

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY AT HOME, 1757-1857 JULY 2012 NEWSLETTER

On 1 July the project officially transferred to its new base University College London. The project office is now situated in the heart of Bloomsbury, on Gordon Square (a most convenient site for meetings with project associates conducting research in London). The team members' individual email addresses now are: m.finn@ucl.ac.uk (Margot); kate.smith@ucl.ac.uk (Kate); museum.swaledale@btinternet.com (Helen); and ellen.filor.11@ucl.ac.uk (Ellen). The Warwick URL for the project webpage will continue to function, but we will be shifting over to a UCL site in the next months. You can still follow us on Twitter @EICatHome.

This month Kate attended the Attingham Trust Summer School (www.attinghamtrust.org). Running for eighteen days, the course visited thirty different country houses in three different counties – Sussex, Derbyshire and Dorset. The course participants visited houses that ranged from the baroque grandeur of Chatsworth (see image of Cascade feature) to the neo-classical sophistication of Kedleston Hall (see image of exterior). They studied a range of interiors and gardens, from seventeenth-century Broughton Castle (see image of gardens) to twentieth-century West Dean. While on the course, the members also attended multiple lectures, which covered topics such as lighting, taxidermy, architecture and servants. They also benefitted from seminars, which focused in on particular objects, such as a Boulle desk at Petworth (see image of Petworth exterior above), or a particular object type



Kate in Summer House at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire



Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire

such as porcelain. The Summer School gives a stimulating overview of the country house in all its forms and Kate thoroughly enjoyed it. We hope that a number of Attingham Summer School members will join the EIC at Home project as active collaborators.

Ellen and Margot attended a fascinating study-day at the British Museum organised by Sushma Jansari (a PhD student at UCL) and Paramdip Khera of the British Museum. Hosted by the Department of Coins at the British Museum on 18 July, the workshop was entitled 'Collecting Indian History' and focused on the career of East India Company military engineer and surveyor Colonel

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Colin MacKenzie (1753-1821). A key figure in the Mysore Survey of the early nineteenth-century, MacKenzie also proves to have been a pivotal figure in Anglo-Indian collecting cultures.

Planning for project events and future case studies for 2012-13 is proceeding apace. Advisory board member and East India Company collection curator at the British Library Margaret Makepeace met with Margot earlier this month to discuss research on Osterley House and Park being undertaken by the team. Like Valentines to the east in Essex, Osterley denotes not only a house but also a series of East India Company ships, and Margaret has identified key sources in the BL collections that illuminate Osterley's maritime connections with India and China. Helen and Margot also had a very productive meeting with Emile de Bruijn of the National Trust, discussing ways of collaborating on resources that can help explain the history and display of Chinese wallpaper in British stately homes, as well as a case study on 'Oriental' garden structures in National Trust properties. You can follow Emile's blog (which has many posts relevant to the project) at <http://nttreasurehunt.wordpress.com/>. In addition to these meetings, Kate, Helen and Margot visited the Royal Geographical Society to meet with freelance maritime and community historian Cliff Pereira to discuss possible collaborations for workshops in 2013.



Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Scottish themes have engaged the team over the past month and will be a particular focus in September, when we hold a small workshop for project associates and interested others at the University of Edinburgh (kindly hosted by project advisory board member and Head of History of Art at Edinburgh, Vicky Coltman). Immediately prior to the Edinburgh workshop, the team will be meeting with family and local historians, archivists, curators and others at the North Yorkshire County Record Office in North Allerton (kindly hosted by advisory board member Keith Sweetmore). Between the North Allerton and Edinburgh workshops, the team hopes to visit both Aske Hall (about which Helen Clifford is writing a case study for the project) and Kiplin Hall, both in North Yorkshire. We look forward to updating you on these events in the September newsletter.



Cascade at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire