

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums

Newsletter **SPRING 2014**©



© CIMS on behalf of IBC

we look forward

Our cover: George James Rowe
Woodbridge Quay at Nightc.1830-1840
Water colour & gouache, detail

FoIM

to promote the past

The Friends of the Ipswich Museums Newsletter

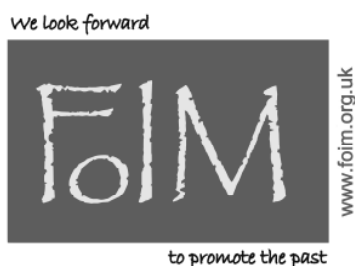
is published three times a year and distributed free to all members. The FOIM was set up in 1934 to support the work and development of the Ipswich Museums: Ipswich Museum in the High Street, Christchurch Mansion and the Ipswich Art School Gallery. Since April 2007 the Ipswich Museums have been managed as part of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service.

Friends continue to provide financial support to the Ipswich Museums as well as acting as volunteers. The Friends run outings, talks and other events for their members.

The Friends provide guided tours of the Mansion and Museum, including free *Peeps into the Past* at the Mansion throughout most of the year. Tours for groups can be booked by contacting the Mansion (01473 433554).

FOIM is a member of the British Association of Friends of Museums and the Ipswich Arts Association.

Contributions to the Summer 2014 Newsletter should be sent to the editor by 1 June 2014.



Contents

Editor's Notes -----	3
Legacies -----	3
Chairman's Letter -----	4
Bill Seaman's Column -----	6
Friends Diary-----	8
Friends AGM-----	9
Friends News -----	9
Houghton Appreciation-----	11
George Rowe -----	12
Conservation Corner -----	14
Margaret Tempest-----	16
David Mawson-----	18
Moses Leathes -----	19
A Visit to the British Museum---	20
Corporate Members -----	22
The Committee -----	23
Membership Information-----	23

Advertisements: 6, 11, 17, 18, 22

Our advertisements are all from Corporate members.

Please support them.

Have you visited our website:
www.foim.org.uk

We use our website to advertise events notified too late to be included in the Newsletter



FOIM is a subscribing member of the Ipswich Arts Association, please visit their website www.ipswich-arts.org.uk for further

Editor's Notes

As usual we enclose the papers for the annual general meeting with this Newsletter. The AGM will be on 8 April in the Wolsey Gallery. After the business meeting Jayne Austin, development manager for Ipswich will tell us about plans for the Ipswich Museum/Ipswich Art School Site and Philip Wise will talk about recent acquisitions.

Forthcoming events include a Seminar in the Wolsey Gallery on Sunday 11 May about George Rowe. This will be given by Chloe Bennett, who was Arts Curator at Ipswich from 1978 to 1992.

Chloe's book on George Rowe is about to be published, and will be available on May 11 at a special discount price for Friends. Meanwhile she has written an article for this newsletter.

I was also offered several articles by readers for this edition. Prompted by the recent opening of the Once Upon a Time Exhibition at the Art School, Ann

Parry has written to tell us about her meeting with Margaret Tempest, while Adrian Parry provided a second article on the Leathes Picture Collection. Brian West, a Mansion Guide, tells us how much he enjoyed his trip to Houghton Hall.

We have two articles from behind the scenes, with news from Bob Entwistle's conservation lab and an account of a visit to the British Museum by two Documentation trainees.

Sheila Brooks and I have continued to work in the Museum Garden (between the main Museum Entrance and the Ipswich Art School). Since the last newsletter we have cleared away about 10 sacks of ivy and bamboo and planted some bulbs. The winter flowering cherry was out for at least six weeks and we are now looking forward to the bulbs and the two osmanthus shrubs to come into flower.

Mary Halliwell
Editor

Legacies

If you would like to remember FOIM in your Will you can be assured that any gift we receive will be used to enhance or conserve the collections of the Ipswich Museums. If you are considering a legacy, please speak to your solicitor. Our registered charity number is: 275527.

Chairman's Letter

The Events sub-committee have been working hard to produce an interesting and varied programme and we have been collaborating with Mel Hollis, the CIMS Learning and Engagement Officer, to try and co-ordinate our events. Events organized by the museum service have largely been publicised through the website but a paper edition of CIMS events will soon be available again and any chargeable activities for adults organized by CIMS will now be subject to a discount for Friends.



Mansion Christmas Event

The family Christmas event organized by CIMS in the Mansion on 8 December "A Childhood Christmas" was a very happy and successful day with nearly 1,000 people attending. The Friends paid for a real Christmas tree to stand in the Great Hall (*see picture above*) which looked splendid and attracted a lot of compliments. Father Christmas held audience and distributed gifts from his temporary grotto in the Butler's Pantry, peg dolls were being made in the Wolsey Gallery and toys and games from the collection not normally on show were brought out for the occasion. There was even a magic lantern show

upstairs.

Volunteers were invited to help, so Joan Munns and I took turns to "meet and greet" and I had a very enjoyable time as "Santa's Little Helper."

FOIM Christmas Party

Our own FOIM Christmas Party was held in the Mansion on 4 December with around 60 Friends attending (see picture on page 10). It was a delightful evening and we were entertained by Village Voices, led by conductor Paul Laughlin. Paul composed a special Christchurch wassail, sung to a traditional tune, which featured such classic lines as

"Here's to kind Mister Cobbold, who saved the Mansion from ruin

He donated the house and went back to his brewin'

The Town bought the park and made it much neater

By adding the lower and upper arboreta"

There were 12 verses in a similar vein – wassailing the committee, volunteers, staff and just about anyone and everyone else. Bear in mind that each wassail would have once involved drinking a toast every time. Luckily, our choir remained sober!

The Mayor's Party

The following week, the Mayor of Ipswich brought a party of around 40 people for a tour of the Mansion. The Town Sergeant organized mulled wine and mince pies afterwards making it a very festive occasion.

Anna Airey Study Session

The Study Session on Anna Airey led by Paul Bruce was very well received. We hope to do a similar study on the very popular artist, Leonard Squirrell, in the future. Look out for details in the next newsletter.



The Current Art School Exhibition

FoIM have helped to fund the “**Once Upon a Time...**” exhibition, and we are particularly pleased to see items from our own collections on display. Do go along and see this charming display of children’s illustrators, all of whom have a connection to Suffolk.

Forthcoming Events

Make sure you put Wed 25 June in your diary for our **Mid-summer dinner** to be held in the Lakeside suite in the newly refurbished Seckford Hall. This is a beautiful setting especially on a summer evening, and we have arranged for popular Suffolk personality, Charlie Haylock, to give an after-dinner talk on the origins and peculiarities of the Suffolk dialect. This should be a fun evening and very good value at £28.50 for a two course dinner with coffee so please come along if you can. (*Booking form with this newsletter.*)

The last of our winter lunchtime talks will be held on 26 March with Michael

Staff giving an account of living in Thorpeness, the holiday town with the famous mere.

I hope to see many of our members at the **AGM**, to be held at the Mansion on Tues 8 April. After a short agenda, we will be given an update on the proposed Museum redevelopment and a talk by Philip Wise on items from the Anglo-Saxon Rendlesham finds which have been bought for the Ipswich collection with help from the Friends.

On Sunday 11 May, we are lucky to have an illustrated talk in the Mansion by Chloe Veale (née Bennett) about Suffolk artist George James Rowe (1804 – 1883). He was a contemporary and friend of Thomas Churchyard but much less well-known. Chloe was at one time the art curator for our museums and has written a book about Rowe. The talk will coincide with a display of Rowe’s work in the Mansion and follow on from two exhibitions being held in Woodbridge and London (see page 12).

Following the success of the Woodbridge town walks last year, we have arranged an historic walk around Ipswich, led by Robert Burlinson, to take place on Wed 24 Sept followed by afternoon tea. However well you think you know Ipswich, at least once you’ll say, “I never knew that!” More details in our next newsletter.

A Volunteering Opportunity

As you will have seen in our previous newsletters and the press a few months ago, **Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows** painted by Constable, was purchased through the collaboration of four museums, including the Tate and Ipswich Museum. We will have the painting in Ipswich in 2015 and there are lots of events around this being

planned by CIMS. Volunteers will be trained to help with interpretation and appreciation so if you would like to become involved, look out in the next newsletter for more details, and check the websites.

If anyone has any enquiries or comments to make, or suggestions for future events, please do contact me at ericab@btinternet.com.

**Erica Burrows
FOIM Chairman**

Coes - A world of Fashion

MENS • WOMENS • CONTEMPORARY
CASUAL • BUSINESS • LEISURE • SPORTS
FORMAL • CHILDRENS • SCHOOL
WEDDING & EVENINGWEAR HIRE
and so much more!



Coes Ipswich 20-28 Norwich Road IP1 2NH
Open Tues - Sat 9 am - 6 pm (Closed Mon) Customer car park at rear of shop
Tel Ipswich (01473) 256061 Fax (01473) 254531 email info@coes.co.uk
Menswear branches also at Beccles Dovercourt Felixstowe Lowestoft & Maldon

www.coes.co.uk

Museum Manager's Update

Bill Seaman gives us the latest news from the Museum Service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Friends for their continued and invaluable support. After sharing the financial challenges facing CIMS, your chairman Erica Burrows has been enormously helpful in identifying ways in which the Friends of Ipswich Museums can target support to best effect. Examples are funding for a new Guidebook for Christchurch Mansion, assistance with for Once Upon a Time exhibition framing and through support with the museum events programme. These all add to the capacity and quality of our offer and make a real difference.

The Once Upon a Time Exhibition

The Once Upon A Time temporary exhibition at the Art School got off to an excellent start with a very well-attended

launch on 25 January. We are exploring ways to use the Art School to best effect as a part of the capital development proposals for the Ipswich Museum site and an Arts Council England bid will shortly be submitted to support an innovative exhibition and events programme to this end.

The HLF Bid

Some of you will hopefully have had an opportunity to see the architect's model incorporating Ipswich Museum, the Art School, the New Wolsey Studio Theatre and the spaces currently used to great effect by the Pacitti Company. This is an exciting and innovative project with a total cost of £20m with £8m sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund. IBC submitted a strong Stage One



Nick Butterworth (artist) , Councillor David Ellesmere, Bill Seaman and the Mayor (Councillor Hamil Clarke) at the opening of **Once Upon a Time**

application in November following which the HLF Trustees and regional officers visited the site on 7 February and met with IBC senior officers and Members and museum staff for a tour and discussion of the scheme. This went very well but we were reminded that there is very stiff competition for this bidding round. We will hear the results of the National Trustees meeting in April.

