Classical American Homes preservation Trust had the pleasure of celebrating our 20th Anniversary in 2013. We marked this milestone by welcoming thousands of visitors with tours and special events, drawing visitors with a range of ages and interests — whether it be gardening, history, decorative arts, music, or walking. As always, we enjoy seeing our friends new and old. We continue to highlight the homes’ collections, with many objects original to the houses, as well as their gardens and scenic trails. And of course, having fun at these houses is always encouraged.

In this 20th Anniversary year we were also excited to introduce new communication tools to help us spread the word about our mission. Launching a newly designed website with fresh photography, updated information and new scholarship helps to highlight each property and also to make it easier for individuals to learn more about CAHPT and visiting our homes. We also expanded our social media offerings — relying on tools such as Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter and Instagram to quickly inform our followers of events or happenings at CAHPT. Whether it is through our new website, social media or by phone, we want to hear from you — so please stay in touch!

Classical American Homes was established 20 years ago with a focus on historic preservation, but it was also created so that you can enjoy these homes for generations to come. I encourage you to share in this journey with us and chart your own Grand Tour.

Sincerely,

Margize Howell,
Executive Director

Cover: Ayr Mount’s West Parlor featuring the Kirkland’s original 1797 London Broadwood pianoforte. (John M. Hall)

Charleston Library Society Honors Dick Jenrette with Inaugural Founders Award
Charleston, S.C.

On Friday, April 11, the Board of Trustees of the Charleston Library Society honored Mr. Jenrette for his dedication to the field of preservation with its inaugural Founders Award. Coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the completion of the Library Society’s main building, the Trustees created this award “to honor persons who exemplify the values of the 19 young men who collaborated in 1748 to promote knowledge and shared learning by founding what is now recognized as one of America’s earliest cultural and intellectual centers.”

In her remarks to a the packed house of about 180 guests, Anne Cleveland, Executive Director of the Charleston Library Society, commented remarked how Mr. Jenrette’s activities have brought national attention and high-profile exposure to Charleston’s preservation and arts communities. Steven Gates, a Board member of the library society, also presented Mr. Jenrette with a leather-bound edition of Adventures with Old Houses, his own book chronicling his acquisition and restoration of historic houses.

(Left) Dick Jenrette holding the gift of a leather-bound edition of Adventures with Old Houses. (Right) A view of the full house or full library!
On April 17th, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust and Ayr Mount hosted its first major public program at Ayr Mount - the Appraisal Fair at Ayr and a special exhibition of coverlets. Almost 100 guests joined us on this spring evening to learn about their cherished belongings and meet other arts and antiques enthusiasts. Items brought to the fair included paintings, jewelry, war memorabilia, and silver. The lush, green hills at Ayr Mount served as a backdrop while guests enjoyed wine and refreshments and also attended lectures both in and outside the house. David Lindquist gave an interesting and informative lecture about qualities to look for when viewing and purchasing an antique. Craufurd Goodwin gave a talk on the extensive collection of coverlets he generously loaned to Ayr Mount, which were on view during the month of April. Julia Carpenter of UNC-TV’s series Collecting Carolina was also on site with a film crew to catch the action, with the episode featuring the event at Ayr Mount airing just weeks later on May 1st (visit our website for a link to the episode).

We want to thank all of those who joined us for this event, and we hope you will continue to visit us at Ayr Mount throughout the spring and summer months. We would also like to express our deep appreciation for all of the generous time and expertise provided by our local friends and business owners: Craufurd Goodwin, Doug Lay of the Persian Carpet, David Lindquist and Elizabeth Lindquist of Whitehall at the Villa Antiques, and Leland Little and his staff from his auction house — Clair Fraser, Nancy Blount, Mark Solomon, and Rob Golan. Stay tuned for upcoming events at Ayr Mount!

