



# 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)

Summer 2010

Dear Friends,

The American Friends of the Georgian Group have traveled far and wide in the past few months. In March we visited Charleston and the Carolina Low Country. In May we took the second of our trips to see the classical origins of eighteenth-century architecture, this time to Rome. The third leg of this journey is described in this newsletter. In June, we enjoyed a day trip to the historic houses of the Quaker Hill neighborhood in Pawling, New York.

Within the city we visited Georgian treasures as well. In March we toured the classical George Baker House and were invited to the Russian Orthodox church next door, which is part of the original Baker family houses. In June we had an elegant luncheon at Gracie Mansion, where original eighteenth-century architecture and twentieth-century classical revival meet in satisfying harmony. Alexander Hamilton's Grange and how it moved was the subject of a lecture sponsored jointly by the AFGG and the **American-Scottish Society**.

Lectures by John Foreman, Wendell Garrett, and Amanda Vickery as well as tours of the Palladio exhibit at the Morgan Library and the objects conservation department at the Metropolitan Museum rounded out our program. Entertaining and informative, these events expanded our understanding of the Georgian period.

Coming up in September we will salute **Francis Morrone** at a cocktail reception at **the Arsenal, on the roof** assuming weather permits. In October we will explore their collection of **English paintings** at the **Metropolitan Museum**. We are pleased to join with the Royal Oak in presenting a lecture on **Chinoiserie in Britain, 1650-1820**, by **David Beevers**. If you are bit by the Chinoiserie bug, you can learn more when we visit **Gracie**, whose showroom we will tour in November. Once again this fall we will have an exclusive visit to the **International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Show**, where browsers and serious collectors can see treasures from the eighteenth century and other periods.

There is still time to sign up for our annual English trip, a **luxury tour of English Country Houses**, a very special opportunity to visit private houses in Shropshire. Our group will stay at **Weston Park**, where we very happily stayed a few years ago and look forward to visiting again.

Did you know that there are about 800 members of the **Young Georgians** in England? We hope to establish a Young Georgian group here and to have an event sometime early next year. If you or your friends are interested, please get in touch with us. The **Georgian Group** is encouraging AFGG members to visit their **blog** at <http://savinggeorgianbuildings.blogspot.com>. This is a good way to keep up with events in England during the year. Encourage your friends to join the AFGG; it is easy to do on line at [www.americangeorgians.org](http://www.americangeorgians.org).

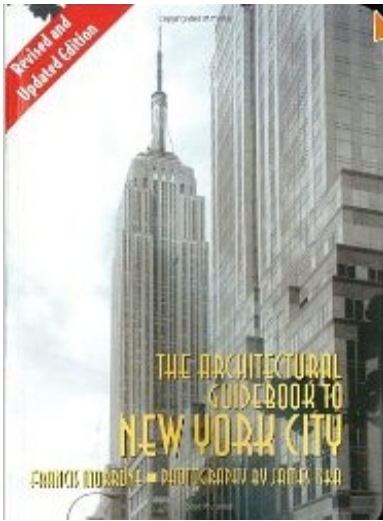
Our **annual meeting** will be held in early December. We will let you know the date and place when these have been confirmed.

Best wishes,

John Kinnear  
President



*Alexander Hamilton's Grange, lecture at Federal Hall  
from left: Jessica Williams, Stephen Spaulding (speaker),  
and Michael Miscione*



## Architects in the City: an Evening with Francis Morrone *cocktail reception*

**Guest of Honor, Francis Morrone**  
Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 6:00  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
Fifth Avenue and 64th Street

Please join us for a special cocktail reception for members and guests honoring Francis Morrone. Author, critic, historian, and lecturer, Francis Morrone has written widely on the buildings of New York and the people who built them. His books include *An Architectural Guidebook to Brooklyn*, and *An Architectural Guidebook to New York City*. His work has no doubt done much to encourage a love for classical and classical-revival buildings in the city he loves. Join us on the roof of the Arsenal (weather permitting) to express our appreciation for all he has done for historic preservation.

Please reserve on the enclosed form and return it to us by September 15.