The Aspire Project

Other exciting projects include the prestigious hanging of the **Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows** in the Wolsey Exhibition Gallery in 2015. This will give a national profile to the Mansion and confirm Ipswich's standing as holding the most significant collection of Constable's works outside the capital.

Building Work at Ipswich

Friends will be aware that IBC are carrying out significant building and

decorative works at Ipswich Museum at the moment. Its vital that while we have ambitious longer term aspirations for the site we don't let the current standards slip and these are welcome improvements to the visitor experience and preservation of the historic fabric of the building.

Colchester Castle Reopens

In the meantime CIMS colleagues are also working flat out to complete the refurbishment of Colchester Castle which will open on 2 May. Many valuable lessons have been learnt from this project which will be of benefit to the capital development of the museums in Ipswich. Friends of Ipswich Museum will be given a concessionary entry price and I do hope you all will take the opportunity to visit Colchester Castle over the summer.

**Bill Seaman,
Museum Manager**

Friends' Diary

Date	Event	Booking
Wed 26 Mar 2014	Lunch and Talk at The Galley Woodbrige Michael Staff: A Personal View of Life at Thorpeness	Contact: Paul Bruce 01473 738265 or Barbara Cole 01473 287716
Tues 8 April 2014 (7.00 for 7.30 pm)	Annual General Meeting at Mansion – followed by talks by Museum Staff	not required
Sat 12 April 2014 11am	Reflections of their Age: Lowestoft and Martinware ceramics (tour at the Mansion)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Sat 10 May 2014 11 am	The Life, Music and Clothes of a Tudor gentleman (talk at Mansion)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Sun 11 May 2014 2 pm	George James Rowe: a seminar by Chloe Bennett	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Sat 14 June 2014 11 am	Twelve East Anglian Artists in the Ipswich Collection (talk at Mansion)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Wed 25 June 2014	Mid-summer Dinner at Seckford Hall with Charlie Haylock	Booking form distributed with this newsletter
Wed 12 July 2014 11 am	Wedding Gifts (tour at Mansion)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Wed 9 Aug 2014 11 am	Faces in the Mansion—Looking at Portraits (Mansion tour)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Wed 13 Sept 2014 11 am	The Mansion Clocks (Mansion Tour)	Mansion Reception 01473 433554
Wed 24 Sept 2014	Ipswich Town Walk with afternoon tea	Details in next Newsletter
17-19 Sept 2014	Friends' Kentish Cornucopia Three days and two nights in Kent	Booking form distributed with this newsletter



Annual General Meeting Tuesday 8 April 2014

7.30 pm at Christchurch Mansion

Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00 pm

followed by talks by Museum Staff

Friends News

Membership Secretary's Report

There have been 6 new Members since the last newsletter :

Mr & Mrs Darrell-Brown

Mr S Cassidy

Prof. D Muller

Miss L Rainbird

Mr M Scott

Mr P Trett & Miss D Davies

And 1 new Corporate member – Kersey Solicitors.

We extend a warm welcome to them all, and look forward to meeting them in the near future.

We now have 348 Members and 17 Corporate Members.

There are still several people who have not paid their subscription, for whom I am enclosing a reminder.

Barbara Cole
Membership Secretary

Masterpieces: Art and East Anglia at the Sainsbury Centre

On Tuesday 18th February 39 members travelled by coach to the Sainsbury Centre in Norwich to visit the 'Masterpieces: Art and East Anglia' exhibition. The exhibits, some of which came from hitherto unseen private collections, had been gathered from many sources. They ranged from a flint hand axe worked some 700,000 years ago through paintings by Constable, Gainsborough, Maggie Hambling and other artists to jewellery, photography, craft, sculpture, design, textiles and furniture all with East Anglian connections; all of which were wonderful examples of their era.

Each exhibit was displayed to best advantage and was labelled with just enough information for visitors. We were all impressed by the rich heritage of our past and the skills of East Anglian craftsmen which were displayed and everyone had their favourite item which gave the most pleasure among all the exquisite treasures on show. An added bonus was the new Art

Nouveau exhibition where those of us who are devotees chose the vase and butterfly decoration we would most like to take home! Of course the building itself is a magnificent example of modern architecture and is well worth taking time to admire. The restaurant offered good nourishment which was reward enough at the end of the long queue.

Thanks must go to John Lapsley for organising the visit and Jean for the administration and in making sure we were all present and correct!

Sheila Brooks

(There will be a fuller report in our next Newsletter. Editor)

FUTURE EVENTS

A MidSummer Dinner

25 June 2014

A dinner has been arranged at Seckford Hall on Wednesday 25 June. Charlie Haylock will give an after dinner speech about the Suffolk Dialect. A booking form is being distributed with this newsletter.

Trip to Bath Cancelled

The four day trip to Bath advertised in the Autumn Newsletter has been cancelled as not enough members expressed an interest.