Ayr Mount also had a month-long exhibition of antique coverlets generously loaned to us from private collections. Coverlets: Treasure from the Loom, which was the the inaugural program of the Americana Series, featured over 80 coverlets that date back as far as the late 1700s in various styles: double weave, overshot, Figured and Fancy, Jacquard, and Biederwand. The coverlets — the majority of which were from the collection of Crauford Goodwin — were thoughtfully integrated into Ayr Mount’s permanent collection, keeping color in mind within a narrative that followed the makers, dates, locations, and patterns of the coverlets. The third floor featured a display of photographs, weaving tools, and other objects related to the trade such as cotton, wool, and shuttles. We are delighted that we were able to share with guests these special pieces of history in a setting that is quite fitting for their display. What an enjoyable way to welcome visitors back for house tours and celebrate the start of spring!

Check out the May 2014 issue of WALTER magazine! P. Gaye Tapp writes about Richard Jenrette’s love of restoring historic homes in an article entitled “Richard Jenrette: Always traveling...home.” The article includes an in-depth interview with Mr. Jenrette and lots of photos of the houses. Go to www.classicalamericanhomes.org to read the full story.
Blizzards and gusting winds did not deter David Americana enthusiasts from joining us at the Baker House for receptions filled with drinks, hors d’oeuvres, and friends (new and old) during Americana Week 2014.

We began the week by welcoming Winterthur, MESDA and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for an Americana Week “kick-off” reception on January 21, 2014. We hosted tours for the Directors of the Dumbarton House located in Washington, D.C. and benefactors from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts on January 23rd and 25th, respectively. We ended the week with a celebration organized by the Decorative Arts Trust as they wished Executive Director Penny Hunt a heartfelt “happy retirement” on January 25, 2014.

The snow came down in droves on the day of the reception jointly hosted by Winterthur, MESDA and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation - but to our joyful surprise, we still welcomed over 60 guests to the Baker House who came by foot, stop-and-go taxi trips, and even hitchhiked rides! It was an extremely enjoyable and memorable night, and a great way to welcome supporters from near and far for an events-filled week in New York City.

Top: Guests of Winterthur, MESDA and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation at the Baker House.
Middle: (left) Dixie DeLuca, Linda Eaton, David DeLuca; (right) Margaret Pritchard, Linda Eaton, Tom Savage, Stuart Butler.
Bottom: (left) Billy, Patty, and Alex Wilson; (right) Margize Howell and Sambo Dixon.
On Wednesday, January 22, 2014, the Wunsch Americana Foundation honored Dick Jenrette as a co-recipient of the second-annual Eric Martin Wunsch Award for Excellence in the American Arts alongside Linda and George Kaufman, major collectors of Americana. The award ceremony was held at the Rockefeller Center Galleries at Christie’s, New York, where over 200 guests gathered to celebrate the honorees’ dedication to American Arts and their continuation of the legacy of renowned collector, Eric Martin Wunsch.

The Eric Martin Wunsch Award was created by the Wunsch Americana Foundation in the memory of Martin Wunsch to encourage greater scholarship in and appreciation of the American Decorative Arts. Peter Wunsch, Wunsch Americana Foundation President and son of Martin Wunsch, acknowledged the recipients for “their steadfast focus on preserving America’s heritage and making it accessible to so many people to enjoy and learn from.”

Guests mingled over cocktails while weaving through displays of Americana that were to be auctioned off at Christie’s later in the week.

To begin the remarks, Morrie Heckscher, the Lawrence A. Fleischman Chairman of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, spoke about Martin Wunsch’s commitment to American Decorative Arts as a collector, philanthropist and scholar. Mr. Heckscher spoke about four highlighted objects from Martin Wunsch’s collection that will be on loan at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Luke Beckerdeite, Executive Director and Curator at the Chipstone Foundation, went on to introduce award recipient Linda Kaufman. Mrs. Kaufman’s highly personal and eloquent speech will not be forgotten by those in attendance, as she clearly demonstrated the passion that she and her late husband, George Kaufman, shared for the American Arts. Introductory remarks about Dick Jenrette were given by Peter Kenny, Curator in the Department of American Decorative Arts at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and can be found here. Margize Howell accepted the award on behalf of Dick and CAHPT.

The night was filled with laughter and good cheer among friends and colleagues, and served as a wonderful way to begin a weeklong celebration of American Decorative Arts.

Leslie Keno speaks with guests.
Americana Week (continued)

George F. Baker House – Thursday, January 23rd, 2014

We then welcomed Directors of Dumbarton House and benefactors from the Peabody Essex Museum for tours of the Baker House. “Fresh Take, Making Connections at the Peabody Essex Museum” was on view as the loan exhibition at this year’s Winter Antiques Show. This exhibit, which was referred to by the organizers as a “microcosm of the PEM experience,” coincided with the Peabody Essex Museum’s 215th Anniversary in 2014.

Saturday, January 25th, 2014

On Saturday, January 25th the Decorative Arts Trust celebrated Penny Hunt’s retirement with a cocktail reception at the Baker House for friends and supporters. Even though there was more snow (and lots of ice!), over 125 guests joined us for the event. Penny Hunt’s husband, John, and the Decorative Art Trust’s new Executive Director, Matthew Thurlow, gave a toast to Penny’s dedication and inspired vision during her thirty years of service. Food, drink and merry conversation floated around the house on this culmination of a successful Americana Week.

Martha Stewart visits Estate Cane Garden
St. Croix

Estate Cane Garden welcomed Martha Stewart for a tour of the house and grounds during her vacation to St. Croix this winter. She spent part of the afternoon learning more about the history of the house’s architecture, furnishings and associated ruins, as well as its extensive collection of Island mahogany furniture and classical decor. Ms. Stewart must have had a great time (but who wouldn’t while sipping rum by the Caribbean!), because she featured her visit to Cane Garden in a recent post on her blog “Martha: Up Close and Personal.”

A big thanks to the staff at Cane Garden for providing such a warm welcome to Martha Stewart and her colleagues!
This newsletter’s Profile will focus on Mr. John W. Smith, better known as Jack, who oversees all of Classical American Homes Preservation Trust’s properties as Director of Operations, and who also sits on CAHPT’s Board of Directors. Jack has been with CAHPT since its inception in 1993, also having worked the previous 18 years for Richard Jenrette as a property manager. Jack has been directly involved in the restoration of all CAHPT and Richard Jenrette’s portfolio of properties for nearly 40 years.

While working as a contractor in upstate New York, Jack was first introduced to Mr. Jenrette in the fall of 1975 by a local decorator. Mr. Jenrette hired Jack to complete a large painting job at Edgewater on the Hudson River, which had been purchased from Gore Vidal in 1969. Two years later, upon the completion of his work at Edgewater, Jack was hired full-time by Mr. Jenrette to manage his properties.

Over the next fifteen years, Jack participated in restoring and decorating Mr. Jenrette’s residences as they were acquired. Next was 37 Charlton Street in New York (property later sold), where a complete two-year restoration was completed. In 1985 Mr. Jenrette acquired both Ayr Mount in Hillsborough, North Carolina, and Cane Garden in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Each of these projects entailed extensive work. Between 1987-89, Jack oversaw a cosmetic restoration of the George F. Baker Houses. The project began when Mr. Jenrette purchased 67 East 93rd Street in New York (sold a year later), and continued upon his purchase of 69 East 93rd Street, which is now CAHPT’s headquarters. Jack also restored 67 East 93rd Street a second time in 1996 when Mr. Jenrette re-purchased the property. Additionally, when Mr. Jenrette acquired Millford Plantation in Pinewood, South Carolina in 1992, Jack oversaw a massive restoration of the Mansion and the seven individual outbuildings on the plantation grounds. In each of these instances, Jack says that he has loved to see the houses transform back to their original, classical beauty.

As Director of Operations, Jack’s role now is to maintain the houses and grounds in “tip-top” shape and ensure that they are physically prepared to withstand the test of time. This is no easy task, as these old houses consistently present an array of challenges, from structural maintenance like leaky roofs and peeling paint, to accessibility and security issues. CAHPT strives to keep the properties in pristine condition, and Jack credits the individual site managers and their teams for their tireless contributions. He applauds the teams led by Ernie Townsend at Roper House, Bill Crowther at Ayr Mount, David Crowther at Cane Garden and Louis Hall at Millford, plus his own crew at Edgewater and the Baker Houses, for their hard work, deep knowledge of the properties, and dedication to the cause of preservation.

