



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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

December 2013

Dear Friends,

It is time now "...when the lads and the lasses, for company join'd, in a croud round the embers are met..." to enjoy the warmth of the holidays and ring in the new year. As this traditional eighteenth-century Scottish verse has it, "...when all nature's disrob'd of her mantle of green..." we are fortunate to have so many delightful distractions to look forward to.

Recently the American Friends of the Georgian Group celebrated our annual meeting at the **George Baker House**, where we were entertained by Ralph Harvard, who described a fabulous folly he designed near Charleston. This fall we were treated to lectures by **Evan Thompson** and **William Strafford**; to a reception honoring **Prince Charles' Regeneration Trust**, at which J. W. Kaempfer, deputy chairman of the Trust, accepted the award; and a tour of the **Hamilton Grange**. Happy travelers returned from their wonderful stay at **Weston Park** in **Shropshire** looking very pleased with their country-house visits.



The 2014 season is already looking exciting. January is full of events: **Oliver Bradbury** will give a talk about **Tor Royal** on the 8th; we will visit the Bard Graduate Center on the 16th to see the **William Kent** show; and the **Winter Antiques Show** tour and lunch will be on the 24th. In February we will view the fascinating exhibit at the Grolier Club of **old pattern books**. We are also planning a visit to the new showroom at **Chesney's**, makers of fine chimney mantels and details, as well as a lecture by Weston park historian **Gareth Williams**. Looking ahead, the Georgian Group is doing a wonderful trip to Ireland in May and we will have a tour of private houses in **Millbrook** on June 14th, with lunch at a local private club.

Renewal notices were mailed in October and if you have not yet done so, please renew your membership right away. The work of the AFGG and the support we give to the Georgian Group in England to preserve and protect Georgian architecture depends above all on our enthusiastic members. Most of our events are offered at a reduced price to members, who are also eligible to take part in the annual overseas trips and other activities throughout the year.

We wish you all a jolly new year and hope to see everyone soon in the new year!

Best wishes,

John Kinnear
President



*Ralph's folly, above
eighteenth-century winter scene*

Tor Royal: the Palace That Never Was
lecture and reception

Oliver Bradbury

Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 6:00

Sotheby's Institute of Art

570 Lexington Avenue, 6th floor



Tor Royal, in Dartmoor, Devon, was an obscure royal retreat of Edward VIII's when he was Prince of Wales. In 1912 Sir Albert Richardson was commissioned to restore and alter what was a modest late-eighteenth-century farm house. An unexpected discovery in early 2013 among the 108 drawings for this project was a proposal for a virtual palace on the site, a kind of Carlton House revisited—a rather incongruous West Country retreat, considering the nearby prison and wild Dartmoor! Alas, the palace was never built. This talk will focus on these plans, which date from about 1911, and will be an opportunity to explore how actual fragments from the legendary Carlton House ended up in the first quarter of the early nineteenth-century Tor Royal house when the former was demolished in 1827. The talk is also a way of saying thank you to the American Friends of the Georgian Group for so kindly sponsoring Oliver Bradbury's forthcoming book, *Sir John Soane's Influence on Architecture, 1791–1980—A Continuing Legacy*.

This lecture is sponsored with the American Society of Architectural Historians. A reception follows the lecture.

\$45 per person for AFGG members, \$55 for non-members, \$20 for American Young Georgians



William Kent: Designing Georgian Britain
tour and reception

Thursday, January 16, 2014, 5:00

The Bard Graduate Center

18 West 86th Street

We will visit this extensive exhibit devoted to the life and career of William Kent. This is the first major exhibition of the work of one of the most influential designers in eighteenth-century Britain. Organized by the Bard Graduate Center and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the show covers all the important periods of Kent's career, from his early years on the Grand Tour in Italy to his design of such grand estates as Chiswick House, Wantsead House, and Houghton Hall, to his work for George II, to his landscape and garden designs. Kent's versatility and artistic inventiveness set the style of his age and asserted the status of the modern British artist.

This fascinating tour will be followed by a reception at a member's sublime apartment in the Beresford, 211 Central Park West, with spectacular views of Central Park.