Kent Visit, 17-19 September 2014

To replace the Bath trip a shorter visit to Kent has been planned for September. It has been designed to be less expensive and to involve less travelling. An expression of interest form is being circulated with this Newsletter.

This trip includes visits to Down House (home of Charles Darwin), Lullingstone Roman Villa, Standen (designed by Philip Webb and decorated by Morris & Co), Tunbridge Wells Museum and the Turner Contemporary at Margate.

George Rowe Event

On Sunday 11 May Chloe Bennet will present a Seminar at the Mansion. Chloe has recently written a biography of George James Rowe. She will tell us about her research for the book. Her book will be available to Friends at a discounted price.

Tours & Talks at the Mansion

The guiding team at the Mansion is comprised of volunteers, who give their time and expertise freely.

The free daily short tours of the Mansion will begin again on Tuesday 4 March. Voluntary donations are always welcome. The tours are always at 11.00am except for Sundays when they start at 2.00pm.

Six bookable talks and tours of the Mansion have been planned. They are listed in the Friends Diary (page 8).

The Friends 2013
Christmas Party at
the Mansion



HOUGHTON HALL: An appreciation

*Brian West gives his impressions of the **Houghton Revisited** Exhibition*

I had not previously visited Houghton Hall and so the opportunity to see it for the first time, and with the art collection, for which it was built, reinstated after more than 230 years, was particularly exciting.

Houghton Hall was built between 1722 and 1735 by Sir Robert Walpole, Great Britain's first Prime Minister. The house was always intended to display Walpole's prized collection of Old Masters. In addition, it was also intended to be a place for political entertaining, that no-one could fail to be impressed by and would reflect his status as the most powerful statesman of his day. However, like so many other great art collectors and builders of spectacular houses, ambition was to outstrip wealth and Walpole on his death in 1745 left his estate crippled with debt. In 1779 his beloved art collection was sold to Catherine the Great.

We were going to have the unique opportunity of seeing many of these paintings returned, from the Hermitage in Russia, to their exact pre 1779 locations in Houghton Hall. The tour of the house included the Great Staircase and Staterooms, eleven rooms in all, where over 50 of the pictures were again gracing their walls. A small booklet, that was given on entry, gave a short description of each room, together with wall plans to locate and identify the paintings. I must admit that I found myself totally engrossed in this process of identification of each of these masterpieces that Walpole had so carefully chosen. Representing the work

of masters of every European school of art, each painting, whether a portrait or religious subject, displayed incredible technical ability that demanded your admiration. It would be difficult for me to choose a favourite painting. I found the whole collection truly awe-inspiring.

Perhaps mesmerised by the paintings, I realised that I had not been paying a great deal of attention to the magnificence of the rooms themselves. Back-tracking was necessary in order to rectify this, but was so worthwhile. William Kent's interior decoration was always spectacular, but sometimes breathtaking. This time I do have a favourite, the Stone Hall. Actually more like a marble temple, this masterpiece is truly the Hall for a statesman. My memory from this room will be the wonderful ceiling that features Walpole's coat of arms, but it is the frieze of cherubs that prance around the coving, or sit with legs dangling out over the mouldings, that will endure.

Other memories include a view of the park from a window, with moving drifts of white deer; and in a quiet corner of the garden a modern sculpture that was a dancing jet of water topped by a burning flame. Both fitting for Houghton Hall - amazing!

Brian West



A Twilight Landscape: The Rediscovery of George James Rowe (1804-1883)

Chloe Bennett was the Art Curator at Ipswich Museums from 1978-1992. She is now the Director of the History of Advertising Trust Archive. She has maintained her interest in Suffolk artists, having already written a book about Colin Moss. In this article she tells us about her latest book about local artist George Rowe.



George James Rowe: *Woodbridge Quay at Night* c.1830-1840

Water colour & gouache

© CIMS on behalf of IBC

On 22 January 2008 twenty-two folios containing 563 drawings and watercolours by the Suffolk artist George James Rowe were quietly auctioned at a Christies' Interiors Sale, South Kensington, London. The catalogue stated the collection was 'Property from the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science, Davenport, Iowa sold to benefit the acquisition fund'. Thus the only surviving remains of a lifetime of work by Rowe, once preserved together intact within a public museum for over a hundred and twenty years, were summarily broken up and distributed to

nine separate buyers. For many years British scholars and collectors had pondered over the mystery of how the work of this 'minor' Suffolk painter, and friend of the celebrated Woodbridge artist Thomas Churchyard (1798-1865), had found its way into a far off American museum specialising in natural sciences. Rowe's Will, proved in 1883, provides the answer; he bequeathed the contents of his studio to his younger sister, Anne Catherine Willis, who had emigrated to Jacksonville Illinois USA around 1848 with her husband Charles and two sons. It was Anne's personal friendship with the Putnam family in

Jacksonville that led to the work being gifted to their museum in March 1884, just eight months before her own death.

