



THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP

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

May 2012

Dear Friends,

Spring has brought an abundance of treats for the American Friends of the Georgian Group. We heard Judy Anderson's wonderful talk about the hand-painted wallpaper in the Jeremiah Lee Mansion. Copies of her book, *Glorious Splendor*, are still available, by the way. Give us a call if you are interested. Music lovers were thrilled by the concert of Georgian-era music presented in March together with the Gotham Early Music Scene, accompanied by John Kinnear's talk about the favorite palaces and private houses of the four Georges. Wendell Garrett charmed as always with his talk on Provincial Palladianism in April. We are looking forward to hearing all about the fabulous tour of the Adriatic, from which travelers are just now returning.

Coming up are some very special events you will want to know about. **June 5** is the date for **celebrating the Queen's Jubilee**. We will join with many of the British Societies in New York in commemorating this historic event. Your invitation is enclosed.

A hero to lovers of Georgian architecture, **Sir John Soane** was a rare genius who had a profound influence on many of America's foremost architects. We hope to see you at the screening on June 19 of a **marvelous documentary** that investigates Soane's work and that of his many well known admirers.

In July we will visit **Hyde Hall**, in Cooperstown, New York. One of the finest examples of romantic classicism in America, Hyde Hall is a

favorite destination for lovers of this architectural period. Our three-day trip offers many delightful events. Be sure to sign up soon.

Mark your calendars now for what is coming to be an annual event, our awards reception on the roof of the Arsenal. This year our reception will be on Wednesday, September 26, with a soon-to-be-announced honored guest.

Space is still available for our annual English trip as well. The great country houses of **Suffolk** will welcome you in October. A beautiful flyer about the trip is enclosed. We have also just received information about the trip to see the treasures of the Royal House of Savoy in Piedmont.



John Kinnear
President

Above, Sir John Soane; below, George Clarke, original owner of Hyde Hall



1952

THE BRITISH SOCIETIES IN NEW YORK
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR
COMPANY AT A
CELEBRATION OF

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012

Your invitation is enclosed



2012

Sir John Soane: An English Architect, An American Legacy
film presentation and reception

Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:00

Sotheby's Institute of Art

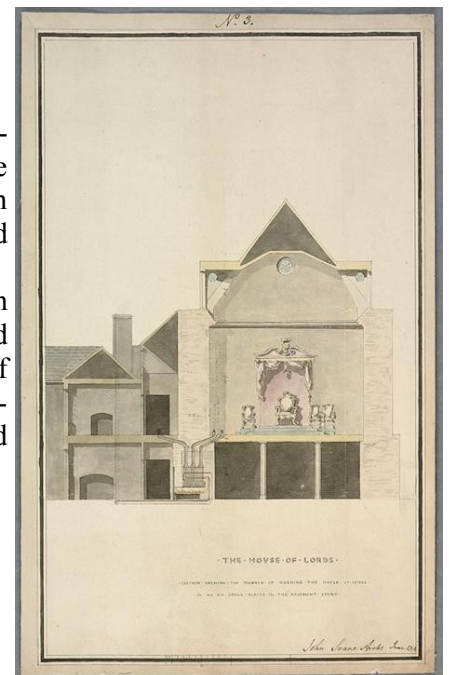
570 Lexington Avenue, 6th Floor

Join us to examine the legacy of Sir John Soane (1753–1837). We will see a documentary film made by Murray Grigor and Edgar B. Howard that investigates the influence of antiquity on Soane by following his Grand Tour footsteps through Rome and Sicily. The film also shows the ways in which his classical style helped guide American architects out of the strictures of Modernism.

Among the outstanding American architects who have admired and been influenced by Soane are Henry Cobb, Michael Graves, Philip Johnson, Richard Meier, Robert Stern, Denise Scott Brown, and Robert Venturi. Images of some of Soane's masterpieces as well as those of some of his American followers are included in the film, as are interviews with architectural historians Charles Jenks and Christopher Woodward.

A reception follows the film showing.

