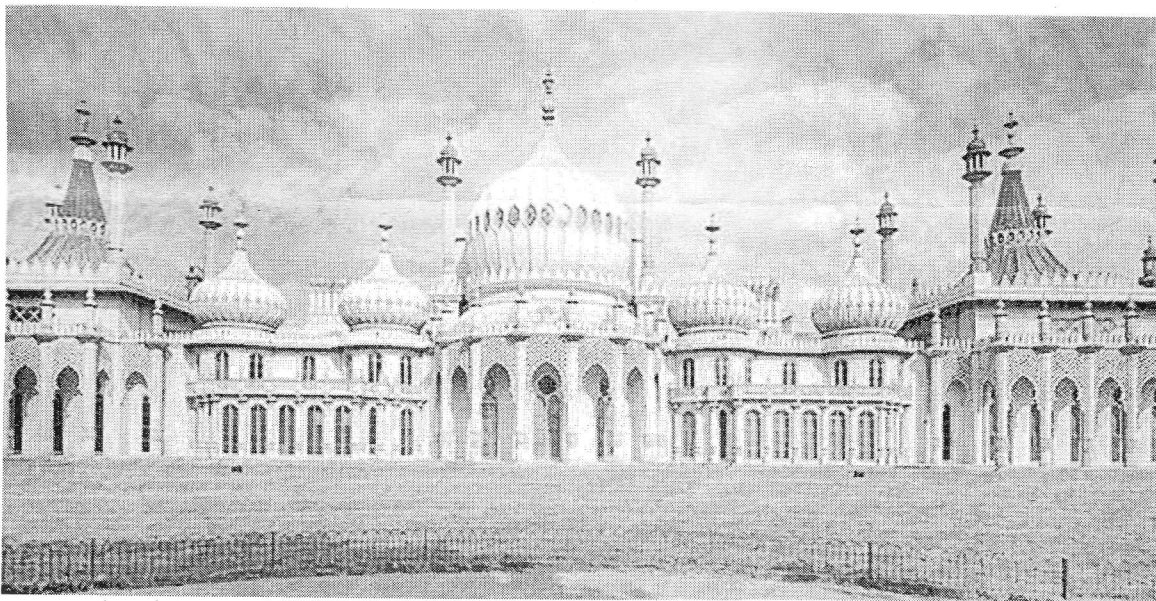
When we visited Clinton Howell's showroom in March, he was kind enough to give us some tips on cleaning antique furniture. Here is his formula as he gave it to us.

Ten parts steam distilled turpentine and one part raw linseed oil

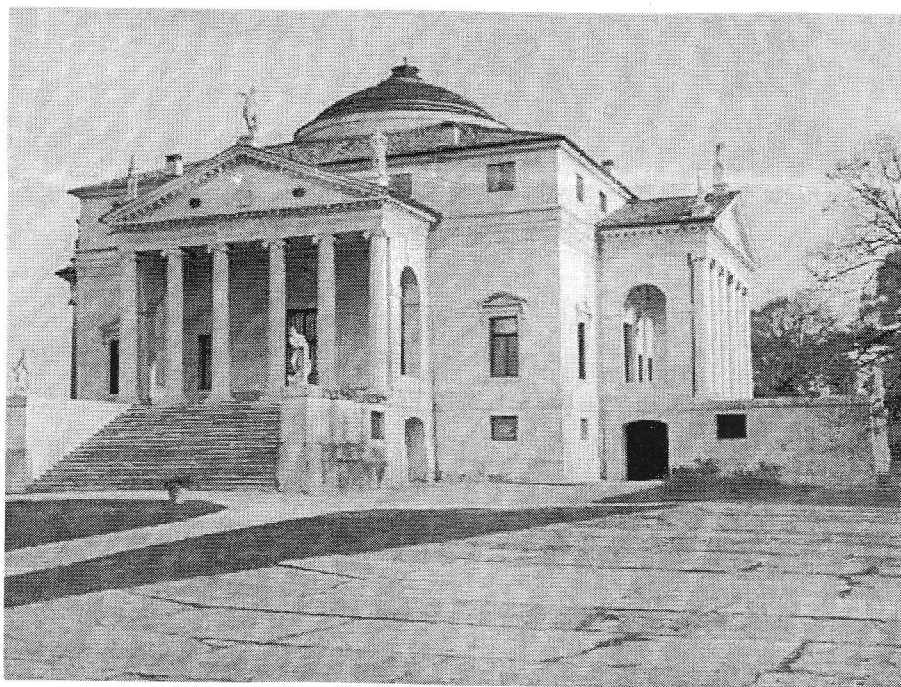
This formula is designed for cleaning a surface and will help to camouflage any nicks, etc., in the furniture. It is extremely important not to use gum turpentine or boiled linseed oil. These both have driers in them and will only make a mess of your furniture. In fact, if you try to purchase steam distilled turps and raw linseed oil at a paint store, they will try to steer you to the products that they carry and not the ones that are proper, so you must purchase these items in a hardware store.

Application of the cleaning formula should be with 0000 steel wool and you should generally work in small areas at a time, such as a two-inch-square section. You don't need a great deal of cleaning formula, but the concept behind it is that the turps loosens dirt on the surface and helps to erase scratches (they are still there, you just have a harder time seeing them), while the linseed oil acts as a lubricant to prevent the turps from drying out too quickly. Always rub in the direction of the grain if you can. Once a surface is clean, wipe it dry and then rub it with a clean piece of 0000 steel wool. Then you can wax with a soft cloth. This formula will get white marks out, but you should be warned that modern finishes with white marks often cannot be fixed by this method, although sometimes it does work.

You can contact Clinton Howell at clintonhowell@mindspring.com if you have questions. He can recommend a good restorer, as well, if that is what you need.



Celebrate Palladio's 501st Birthday!
The American Friends of the Georgian Group
Tour of the Veneto
April 21—28, 2009



Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio designed some of the most beautiful palaces and villas ever to employ the classical style. His work was admired by Inigo Jones and later British architects who were inspired by his treatise, *The Four Books of Architecture*. The style of the Georgian era owes much to Palladio and it is appropriate that the American Friends of the Georgian Group visit the Veneto region to celebrate his 501st birthday.

Our tour will include examples of Palladio's finest work: the Villa Rotonda, the Palazzo Chiericati, the Teatro Olimpico, Villa Saraceno, and many others. We will enjoy private visits and refreshment

in several places, as well as the services of knowledgeable guides throughout our visit. Accommodations will be at the eighteenth-century Villa Michelangelo in the Berici hills near Vicenza. We plan a seven-night stay, from April 21 to April 28.

Details about this fabulous trip will be mailed later, but be sure to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS RIGHT AWAY!**

SAVE THE DATE!!!

American Friends of the Georgian Group

**ANNUAL MEETING AND
CHRISTMAS RECEPTION**

Monday, December 8, 2008

**Special guest Georgian Group
Secretary Robert Bargery**