Since the 2008 sale I have been in contact with the Putnam Museum and several of the new owners, photographically recording and cataloguing Rowe's remaining work. During this research a myriad of new details has surfaced relating to Rowe's direct connections with John Clarkson (brother of Thomas the slave-trade abolitionist), literary figures such as Edward FitzGerald and Bernard Barton, William Stevenson Fitch the acquisitive antiquarian and of course the amateur artist Thomas Churchyard and his artistic children. Whereas Churchyard, the lawyer painting in his spare time has been celebrated and widely published, the work of his friend Rowe, the 'professional' artist, has remained hidden and unrecognised due to historical circumstance. Rowe, unmarried without descendants, became a recluse in later life and his contemporary friends died soon after him so there was no one to promote his reputation in England.

To compound things further, the remains of Churchyard's art collections, containing work by Churchyard, his artistic children and several other artists, including Rowe, were poorly catalogued at his last surviving daughter's rushed sale in 1927. Undoubtedly this contributed towards confusion in indentifying Rowe's work retrospectively and caused some misattributions. With the re-emergence of George James Rowe's art from Churchyard's long shadow, for the first time there is an opportunity for his true achievements to be appraised so that he can be rightfully placed amongst the pantheon of Suffolk artists who followed in the footsteps of

Gainsborough, Frost and Constable.

In three very different Rowe exhibitions taking place from March this year there is some beautiful art to discover and enjoy, in superb condition with the original colours well preserved and looking remarkably fresh. Moreover, Rowe's pictures in the Colchester & Ipswich Museum's collection can at last be placed within a clearer context. His story should interest anyone who loves the Suffolk landscape and the art it inspired as well as the unravelling of a long trail running from Woodbridge and Ipswich in Suffolk, to Seaford in Sussex, to Wimborne Minster in Dorset and from Fitzrovia London to Jacksonville, Illinois.

© Chloe Veale 2014

Chloe Bennett's Book: *A Twilight Landscape: The Hidden Art of George James Rowe of Woodbridge (1804-1883)* will be published in April 2014.

Exhibitions of George Rowe's Works:

Christchurch Mansion, from early March

The Rountree Tryon Gallery, London 2 – 9 April

The Fraser Gallery, Woodbridge 24 – 26 April

Further details from John Day of Eastbourne Fine Art
dayefa@aol.com

Seminar: Sunday 11 May at the Mansion by Chloe Bennett

Signed books will be on sale to the Friends at a special discounted price.

Please book for this event at the Mansion Reception 01473 433554

Conservation Corner

Bob Entwistle tells us about a sledge, two guns and a musical instrument.

We have had Caleb and Hilary (*HLF-Funded Heritage Documentation Trainees*) helping in the lab recently and we've been doing lots of objects for skills for the Unlocked project (see our Autumn 2013 Newsletter).

Captain Oate's Sledge



Just before Christmas our sledge, which had been designed for an expedition to the South Pole, was returned to us from store in Colchester.

It was decided to place the sledge on permanent display in the museum.

The sledge is very rudimentary in its design, and the story is that it was an experimental model made for Captain Oates to take on the Terra Nova expedition with Scott. It was made by Ransome and Rapier. However Oates preferred a different sledge and this one ended up in Ipswich Museum. We believe it was given to the museum by his family who lived near Sudbury.

The sledge has been moved from store to store and never displayed before. Unfortunately it has suffered over the years and was in quite a state.

The volunteer Hilary and I decided to clean the accumulated years of dust dirt

and pigeon droppings from it in the car park. We vacuumed the sledge, used wire brushes on the ironwork, and scrapers and steam cleaners on the wood work. Three hours later the result was dramatic. We now have a clean sledge. This has gone on to permanent display at the top of the rear stairs.

The Aristov Pistol

A pistol that had been in store for many years and never displayed was brought into the lab as a volunteer project. The pistol looked very sorry for itself. It was dirty, it had niello inlay, the barrel and lock were corroded.

On closer examination the pistol was found to be highly decorated and this became clearer as it was cleaned. Designs appeared, the remains of silver decoration on the barrel and the name ARISTOV in Cyrillic writing.

I did a bit of research on the name Aristov, and found that a famous gun maker in Russia had the same name and some of his pieces are in the State Historical Museum in Moscow.

I wrote to the museum and was delighted to receive a reply:





The Islamic Pistol
before and after
cleaning



Dear Robert Entwistle,

We have recently got your letter. We are interested your letter. Visual inspection of the flintlock pistol from the collection of Ipswich Museum shows that the gun was made by master Ivan Aristov. We know little about this gunsmith. He manufactured hunting rifles and pistols random samples. He often used old barrels of foreign gunsmiths. One pair of pistols from the collection our Museum has barrels, made by Swedish master, Starbus. In artistic decoration he followed the Spanish, German, French and English articles. Ivan Aristov usually signed his pieces: "I.Aristov", but sometimes he added "Moscow" or engraved "Aristoff".

Two pairs of duelling-pistols of Ivan Aristov from our Museum were published in catalogue "Duelling-pistols in the collection of the State Historical Museum". Moscow. 2003. P. 64-70.

*Yours sincerely,
Irina Paltusova,*

*Head of Department of Arms and
Armour of the State Historical Museum
in Moscow.*

A Rather grand Islamic Pistol

This pistol was also in a very sorry state with no lock and coloured wire wrapped around the stock. However, as it was being cleaned by a volunteer a wealth of detail and beauty began to appear. The stock was brass with metal inlay and enamelling. The remains of silver inlay were also present on the barrel (see pictures above). This had been at one time an expensive and beautiful object. None of this could be seen prior to cleaning.