\$45 per person; \$20 for American Young Georgian members



HYDE HALL AND SHARON SPRINGS

HISTORIC TREASURES IN NEW YORK STATE

July 11–13, 2012

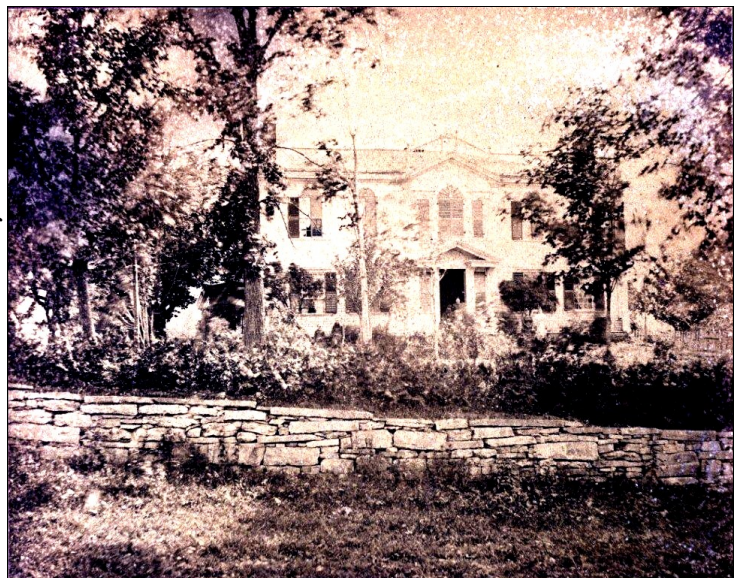


New York State is home to many architectural surprises, but a particular favorite of devotees of Georgian architecture is historic Hyde Hall, in Cooperstown, New York. Built by the wealthy George Clarke in the early nineteenth century, Hyde Hall represents one of the gems of classical architecture in America. The original plans were by Philip Hooker, a well known Albany architect, but as the family became wealthier, they enlarged the scale to include not only a large country house but beautiful parkland as well. The estate was named after the family's ancient seat in England.

Hyde Hall represents the highlight of our three-day visit to the Cooperstown-Sharon Springs-Cherry Valley neighborhood, where we will also visit other historic sites. We will tour the fascinating Thistle Hill Weavers, which for more than twenty years has been weaving accurate historic reproductions, working with surviving examples to re-create short-run custom fabrics, carpets, and trims. Beekman Mansion, an architectural star, is on our program. It was built for Judge William Beekman, a merchant turned important citizen, by Asher Benjamin and William Spreatts, around 1804. We have also been invited to

visit Adelphi Paper Hangings, the remarkable producers of historically accurate block-printed wallpapers. Owners Chris Ohrstrom and Steve Larson will show us their beautiful reproductions of wallpapers dating from the 1740s to the 1930s.

In addition to fascinating historical visits, we will enjoy delightful entertainment throughout our trip. On Wednesday, we are invited to Sharon Springs's Edgefield for cocktails, followed by dinner at the American Hotel nearby. On Thursday we will have a gala candlelight dinner at Hyde Hall, which will surely be the best part of the trip for most of us.



Candlelight dinner at Hyde Hall

Beekman Mansion

HYDE HALL AND SHARON SPRINGS

July 11–13, 2012

The price of the trip to Hyde Hall and the neighborhood nearby, July 11–13, 2012, is \$450.00 per person, which includes the program of visits, meals, and entrance fees. The price does not include transportation or accommodations. Rooms are being held at Edgefield B & B, 153 Washington Street, Sharon Springs, New York 13459, telephone 518/284-3339, and accommodation is also available at the American Hotel, 192 Main Street in Sharon Springs, telephone 518/284-2015, e-mail info@americanhotelnyc.com.

Reservations are due by June 15, 2012. If the trip becomes full, we will establish a waiting list. Full payment is due by June 15, after which no refunds can be made.

The first event on the program is the tour of Hyde Hall at 2:00 on Wednesday. You may plan to check in by noon at your hotel; the Black Cat Café in Sharon Springs is suggested for lunch but not included. Hyde Hall is at 267 Glimmerglass State Park Road, Cooperstown, New York. The rest of the program will be sent to you and will be posted on line at www.americangeorgians.org. The last event is the Adelphi Paper Hangings tour on Friday morning.

The Glimmerglass opera is not on our program, but members may want to stay over for their production of “Aida” on Friday evening and “The Music Man” on Saturday evening.

REGISTRATION

Please reserve _____ place(s) for the July 11–13, 2012, trip to Sharon Springs at \$450.00 per person.