\$95 for AFGG members, \$115 for non-members, \$55 for American Young Georgians



Winter Antiques Show
special preview tour and luncheon
 Friday, January 24, 2014, 11:00 a.m.
 Park Avenue Armory
 Park Avenue at 67th Street

This is the 60th anniversary of the Winter Antiques Show, the most prestigious antiques show in America. The best of the collections of over seventy exhibitors are on view. We are happy to offer once again a private tour of the show and luncheon in the beautiful Tiffany Room at the Park Avenue Armory. This year's show features the special exhibit from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts. Founded in 1799, the museum is one of the oldest in America. The antiques show will present art and objects from the eighteenth century as well as many other periods. This is always a popular event with our members.

\$120 per person

Selling the Dwelling: the Books That Built America's Houses, 1775–2000
special exhibit

Thursday, February 6, 2014, 3:00
 The Grolier Club
 47 East 60th Street

An extraordinary exhibition of over 200 rare books, periodicals, drawings, and printed ephemera showing the history of the American Dream of home ownership will be on display at the Grolier Club. The idea that everyone should have a home was marketed in the United States, first through eighteenth-century builder's guides, then by nineteenth-century pattern books, and finally by twentieth-century house plan catalogues. The exhibition tracks extensive and rapid changes to the literature of house building in America.

\$45 per person for AFGG members, \$55 for non-members, \$20 for American Young Georgians



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TOUR OF WEST WATERFORD AND EAST CORK

Sunday, May 11–Thursday May 15, 2014

The Georgian Group is in the spring with tours of some of the castles of West Waterford and **Lismore Castle**, inherited by the still occupied by the Keane family **Castletown Cox** (seen here), built the Archbishop of Kilkenny; **Kildangan** dating from 1765; **Curraghmore** medieval tower house remodeled the famous **Shell House** on the century funerary monument, **Clonmell** and **Swiss Cottage**, the latter designed by John Nash; **Waterford City**, with splendid cathedrals by John Roberts, the Bishops' Palace, and the Theatre Royal; **Cork**, noted for, among other beauties, St. Finbarr's Cathedral, designed by William Burgess; and finally, **Youghal**, a delightful town on the coast with a number of surviving Irish Georgian provincial buildings, including the Custom House and Town Hall of 1753, and the Clock Gate Tower of 1777.



planning a fabulous visit to Ireland the most beautiful country houses East Cork. On the program are dukes of Devonshire; **Cappoquin**, for whom it was built in 1779; to the design of Daviso Ducart for **Shannig**, also by Daviso Ducart, and **Clonmell Mausoleum**, a by James Wyatt in the 1780s, with grounds and the fine eighteenth-century **Cahir Castle and Church**

For further information or to reserve a place on the trip, please contact Michael Bidnell at the Georgian Group in London, Michael@georgiangroup.org.uk.



The Stately Homes of Millbrook

Saturday, June 14, 2014

Join us for a day trip to historic Millbrook, New York. We will visit four Georgian-style houses new to our group in this very lovely area of Dutchess County. In addition, we will have lunch at the exclusive Tamarack Club, with its gorgeous views of the surrounding rolling hills.

Space is limited for this exclusive tour, so be sure to make your reservations right away. We will leave the city by bus at 8:00 from Park Avenue and 72nd Street and plan to be back around 6:30.

\$195 for AFGG members; \$220 for non-members

To reserve your place, call us at 212/991-9191 or e-mail office@americangeorgians.org.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP
RESERVATION FORM, Winter 2014

Tor Royal: the Palace That Never Was

lecture and reception, **Wednesday, January 8, 2014, 6:00**

Sotheby's Institute of Art

570 Lexington Avenue, 6th floor

Please reserve _____ places at **\$45; \$55 non-members; \$20 AYG**

enclosed \$ _____

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Please make your check payable to **The American Friends of the Georgian Group** and mail it to us at
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contact us at 212/991-9191 or at office@americangeorgians.org

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Sketch for the Queen's Library

1756 N.K. (copy)