Unlocked Ethnographic Objects.

We have had and are still getting a lot of ethnographic objects through the lab. For the first time in quite a few years the African ethnographic collection is being looked at in some detail. The objects are coming into the lab and being cleaned and conserved.

A good example is this African stringed instrument made from a tortoise shell. The instrument was not badly damaged but one of its pegs was missing and so were the strings. I carved a new peg and re-strung it. I am not a musician so I do not know how it is supposed to sound. However it is now complete for the first time in many years (see picture on back cover).

Robert Entwistle, Conservator

A Visit to Margaret Tempest

*This article was volunteered by a Friend who enjoyed attending the opening of the **Once Upon a Time Exhibition** on 25 January.*



One of the pleasures of the exhibition of Children's Book Illustrators currently showing at the former Art

School, Ipswich is the inclusion of Margaret Tempest and her illustrations for the Little Grey Rabbit books. She is often forgotten or overlooked these days, yet many of us have grown up with her drawings of the sweet little Grey Rabbit, the vain Squirrel, Hare, Moldy Warp, Fuzzypeg the hedgehog, and the others. With their simple lines and warm colours she brought the stories to life for thousands of small children over several generations, and indeed still does. Sadly there was little love lost between Margaret Tempest and Alison Uttley who wrote the stories, each resenting the other having any limelight, especially Alison Uttley.

Margaret Tempest was born in 1892 in Park Road. Her father was a solicitor, a partner in Kersey, Tempest & Latter, a

magistrate and Mayor of the town. She went to the Ipswich High School until she was about nine and

remembers spending most of her time lying on the floor drawing, whilst recovering from an illness which kept her from attending school. She particularly enjoyed the illustrations of Kate Greenaway and Arthur Rackham, and reading the stories of Mrs Ewing. Later in life she was delighted to find she was teaching the children of Mrs Ewing's brother.

At 15 she went to the Ipswich School of Art and then art schools in Westminster and Chelsea. With a friend, she started the Chelsea Illustrators, a group which flourished from 1919 to the outbreak of war in 1939. It was while taking the Group's work round to publishers that Heinemann offered her the first Little Grey Rabbit story by Alison Uttley: The Hare, the Squirrel and the Little Grey

Rabbit. Her attention to the detail in the little animal's lives, their personalities and particularly her concern with the design of the books, made them so attractive. It was her idea to surround all the pictures with the coloured borders which make them so distinctive. To my surprise I discovered from interviewing a friend of the family that she was not wildly interested in animals, apart from the odd cat. I had imagined she would be a Beatrix Potter type.

During that period she lived in London during the week, and apart from her illustration work she taught drawing to the children of most of the aristocratic houses in London – including the Elphinstone's, the Queen's cousins. She realised that these children led such cloistered lives that she was one of the few who brought news of the outside world! Years later one of them told her that when she came it was like a visit from Father Christmas.

At weekends she was a keen sailor with her brother Frank. Watching them sail on the Orwell, their friend Arthur Ransome christened them "the natives".

The family moved to 28 Fonnereau Road, and then during the war to Capel St Mary. Afterwards they moved to 3 St Edmunds Road. In 1951 she married Sir Grimwood Mears, former Chief of

Justice in Allahabad. He died in 1963.

Apart from the Grey Rabbit books she produced friezes and picture postcards of rabbits, squirrels and teddy bears for the Medici Society, and later an illustrated edition for children of the Lord's Prayer book for them. She also wrote and illustrated the Pinkie Mouse books and Curley Cobbler series. Her work is now highly collectable and she has become a "classic" children's illustrator, along with those like Rackham whom she once admired.

She died in 1982, aged 90. I went to interview her in Park Road in 1978, and found a very charming but slightly confused old lady. I have no copy of the tape I made but in the letter I wrote to William Collins, the publishers, I described the house as a cross between a surrealist painting and the house of Miss Havisham. She had been a longtime member of the Ipswich Art Club, only retiring from the Committee in 1974, in which year she was still exhibiting. At 82!

Anne Parry



For a more personal approach to all of your business & personal insurance needs

tel: 01473 343390

email: info@ryan-group.co.uk

Crane Hall London Road Ipswich IP2 0AL

www.ryan-group.co.uk

David Mawson (1924-2013): an obituary

David Mawson was Vice President of the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM) for many years. He died in November. When I was elected Chairman of the Friends of the Ipswich Museums in 1996 one of my first meetings was with David at Norwich Castle. He provided wise advice and ideas about how to operate a Friends group and later was our guest speaker at my first AGM. We kept in touch since then at regional and national conferences.

BAfM's Hon. Secretary Sue Hall let me know that David had died and that the Service of Thanksgiving would be held at Norwich Cathedral on 4 January 2014. As a friend and past BAfM regional co-ordinator I said that I would attend little knowing that I would be asked not only to be there for BAfM but also to represent the Association's Royal patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester. This meant walking down the aisle with the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk Richard Jewson, and sitting on the front row opposite Margaret Mawson and her family. It was a moving service.

