



Friends

of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter and Events Programme
Spring 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR



I am pleased to announce that Luke Syson will be the next Director and Marlay Curator of The Fitzwilliam Museum. Luke impressed the Board of Electors with his vision for and deep knowledge of the Fitzwilliam, and brings extensive skills and experience gained from working in senior leadership and curatorial positions at some of the world's most prestigious museums. He will be joining us from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where he has been the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Chairman, European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, since 2012. Prior to taking up his role at the Metropolitan Museum, he was Head of Research and Curator of Italian Painting at the National Gallery, after being Senior Curator for the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries at the V&A and starting his career as Curator of Coins and Medals at the British Museum.

This search process has been a positive and collaborative effort involving Liz Amos Associates, a leading executive search firm that specialises in the arts and culture sector, the highest levels of the university and a strong and representative Board of Electors. We are very pleased to be welcoming Luke to The Fitzwilliam Museum and the University of Cambridge at the beginning of February

Cover: Dante Gabriel Rossetti, *Ricorditi di me che son la Pia*, 1868 (detail)

next year. I will remain in place as Acting Director until he starts, and will then move back into the role of Chair of The Fitzwilliam Museum Syndicate.

In the meantime, you can help us with something new!

We are publishing a pilot digital publication for the exhibition *Amateur Etcher of Distinction: Prints by Francis Seymour Haden*, and need your help. Go to www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk and click on the link on the right, 'Digital publications'. This link will take you to the web page where you can both download the publication and give us your feedback after reading.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy the upcoming Friends programme of events and opportunities to go behind the scenes featured in this Newsletter, all made possible by our museum staff and wonderful volunteers.

Professor Geoff Ward PhD FRSA
Acting Director, The Fitzwilliam Museum



Director-elect Luke Syson

BOOKING FOR ALL FRIENDS EVENTS OPENS ON FRIDAY 21 DECEMBER

Tickets for all Friends events are available through Cambridge Live Tickets via:
www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/friends and follow the links to 'Friends Events'.

Please use booking code "FRIENDSI909"

By Phone: 01223 357 851 Mon-Sat 10.00-18.00

In Person: At the Cambridge Corn Exchange Mon-Fri 12.00-18.00, Sat 10.00-18.00



Pocket beaker, Spanish, 17th or 18th century

Friends Study Morning *Collecting and Giving: Highlights from the Sir Ivor and Lady Batchelor Bequest with the curators of the exhibition*

Tuesday 29 January • 10.15 – 13.00

Sir Ivor was a notable collector of paintings, drawings, prints, ceramics, glass and bronzes who maintained a close relationship with the Fitzwilliam, gifted several hundred works during his lifetime. He first made contact with the Museum in 1990 and supported it over the following 15 years.

On his death, much of the collection came to The Fitzwilliam Museum on long-term loan and now forms the basis of a substantial bequest to the Applied Arts and Paintings, Drawings and Prints departments. Sir Ivor specified that his collection should be bequeathed through Art Fund (or National Art Collections Fund as it appears in the will), and that the Fitzwilliam stage an exhibition of a selection of his collection 'as soon as is convenient' after receiving the bequest, which also includes funding to support a publication. The exhibition will illustrate the richness and diversity of the Batchelor Bequest and highlight the Fitzwilliam as a 'collection of collections' defined by connoisseurship.

The study morning will be led by Hettie Ward, Assistant Keeper, Paintings Drawings and Prints, and Dr Julia Poole, Honorary Keeper of European Ceramics.

Places: 25 • Friends only

Cost: £20 includes coffee and cake

Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Seminar Room (35) at 10.15



Edward III gold noble of the 1350s from the Chesterton Lane Corner hoard

Friends Curatorial Morning

Money, Art and War: Treasures of the Department of Coins and Medals with Martin Allen and Adrian Popescu

Tuesday 19 February
10.15 – 13.00

The Fitzwilliam Museum has one of the greatest collections of coins and medals in the world, and it is a leading centre of research in the subject. We have superb collections of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and medieval coins, and we are also actively engaged in acquiring modern coins, medals and banknotes.

The ancient coins include many outstanding examples of ancient Greek art, and Roman coins of great historical importance. The collection of medieval European coins is the best in the world overall, largely due to the great generosity of the late Professor Philip Grierson in donating about 20,000 coins, but with many other significant collections and finds, including a hoard of nearly 2,000 medieval coins from Chesterton Lane Corner. There are many important art medals from the Renaissance and more recent times, and a superb collection of military medals donated by the family of the late Lester Watson.

The morning will be led by Dr Martin Allen, Senior Assistant Keeper Coins and Medals, and Dr Adrian Popescu, the Keeper of Coins and Medals. It will include a behind-the-scenes visit to the Department of Coins and Medals, and an opportunity to see and handle some of the department's most interesting objects.

Places: 25 • Friends only

Cost: £20 includes coffee and cake

Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Seminar Room (35) at 10.15



Friends Study Afternoon

Whistler & Nature: A presentation and exhibition tour with the curator and the exhibition book co-author.

Tuesday 12 March • 14.15 – 16.30

Drawing together more than 100 works from the collections of the Hunterian Art Gallery, The Fitzwilliam Museum, the V&A and the Ashmolean Museum, *Whistler & Nature* (8 January – 17 March) examines 19th-century gradations of the productive versus the 'wild' landscape, and reviews the work of James McNeill Whistler (1834 – 1903) – a modernising, innovative artist of his time.