Jack is also an original member of the Classical American Homes Preservation Trust Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees all of CAHPT’s activities and ensures that these six houses and grounds are being delivered to the next generation of preservationists in the best condition possible. He also envisions building a passionate, interested constituency of supporters as being crucial to the organization’s ongoing vitality.

It is difficult to sum up Jack’s impact on Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, as his innumerable contributions have ranged from strategic planning, antique and art acquisitions, restoration, and decoration, to electrical work and plumbing, and landscape design. Regardless of the task, Jack’s sunny disposition and trademark laugh are always present. He lives in Barrytown, New York (just steps from Edgewater) with his wife of 38 years, Diane, who works at nearby Bard College. Their son, Christopher, serves as CAHPT’s Counsel and Corporate Secretary, and their daughter, Julie, a recent Bard graduate and lover of old houses, has recently joined the CAHPT staff. Next year (2015) will mark Jack’s 40th year in the CAHPT “family”, and we congratulate Jack on all he has accomplished!
William L. Thompson
IN REMEMBRANCE
CAHPT Founding Board Director and Interior Designer, dies at 85.

With a heavy heart we announce that Bill Thompson passed away quietly on November 24, 2013 at Duke Medical Center in Durham, NC following an extended illness.

In his 48 years with Dick Jenrette, Bill was involved in the restoration, decoration and landscaping of several important, early 19th-century homes. These included Edgewater, built in 1824 on the Hudson River in northern Dutchess County; Roper House, built in 1838 in Charleston, SC; Millford Plantation, built in 1840 near Columbia, SC; Ayr Mount, built in 1815 in Hillsborough, NC and Cane Garden, built in 1786 in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. In New York City he lived in, and took an active role in restoring, several noteworthy residences including the George F. Baker Houses at 67-69 East 93rd Street, One Sutton Place North and 37 Charlton Street.

Bill was instrumental in helping assemble one of the largest collections of Duncan Phyfe furniture, as well the collections of other early 19th-century cabinetmakers. He also played an integral role in identifying and collecting portraits, carpets, curtains, and chandeliers for these houses. He had a keen interest in gardening and landscaping for all of these properties. No small detail escaped him. Bill was a founding Director of Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, which either owns or will own most of these properties to open them to the public as house museums.

William Lea Thompson was born in Curwensville, PA on August 26, 1928 to Roxie Ann Hess and Francis Ignatius Thompson. Having been raised in a Quaker household, Bill adopted this quiet religion in his early 20s. He graduated from Clearfield High School in 1946 and attended the Culinary Institute of America. He traveled extensively in his adult life.

He was predeceased by his three siblings, Darl Francis, Robert Walter and Lois May T. Peters. He is survived by several nieces and nephews and his beloved “Swans”: Amelia, Ann, Anne, BB, Betty, Carol, Cheryl, Connie, Emma, Georgina, Kathy, Lee, Lena, Margize, Maria, Marian, Mona, Pat, Sallie, Schatzie, Shirley, Sunny, Suzanne and Toni.

Bill is the author of two books, Beginnings and Ghostly Poems, and was a voracious reader, having collected more than 60,000 books located in the various properties he shared with Dick Jenrette. He wanted each house to have a “property library”. His collection featured 20th-century English and American novels and works focused on architecture, gardening, and landscape design. Many of the books are signed by their authors, with signatures from Truman Capote and Gore Vidal, who sold Edgewater to Jenrette in 1969.

He bids farewell to his best friend of 48 years, Dick Jenrette, and his other old friends and new friends that have made his life a happy one. He will be missed greatly by his many friends and family and remembered as a lovely human with a wonderful wit and insightful outlook on life.

Bill did not request a memorial service, but a small gathering of close friends will be held at a later date in Charleston, SC and in the spring at Edgewater on the Hudson, where he will be buried. In lieu of flowers and other gifts, Bill would appreciate a contribution to Classical American Homes, which will continue to preserve his work. All Gifts in Memoriam can be directed towards Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, 69 East 93rd Street, New York, NY 10128.