The Lord Lieutenant told the packed Cathedral of David's life including having been an architectural adviser to the Diocese and to the Cathedral he loved so much. He was a partner at Feilden & Mawson architects in Norwich. In the early days of the University of East Anglia he was responsible for setting up temporary buildings so UEA could start its first year. We heard of his strong family commitments and of his having been the founder of BAfM and first

President of the World Federation of Friends of Museums. His involvements were varied and not just confined to Norfolk. Grandchildren spoke or read: one grandson was unable to make his own tribute in person having been prevented from flying back from the USA by stormy weather. Canon Richard Capper gave the Address and the Bishop of Norwich the Blessing.

I was proud to be there on behalf of HRH and particularly to represent all the members of BAfM who owe so much to this kind gentleman who served us, and many voluntary bodies, over a very long and happy public life.

Alan Swerdlow

MUSIC AND ART TUITION

**SINGING & INSTRUMENTAL
GROUPS**

PIANOFORTE/KEYBOARDS

Young Pianists considered from 5 years of age

CLASSICAL GUITAR

Private Lessons

**ART
WORKSHOPS**

For more information Contact:

Geraldine Patey

F.A.E.T.C. : I.S.M. : SAA PA : CRB

01473 729306

Felixstowe / Ipswich / Kesgrave area
Some visits possible

Moses Leathes

This second article about the Leathes Picture Collection is about Moses Leathes. The first was about his younger brother, William (see Autumn 2013 Newsletter)



William Leathes had two brothers, both older than him, and two sisters. The brothers were John (1665-1737), who was a clergymen in Northern Ireland, and Moses (1667-1729), who, like William, had a military career. The sisters were Jane (1671-1736) and Penelope (d.1721). Jane was to marry John Mussenden (d. 1700) and it was to her son, Carteret, that the picture collection and the bulk of his estates was left by William Leathes. Carteret subsequently changed his surname to Leathes.

Moses Leathes joined Colonel Luke Lillingstone's regiment in December 1694 and served in the West Indies. On 1st February 1698 he transferred as a Lieutenant to Colonel Frederick Hamilton's Regiment of Foot of Ireland (the XVIIIth), which had recently

returned from the Low Countries. He fought in the War of the Spanish Succession under the Duke of Marlborough, including at the battles of Ramillies and Oudenarde. He was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel of the regiment on 18th February 1712, and in the same year Governor of the Castle at Ghent

The war ended in April 1713 with the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, and all English troops were repatriated except Moses' regiment. The regiment's duties were to garrison Ghent until the Barrier Treaty, with which his brother William was involved, known as the Treaty of Antwerp, was signed. This would define the boundary between France and the Netherlands. Part of the regiment returned to England to put down the Jacobite rebellion in 1715, but Moses remained with only a small garrison consisting of one captain, two subalterns, five sergeants, six corporals, two drummers and one hundred private "centinells". The order sent by Cadogan at Bruges on 21st November 1715 was to send the rest of the regiment to Ostend for embarkation to England. Moses was also instructed not to allow any other troops to enter the Castle until he had received orders from the Captain General, one of the principal Secretaries of State or Cadogan himself. In February 1716 the King commanded Moses to leave Ghent and hand over the town and Castle to the Austrians.

Moses retired from the Army in March or April 1718, made his Will on 3rd August 1729 and died shortly after. He

was buried in St James, Piccadilly, on 4th October 1729.

His portrait (hanging in the Queen Anne Room) is by an unknown artist. The date of his governorship on its frame (1712-1720) is incorrect: he was governor from 1712 until relieved in February 1716.

Again, I am indebted to Richard Leathes for the biographical information in this article.

Adrian Parry

Sources

Personal communication from Richard Leathes

Leathes family records in Ipswich Record Office

Images from the Leathes Collection at Ipswich Museum.

A TRIP TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Caleb Howgego and Hilary Tricker (HLF-Funded Heritage Documentation Trainees at Ipswich Museum) describe their visit to the British Museum with Bob Entwistle.

The British Museum's next big exhibition will be "Vikings: Life and Legend".

Ipswich Museum's Valkyrie pendant (found near Wickham Market in 2001) was requested on loan for this exhibition, and so, on February 4th, we accompanied Bob Entwistle (CIMS Conservator) to oversee the couriering and installation of the pendant. Upon arrival we were shown into the new exhibition space where the pendant was condition checked and all the paperwork signed off. The installation slot for the pendant's case was at 2pm, and in the meantime, we were given the opportunity to visit some of the conservation departments.

Our first stop was Metal Conservation. There we met a conservator who was cleaning and conserving a large collection of Iron Age cauldrons, which were unearthened stacked inside one another, cohered with dirt and corrosion. The cauldrons are made of a thin copper alloy with iron rims, and some contain residues which can be analysed

to discover what was originally stored inside.

We then moved on to the Ceramics & Glass department. Here we were shown various objects which are being repaired and conserved by Loretta Hogan and Denise Ling, including Cuneiform tablets, ceramic figures, decorated Roman glass dishes, glazed tiles, and Saxon glass beakers.

Our next stop was the Hirayama Scroll Studio, where Japanese and Chinese scrolls are conserved and repaired. They use a combination of contemporary and traditional techniques including a type of paste which has to be aged for ten years, remaining faithful to the original conditions in which these scrolls were produced.