*\$45 per person.*

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## English Paintings at the Metropolitan *exclusive guided tour*

Tuesday, October 5, 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*



Katharine Baetjer, curator of European paintings, will show us masterpieces from the Metropolitan's collection of English paintings. We will view the work of artists such as John Constable, Joshua Reynolds, and other eighteenth- and nineteenth-century masters. A highlight will be Reynolds's recently restored "The Honorable Henry Fane with Inigo Jones and Charles Blair," ca. 1761–1762. One of the first English pictures given to the Metropolitan, it is also one of the largest "conversation" pieces ever painted.

*Please reserve on the form enclosed by September 28.*

*\$45 per person.*

## **“Mandarin Only Is the Man of Taste”: Chinoiserie in Britain, 1650–1820**

### ***lecture and reception***

**David Beevers**

Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 6:00

The Grolier Club

47 East 60th Street

“On many a vase and jar, on many a screen and fan,” the images of Oriental life were translated to Western art and objects. Chinoiserie, was hugely popular in Britain in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The story of this fashion is a fascinating example of contact between England and several dissimilar cultures, including those of Japan, India, Persia, as well as China. David Beevers will discuss the English taste for exotic images with examples taken from country houses such as Claydon House and from the Brighton Pavilion. David Beevers, University of Cambridge, is the Keeper of the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and curated the exhibition, *Chinese Whispers: Chinoiserie in Britain 1650–1930*, in 2008.



The lecture will be followed by a reception.

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. Indicate your membership in the AFGG to receive the member discount.

*Space is limited; register early.*

*\$30 per person.*

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**Antiques Lovers' Dream**  
***private tour and refreshments***  
**International Fine Art & Antiques Dealers Show**  
Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 2:00  
The Park Avenue Armory  
Park Avenue and 67th Street

This show is one of the most prestigious exhibits of fine art and antiques in the country. Furniture, paintings, sculpture, textiles, silver, ceramics, glass, clocks, and many other objects will be on display and we will be given a very exclusive view. Among the distinguished exhibitors are Finch & Co., Ritter Antik, and Koopman Rare Art. Refreshments will be served at the exhibitors' lounge following the tour.

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

*\$45 per person.*



***VISIT TO CHARLESTON AND THE  
CAROLINA LOW COUNTRY,  
MARCH 18-21, 2010***



The AFGG trip to Charleston, led by Ralph Harvard, was a great success. The program included visits to a privately owned 1806 brick house on Church

Street with elaborate plasterwork, where the hosts served refreshments in their secret garden; a towering single house on Meeting Street with views of the city's many steeples; and one of the historic houses owned by Richard Jenrette, whose manager entertained the group with stories of hurricane Hugo and lessons on the use of oil-based paint on humid piazzas. Other highlights were the Miles Brewton house, built in the 1760s and still owned by the family, and the magnificent Palladian masterpiece, Drayton Hall, where the happy travelers enjoyed an indoor picnic of fried chicken and biscuits.

**AFGG VISITS QUAKER HILL, JUNE 12, 2010**

A convivial group of AFGG members visited Quaker Hill in Pawling, New York, on June 12. The area was settled in the early eighteenth century by Quakers from Rhode Island. Akindale farm was our first stop, where we had coffee in the office, a former chapel built at the turn of the century. We then toured the main house, a proper center hall Georgian with typical additions through the generations. The furnishings and art portrayed the proud history of the farm. The main barn was inspired by Monticello; the dome provides a 360-degree view of the farm and surrounding countryside. On the farm there is another perfectly symmetrical house with a grand Palladian window and Adamesque detailing.

Next we were guests at Governor Thomas Dewey's beautiful 1840s house, with views in all directions, which is now decorated with contemporary flair. The group was photographed beneath a massive, rare weeping beech tree behind the house.

Lunch was at the Quaker Hill Country Club, founded by Lowell Thomas. Our last stop was at one of the grand center hall Federal houses built in 1800 and enlarged in 1900. The interior tastefully blends Scandinavian and American styles.



**THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP IS ALSO SPONSORING THIS DELIGHTFUL EVENT AND ALL OUR MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**

**For additional information or to buy tickets, call the St. George's Society at 212/682-6100 or go to their web site <http://shop.stgeorgessociety.org>**



*You and your friends are cordially invited to*

**The British Societies of New York**

**ANNUAL  
SUMMER GARDEN PARTY**

**Wednesday 14 July 2010 at 6 pm**  
(Rain Date: Thursday 15 July)

**The Private Garden at  
120 East End Avenue, New York City**  
(Enter on East 85th Street)

**Jointly sponsored by:**

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF JAMAICA  
AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION  
BRITISH AMERICAN PROJECT  
BRITISH SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES CLUB  
DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE  
ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION OF NEW YORK  
NEW YORK CALEDONIAN CLUB  
THE PILGRIMS OF THE UNITED STATES  
ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY  
ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY OF NEW YORK  
ORDER OF ST. JOHN

**Reservations Required!**  
\$40 PER PERSON WITH  
OPEN BAR, HORS D'OEUVRES & MUSIC



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



*cocktails in Carolina low country*

***Architects in the City: an Evening with Francis Morrone***

cocktail reception, **Wednesday, September 22, 2010, 6:00**

The Arsenal, Central Park

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

\*Reserve by September 15

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

***English Paintings at the Metropolitan***

tour, **Tuesday, October 5, 3:00**

Metropolitan Museum of Art

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

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***"Mandarin Only Is the Man of Taste,": Chinoiserie in Britain 1650–1820***

lecture and reception, **Tuesday, October 26, 6:00**

The Grolier Club

Please reserve directly through the Royal Oak

***Antique Lovers' Dream***

**International Fine Art & Antiques Show**

exclusive tour, **Wednesday, October 27, 2:00**

The Park Avenue Armory, Park Avenue and 67th Street

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

\*Reserve by October 20

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

***A Continuing Passion: Oriental Objects in Georgian Settings***

showroom tour and reception, **Wednesday, November 17, 5:30**

Gracie

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

\*Reserve by November 12

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

**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](mailto:office@americangeorgians.org)*



**A Continuing Passion: Oriental Objects in Georgian Settings Then and Now**  
*showroom tour and reception*

**Gracie**

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 5:30

The Decoration & Design Building

979 Third Avenue, between 58th and 59th Streets, No. 1411



A fascination with the Orient was prevalent in the eighteenth century both here and in England, where wallpapers, screens, furniture, and porcelain from China and Japan were incorporated into the decoration of many houses. In October we will have heard the lecture on Chinoiserie by David Beevers; now we will have the opportunity to observe some of these objects at first hand when we visit the Gracie studio and showroom. The Gracie family has supplied Chinese hand-painted scenic wallpapers, custom lacquer furniture, antiques, and accessories to leading interior designers since 1898. We have been invited to visit their new showroom, where many treasures will be revealed.

Our tour will be followed by a reception

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

*\$45 per person.*

## *The Grand Tour Continues*

### **Paestum, Herculaneum, and Sicily**

**May 2011**



The American Friends of the Georgian Group are pleased to announce the third in our series of Grand Tours of the classical world. In May 2011 we will visit Paestum, Herculaneum, and Sicily, where we will see the Graeco-Roman antiquities that inspired the work of Robert Adam, among others.

Highlights of the trip will include Paestum, originally called Poseidonia, on the Tyrrhenian coast; Herculaneum, on the Gulf of Naples, where we will see the petrified remains of the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD; Palermo, Bagheria, Monreale, Segesta, Cefalu, Enna, Agrigento, Syracuse, and Taormina, all on the island of Sicily, which contain superb examples of classical architecture, such as the Roman villa of Piazza Amerina, Doric temples and Greek theaters, as

well as stunning works from Byzantine, Renaissance, Baroque, and Norman periods.

Our expert guide throughout the trip will be acclaimed architectural historian Richard Garnier, a frequent contributor to the *Georgian Group Journal*. Details, including dates and booking arrangements, will be sent to you as soon as they become available. We hope to see you all on this very exciting Grand Tour.