

# BURLINGTON HOUSE BULLETIN

## COPPERPLATES PROJECT

This year we have had the pleasure of welcoming student Leonardo Pineiro, from the University of Sussex Art History and Museum Curating MA course. The student placement scheme allows MA students to put their knowledge into practice and to gain experience of Collections Management procedures and standards, as well as the practical aspects of curatorship and collections care.

The placement has been of great benefit to the Society, with Leo working to audit, clean, photograph, catalogue and re-store the Society's William Fowler copperplate collection. The Society sought to use

engraving and printing as a means of disseminating information about the material culture of the British Isles, so these fascinating copperplates form an integral part of the Society's history.

The conservation cleaning has removed tarnish and dust, with waxing protecting the copperplates from tarnishing further; the re-packing will protect the copperplates from physical damage and adverse environmental conditions in storage; and the audit, cataloguing and record photography will allow awareness of, and access to, the prints and plates for researchers. Leo will be rounding off

the project by curating a library display at Burlington House to showcase objects from this collection and to share his research. Our thanks to Leo for all his hard work!



## CHARLES MARSH PORTRAIT

Conservation work on the Society's portrait of **Charles Marsh FSA** has now begun. The life-size portrait – traditionally attributed to Lemuel Francis Abbott – was donated to the Society in 2017 and pictures Marsh with the famous Barberini Vase on which he presented a paper to the Society, - later printed in *Archaeologia*.

The portrait has now been removed from its frame, its painted surface cleaned, and the old and discoloured surface wax removed. Works to re-line the canvas will begin shortly, with a new stretcher being fitted to provide proper support and to stabilise the painted surface. Lining the portrait will allow some small tears in the canvas to be repaired and will provide protection from environmental changes while on display. Work to conserve and restore the surface decoration and

strengthen the frame will begin shortly, with the restored portrait being hung in the Society's apartments on return to Burlington House in the autumn.

Our paintings conservator Amanda Paulley recently hosted a fantastic studio visit for donor Sheila Lockhart and **Professor Maurice Howard Hon VPSA** during which they were able to see work in progress and discuss painting composition, materials and techniques.

Our thanks goes to the following Fellows for making this conservation work possible: Patricia Andrew, Mary Berg, David Bird, Richard Blurton, Iain Gordon Brown, Evan Chapman, Alexandra Croom, Eric Fernie, Jill Franklin, Lady Freeman, Jonathan Harris, Edward Harris, Mark Hassall, Maurice Howard, Harry Johnstone,

Frank Kelsall, Stephen Lloyd, Sandy Nairne, David Sherlock and Susan Sloman. Our thanks to Shelia Lockhart and also for the donations made in memory of **Walter Cockle FSA**.



Charles Marsh FSA

## WAX PORTRAITS

We are looking to conserve eight of our historic wax relief portraits, with 7 of the portraits produced by Richard Cockle Lucas (1800 – 1883), a successful sculptor and photographer well known for his works in wax and ivory. Six of the portraits depict Fellows, whilst the seventh (by Lucas) is of a Fellow of the Royal Society. The eighth wax relief portrait is of Sir John Evans, President of the Society of Antiquaries from 1885 – 1892.

The proposed conservation treatment will see the portraits removed from their frames for cleaning; also, the repair of structural damage and restoration of the frames; re-sealing of the frames; and

the addition of proper backing board to the frames for support and strength, and to create an effective barrier to environmental changes. Initially, the relief portraits will be displayed in the foyer as a temporary exhibition introducing and exploring the interesting lives and careers of those depicted, together with information on the conservation project and treatment. After this they will be permanently displayed on the first-floor landing by the Library for all to view, alongside the portraits of our past presidents.

We are delighted to have received a grant of £4,000 from the Association for

Independent Museums (funded by The Pilgrim's Trust). We now need to raise £3,000 in match funding to meet the £7,000 conservation costs.

If you would like to help, please send a cheque made payable to The Society of Antiquaries of London. Alternatively, or contact Dominic Wallis, Head of Development on 0207 479 7092 or [dwallis@sal.org.uk](mailto:dwallis@sal.org.uk)



John Holmes FSA

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS & NOTICES

## STAFF CHANGES AT BURLINGTON HOUSE



**Heather Rowland**, Head of Library and Collections, has decided to seek a quieter life and move out of London. Her last day in the Library will be on 23 August.

Heather has been at the Society for 11 ½ years, during which time she has given Fellows, Officers of the Society and the General Secretary unswerving support and advice through difficult times at Burlington House and Kelmscott Manor.

Heather has made a wonderful contribution to the Society, bringing the Library and Collections well and truly into the 21st century- a process that has been far from easy. Her various initiatives (such as Postgraduate Open Day) have gone on to become mainstays of what the Society does. In particular, Heather's expertise with collections has meant that we have been able to pioneer the concept of summer exhibitions at Burlington House, to widespread acclaim from the public and Fellows alike.

Many Fellows will find it hard to visit the Library and not see Heather, and it will take some time to adjust to her not being around. Heather will be greatly missed by everyone!.

There have been several other key staff changes at Burlington House in recent months.