Western Pictorial Art on Paper was our next port of call, a department which has over two million items in its collection. As well as condition checking and conserving items going out on loan or for exhibition, they have a rolling work



plan of remounting the collections; some of which were done in the past using materials which have now degraded and need replacing.

Barbara Wills then gave us an introduction to her work on Sudan Sand Mummies. These bodies, discovered during excavations for a dam on the Nile, have been the basis of a two-year research project into medieval Nubians, a culture about which relatively little is known. The hot and dry environs resulted in very good preservation of organics, including skin, textile and hair, even including one man's full beard!

Our final stop on the tour was the Facsimile Studio, where replicas are made. Many objects from the British Museum are in high demand, and thus reproductions are made to go out on loan, or held in the BM whilst the original is on tour. We met Mike Neilson, who designed and built Ipswich Museum's Woolly Mammoth, and he showed us some fantastic photographs of its construction, (we can confirm that the fur is the same used for Star Wars' Chewbacca). Neil was responsible for the duplicate of the Mildenhall Dish and even created the replica Rhino horn

after it was stolen in 2011.

We returned to the Viking Exhibition Gallery, where filming was taking place for a segment on the BBC 2 Culture Programme, which will be broadcast on the 8 March to coincide with the opening of the exhibition. The installation of the pendant was also well underway. Museum Assistants and Conservation staff were carefully pinning the objects in place, adjusting lighting and checking the environmental conditions until everyone was satisfied, and the case locked.

Both of us thoroughly enjoyed our day at the British Museum, and would like to express our thanks to all those who gave up their time to talk to us and show us their work and especially to Pippa Pearce at the BM who arranged the visit and acted as our guide.

The "Vikings: Life and Legend" Exhibition at the British Museum runs from 6 March – 22 June, after which it goes to the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin.

The pendant will be back on display in Ipswich Museum in early 2015.

Caleb Howgego and Hilary Tricker

Please tell us your e-mail Address

If you have an e-mail address we would like you to tell us. This will enable us to keep you up to date with events which are planned between issues of the Newsletter.

If we do not already know your e-mail address please send a message to Jerry Latham using our website:

www.foim.org.uk

or email him directly using:

contact@foim.org.uk

Your email address will only be used by us to communicate with you. It will never be revealed to anyone outside our organisation.

Coes - A world of Fashion

MENS • WOMENS • CONTEMPORARY
CASUAL • BUSINESS • LEISURE • SPORTS
FORMAL • CHILDRENS • SCHOOL
WEDDING & EVENINGWEAR HIRE
and so much more!

Coes Ipswich 20-28 Norwich Road IP1 2NH
Open Tues - Sat 9 am - 6 pm (Closed Mon) Customer car park at rear of shop
Tel Ipswich (01473) 256061 Fax (01473) 254531 email info@coes.co.uk
Menswear branches also at Beccles Dovercourt Felixstowe Lowestoft & Maldon

www.coes.co.uk

Our Corporate Members

The Arlington Brasserie
Barnes Construction
Belvedere Reproductions Ltd
W D Coe Ltd
The Dove Street Inn
Dummett Copp
J M Finn & Co
Glasswells Ltd
Gough Hotels

Ipswich Building Society
The Ipswich School
Ipswich High School for Girls
Jimmy's Farm
Kersey Solicitors
The Linden School of Music
Ryan Insurance Group
Suffolk New College
Watson & Hillhouse

The FOIM Committee 2013-2014

President:	Gay Strutt
Vice President:	Paul Bruce
Chairman:	Erica Burrows
Vice-Chairman:	Jerry Latham
Secretary:	Gary Butler
Treasurer:	Peter Stockdale
Membership Secretary:	Barbara Cole
Newsletter Editor:	Mary Halliwell
Guides Representative:	Joan Munns
Members:	Sheila Brooks, John Lapsley Kathleen Daniel, Jean Attenborrow
IAA Representative:	Ferial Evans Rogers
Ipswich Society Rep:	Ken Wilson
Ex-officio Member:	Bill Seaman, Museum Service Manager

All members of the Committee can be contacted via
our Website www.foim.org.uk
or c/o Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH

Membership Details

Membership rates are:

Joint/Household	£15
Single	£12
Student (under 25)	£3
Corporate	£100

These are the minimum fees. We would not dream of preventing anyone paying more. A membership form can be downloaded from our website or contact our Membership Secretary;

Barbara Cole, 35 Pownall Road, Ipswich IP3 0DN, 01473 287716.

Those interested in becoming corporate members should contact us direct via the website.

Membership as a Gift

All you have to do is send the appropriate subscription (payable to FOIM) together with contact details of the recipient to Jerry Latham, who will prepare a gift pack for you to send.

In this issue:



Nick Butterworth working with Children
at the Art School (pages 6-7)



Unknown Artist: Moses Leathes
© CI MS on behalf of IBC (page 19)



George Rowe: Harvest overlooking the Deben
© CI MS on behalf of IBC (page 12)



An African
stringed
instrument
(page 15)

plus Friends activities and more museum news

www.foim.org.uk

We welcome new members to help us support our excellent Ipswich Museums.
Details of membership are given on page 23

We use the website to advertise events which are notified too late to be
printed in the Newsletter.