Whistler came from a family of soldiers and engineers. Drawing and map-making were important components of the military training that Whistler acquired as an officer cadet at West Point Academy from 1851 to 1854, where he attempted to fulfil his father's desire to make engineering or architecture his profession.

The works in this exhibition explore shifts between the natural and man-made worlds – rivers and wharves; gardens and courtyards – and between the ideal and the naturalistic. This vision is underpinned by Whistler's kinship with the makers of railways, bridges and ships, cornerstones of Victorian wealth and trade. The works in this exhibition were forged at a time when land was the predominant source of wealth, and also the scene of suburban life and leisure.

The Study Afternoon will be led by the exhibition curator Dr Patricia de Montfort, Lecturer in History of Art/Curator in Whistler Studies (History of Art), University of Glasgow, and the exhibition book co-author, Professor Clare A.P. Willsdon, History of Western Art, School of Culture and Creative Arts, University of Glasgow.

Exhibition developed by Compton Verney, in partnership with The Hunterian, University of Glasgow.

Places: 40 • Guests welcome

Cost: £20 includes tea and cake

Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Seminar Room (35) at 14.15



Friends Day Trip

Guided Tour of Ely Cathedral including a visit to the Stained Glass Museum and a guided historical walk of Ely

Wednesday 20 March • 9.30 – 17.00

Ely Cathedral, with its unique 14th-century octagonal lantern tower, is counted among the marvels of the medieval world. Much of the cathedral is over nine hundred years old and it offers a rich architectural history, including the sumptuous 13th-century Quire and the beautiful 14th-century Lady Chapel.

The Fitzwilliam Museum and Ely Cathedral share a sad event in history. George Basevi, the original architect of The Fitzwilliam Museum did not see his vision for the building completed. Tragically, while inspecting repairs at Ely Cathedral in 1845, he accidentally fell through the floor of the West Tower and died.

The Stained Glass Museum offers a unique insight into the fascinating history of stained glass, an art-form that has been practised in Britain for at least thirteen hundred years. The permanent gallery displays over 125 stained glass panels representing eight hundred years of the history of this ancient art, from the thirteenth century to the present day. All the stained glass panels in the gallery are displayed at eye-level, enabling visitors to have a rare close encounter with the art of stained glass.

After lunch, we will enjoy a guided historical walking tour of Ely, before returning to the Cathedral for refreshments and our return journey to Cambridge at approximately 16.30.

9.30	Cambridge – Milton P&R – coach collection	12.00	Visit to the Stained Glass Museum
10.00	Arrive (approx.) in Ely	12.45	Lunch / free time
10.15	Refreshments at the Refectory	14.00	Guided City of Ely historical walk
10.45	Guided tour of Ely Cathedral	15.30	Tea in the Almonry
		16.30	Depart from Ely

Places: 40 • Guests welcome

Cost: £45 includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch by own arrangement or bring your own. If you would like to add the option of a Tower Tour to your visit, this would be an additional cost of £9.50 per person. Please note that a reasonable level of fitness is required.

Venue: Ely Cathedral and the Stained Glass Museum

Organiser: Samantha Massey



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Friends Conservation Morning

Fans Unfolded: Conserving the Lennox-Boyd collection with the Fitzwilliam Museum conservators

Thursday 25 April • 10.15–13.00

Showcasing rare and exquisitely decorated fans from the newly acquired collection of the Hon. Christopher Lennox-Boyd, this display reveals the techniques behind the making, investigation and conservation of fans.

The collection of over 600 objects ranges in date from the 18th to the 20th century and in type from bejewelled and hand-painted court and wedding fans, to printed mass-produced advertising fans, aide-memoire fans, mourning fans and children's fans. A conservation project generously funded by the Marlay Group has allowed us to display a selection of these fragile but extraordinary objects for the first time.

The morning will begin with a presentation by Dr Victoria Avery, Keeper of Applied Arts. Friends will be invited to join our conservators in the exhibition in the Sasakawa Fan Gallery, and will be led behind the scenes to the conservation studios for practical demonstrations of conservation techniques.

Places: 25 • Friends only

Cost: £20 includes coffee and cake

Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Seminar Room (35) at 10.15



History of Art Graduate Student Talks

Tuesday 26 February
11.30 – 13.00

Graduate students from the History of Art Department are keen to hone their presentation skills before an interested audience. Come along to hear all about their research and interests.

Alice Blow

The Discovery of Achilles among the daughters of Lykomedes: An oil sketch by Peter Paul Rubens

Places 20 • Friends only

Cost: Free, but booking essential

Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Friends Room at 11.30 for coffee and cake. Talk begins at 12.00.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sue and Ian Purdy Lecture 2019

We are delighted to announce that the speaker for this annual lecture will be our new Director, Luke Syson – the date is yet to be set, but will feature in the Friends Summer Newsletter

Volunteer Opportunities

We have a number of volunteer roles available to Friends, roles that enable us to enhance our Friends programme for our members.

- Newsletter Mailing - 2 -3 hours, 3 times per year in April, August and December. Multiple roles are available.
- Day trip organisers and Event co-hosts – Organising and delivering 3 day trips per year. Up to 2 roles available.

Please find more detailed role descriptions and expression of interest forms at www.museums.cam.ac.uk/get-involved or you may contact: opendoor@hermes.cam.ac.uk or call Niki Hughes on 01223 332 907.

The
Fitzwilliam
Museum
CAMBRIDGE

Data protection

We are a department of the University of Cambridge, please read our full data protection statement at: alumni.cam.ac.uk/data-protection

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