**Magda Kowalczyk** left her post as Serials and E-Resources Librarian in April to take up the post of Acquisitions, Metadata and Scholarly Communications Manager at Edinburgh Napier University. In May **Alice Dowhyj** left her post as User Services Librarian to take up the post of Assistant Academic Support Librarian at the London College of Fashion. Magda and Alice both made numerous enhancements to our services and were very enthusiastic and active in promoting the Library. We all wish them well in their new roles.

**Becky Loughead** has joined the Library and Collections team as Serials and E-Resources Librarian. Becky, who joins us from Lambeth Palace Library, has a first degree in Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic Studies and an MA in Library and Information Studies.

**Barbara Canepa** has joined us as User Services Librarian. Barbara previously worked in the library of the Dept of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum. She has a first degree and MA in History of Art and History and PGDip in Information and Library Studies.

Becky and Barbara bring with them a wealth of experience of working in historical and specialist libraries.

**Rebecca Tomlin** left her post as Governance Officer in June. Rebecca has been a great asset to the team at Burlington House and has helped to streamline our grants process. We all wish Rebecca the best in her new role as Assistant Clerk at the Worshipful Company of Innholders.

**Linda Grant** joins us as Governance and Administrative Officer. Linda has a PhD in Renaissance receptions of classical Latin love poetry, has taught at a number of University of London colleges, and also worked as a senior research administrator at Queen Mary University of London.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Becky, Barbara and Linda to the Society.



L-R: **Peter Cormack MBE, FSA** and **Martin Levy FSA** recently received the Society Medal in recognition of their services to the Society and Kelmscott Manor.

## LEGACY GIVING IS CENTRAL TO OUR LONG-TERM SECURITY.

Making a legacy is straightforward and tax efficient, and it doesn't cost you anything in your lifetime.

A Legacy Gift to the Society (Charity No. 207237) is exempt from Inheritance Tax in the UK and the government provides a further incentive when you leave 10% or more of your net estate to charity.

By remembering the Society in your Will any contribution you make, no matter how small, will bring lasting benefits to our activities.

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to the Society, please contact Dominic Wallis, Head of Development on 0207 479 7092 or [dwallis@sal.org.uk](mailto:dwallis@sal.org.uk)

## SOCIETY CLOSINGS

The Society's apartments (including the Library and Fellows' Room) will close from Monday 29 July to Monday 2 September.

# SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON FELLOWSHIP NEWS

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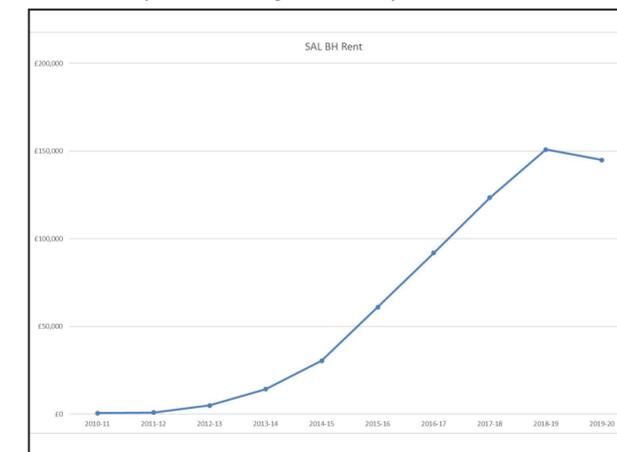
## BURLINGTON HOUSE

In unison with the other four Courtyard Societies, constructive but confidential negotiations continue with our landlord, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, about our future tenure at Burlington House.

We occupied our apartments rent-free from the 1870s until 2005, when a case was brought against us by the then government to settle our legal status. Following mediation, each society was granted a lease for 10 years, renewable seven times. That was on the mutual understanding that the formula for calculating the rent would result in its slowly rising to market rates over 80 years. The government comprehensively repaired the exterior, by then in a poor state, and we and the other Societies began to invest in the interiors. Our Fellow Bernard Nurse recorded the events in, 'The Burlington House Case, 2004–5', *Antiq J* 86 (2006), 390–401, and his concluding words that 'the basis for valuation and rent ... could become contentious in the long term' have been borne out rather sooner than he perhaps imagined.



SAL apartments in Burlington House: Rent paid, 2010-11 to 2019-20



As the graph shows, after 2011–12 the rent rose steeply, primarily because the market value of property in this prime area of central London grew more rapidly than anyone anticipated, with the influx of foreign investment a key driver. An arbitration concluded in 2016 clarified the interpretation of the basis of calculating the rent contained in the leases, although with no advantage to the Courtyard Societies. It is a 'circular, self-sustaining' formula, highly geared, although it is doubtful that anyone realised that in 2005. The arbitration also established that the Courtyard Societies had no right to dispute the rent assessments at each review, unless these were 'wholly unrealistic negligent exercises of judgement.' A hiatus followed the arbitration, and only in April this year was the second 10-year lease completed, and the rent demands for the years since the arbitration issued. The completion of the 2015–24 lease by the Society protects our legal status under the 2005 lease, to occupy at a rent which, however large £144,920 per annum may appear to us, is still only a fraction of current market rents in this location. We are hopeful of a resolution of the issue of our tenure this year. Until it is resolved our long-term aspirations to remain at, and invest in, Burlington House, to make it better fit the needs of the 21st century, must remain on hold.

Paul Drury, President