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

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

Name

Address

Telephone E-mail

Credit Card payment information

American Express, Master Card, or Visa

Name as it appears on the card (please print):

Type of card and account number:

Expiration date: _____

Card code number: _____

Your signature: _____

Total amount: \$ _____

Please note there is 3% processing fee for Visa and Master Card payments; 4% for American Express



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE GEORGIAN GROUP
RESERVATION FORM, May 2012

Sir John Soane: An English Architect, An American Legacy

film and reception, **Tuesday, June 19, 2012, 6:00**

Sotheby's Institute of Art, 570 Lexington Avenue, 6th Floor

Please reserve _____ places at \$45 per person ; \$20 for AYG

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 _____

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

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD

American Express, Master Card, or Visa

Name as it appears on the card (please print): _____

Type of card and account number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Card code number: _____

Your signature: _____

Total amount: \$ _____



Bird's-eye-view of the Bank of England (Sir John Soane's Museum)

The Royal House of Savoy in Piedmont

September 30–October 7, 2012

Piedmont, surrounded on three sides by the Alps, is a fascinating mix of mediæval and Baroque. Military forts loom over Alpine passes, and castles and towers punctuate almost every hilltop. At its political center is Turin, a lesser-known architectural gem with superb Baroque architecture and more than a dozen royal palaces, the legacy of the House of Savoy's long struggle to put its capital in the same league as Paris and Vienna.

Emanuele Filiberto, the “iron-headed” Duke of Savoy (1553–1580) rebuilt the city on a grid as a showcase for his absolutist state, engaging Ascanio Vittozzi, Carlo di Castellamonte, and his son Amedeo as architects, but it was only in the eighteenth century that the Baroque architect Filippo Juvarra was finally able to turn Turin into a royal capital under the patronage of Vittorio Amadeo.

In this exclusive seven-night tour we shall visit private palaces and castles in the company of the owners and have the opportunity to see, at first hand, much of the region's most important art and architecture. While in Turin itself, we will visit the Palazzo Reale, with its stunning Scala delle Forbici, and the Palazzo Madama. The Contessa Antonella San Martino has invited us to lunch and a tour at the Castello di San Martino Alfieri. After lunch we visit the early eighteenth-century home of Camillo Cavour, the Risorgimento leader. We will also tour the Castello Giarole with Conte Giuseppe Sannazzaro Natta di Giarole, whose family has owned the castle since the thirteenth century; have lunch with the Marchese and Marchesa D'Oria at Castello Montaldeo; enjoy a wine tasting with the owner of the Tenuta La Marchesa; tour the Racconigi Palace with Dott. Renato Balestrino; take a carriage ride around Le Nôtre's park; have lunch with Contessa Alessandra di Castelbarco at the Rococo Villa I Berroni; and spend the afternoon at the Castello di Monticello d'Alba with its owner, the Marchesa Elisa Roero di Monticello.

We will travel north to La Reggia di Venaria Reale, begun in 1660 by Amadeo di Castellamonte for Duke Carlo Emanuele II as his answer to Versailles. Conte Tomaso Ricardi di Netro will guide us through the lavish stuccoed and frescoed interiors before giving us lunch and a tour of his own Castello di Castellamonte. That afternoon we will visit the Basilica di Superga. Our final day will include the eleventh-century Castello di Masino, overlooking the Canavese plain, followed by a private lunch and tour of the Castello di Strambino with the owners, the Marchese and Marchesa di Cordon Sallier de la Tour. In the afternoon, we see the Castello Ducale d'Agliè, converted to a magnificent Baroque palace by the architect Amadeo di Castellamonte in 1642 for Count Filippo San Martino di Agliè. Conte Tomaso Ricardi di Netro will again be our host for our farewell dinner at the famous Whist Club in Turin.

This amazing tour has been organized by the Georgian Group especially for its members and for AFGG members as well. Tour advisers are the Marchesa Ilaria D'Oria and the Conte Tomaso Ricardi di Netro. The tour includes seven nights' accommodation, breakfast, six lunches and two dinners, local transportation, and sightseeing. Further details, including prices in dollars and booking information, are available from the Georgian Group. E-mail Michael Bidnell at michael@georgiangroup.org.uk. You can also call the American Friends of the Georgian Group: 212/991-9191 or e-mail us at office@americangeorgians.org. The provisional itinerary is at our web site: www.americangeorgians.org.



*above right: Palazzo Madama; above left: Castello di Masino
right: Castello Ducale d'Agliè*