“Climb that hill and look at a sunset of beauty. Remember that this is the last touch of beauty God gives us before the darkness of night. Brighten the world with the sunshine of your soul. Keep a balance when the rains come, for we need the rain and the storms to make us grow… After the storms there is again the sunshine, and at the end we must radiate a beautiful sunset before the darkness overcomes us… what lies ahead is not the end but another beginning.”

From his book, Beginnings (2001)
Pair of Duncan Phyfe Card Tables Return to Edgewater

Edgewater, located on the Hudson River in Barrytown, NY, was built in 1825, presumably by John R. Livingston, of the wealthy Hudson River Valley Livingtons, for his daughter, Margaret. In 1852, Robert and Susan Donaldson of North Carolina later purchased the estate. Patrons of architecture and art, the Donaldsons added a library by Alexander Jackson Davis and filled the home with fine American furnishings, family portraiture, and objets d’art.

Edgewater was empty when it was purchased by Richard Jenrette from Gore Vidal in 1969. Edgewater remains Mr. Jenrette’s private residence, and his desire to restore the estate and eventually turn it over to his foundation, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, has led him on a collecting journey around the world. In a series of serendipitous events over the past 45 years many of the original Livingston and Donaldson objects have found their way back to Edgewater. Mr. Jenrette’s book, More Adventures With Old Houses: The Edgewater Experience, details the exciting odyssey of finding, acquiring and returning these objects to Edgewater.

The most recent piece of history to return to Edgewater is a pair of Duncan Phyfe rosewood card tables (see image above). The tables, decorated with gilded brass mounts and inlay, were recently discovered to be part of an 1822 commission by Phyfe for Robert Donaldson, who resided in Fayetteville, North Carolina at the time. The pair of tables was falsely attributed to a “Mrs. Bronson of South Carolina” until their Donaldson provenance came to light in mid-2013. Extensive research by Martha Willoughby of Christie’s revealed a connection between the style and design of the Phyfe tables and an 1822 invoice from Phyfe to Robert Donaldson.

After inheriting a substantial amount of money from his father and uncle, Robert Donaldson commissioned many pieces from Phyfe during the 1820s, which were later inherited by his daughter, Isabel Donaldson Bronson. The invoice, dated August 21, 1822, reveals the tables could possibly be a part of a larger commission, including a rosewood sofa, fourteen chairs, a center table, a pier table, and the card tables, which were priced at $100 for the pair (see image at right). Similarities in gilding and ornamentation connected the pair of card tables to the other pieces documented as made by Phyfe for Donaldson. However, there was another suit made by Phyfe for Donaldson in 1827 that included a Grecian
couch and sofa which have brass mounts of rosette flanked by leafy stems that are similar to ones on these card tables. They could possibly be a part of that commission.

The 1822 commission, completed by Phyfe’s workshop in New York City, was en route to Fayetteville, NC via the Cape Fear River when the ship carrying it capsized, sending the entire suite of furniture to the riverbed. Donaldson family history recounts the furniture as having been recovered unsøatched, a testimony to the master quality of craftsmanship that came out of Phyfe’s workshop.

Robert Donaldson moved to New York City in 1827, bringing this Phyfe suite of furniture to his new residence at 15 State Street. In 1852, Donaldson acquired Edgewater, again outfitting his house with his Duncan Phyfe collection. Edgewater remained in the Donaldson family for nearly 50 years until it was sold in 1902. Robert’s daughter, Isabel Donaldson Bronson, inherited the card tables and other family furnishings and moved with them to her new home in Sunnüt, New Jersey. Finances compelled her to sell a sofa and two card tables, which was documented in her 1928 “Reminiscences”. The card tables were sold to John Morrison Curtis, an interior decorator in Summit, NJ. The tables later appeared in 1983 at William Doyle Galleries, accompanied by a letter from Curtis, detailing their production by Phyfe, their treacherous trip along the Cape Fear River, and their later inheritance by Isabel Donaldson Bronson. The majority of the remaining Donaldson furniture Isabel inherited was later passed down to her granddaughter, Mary Cromwell Allison, the last living Donaldson descendant. Mary Allison, desiring that the family items be returned to their home at Edgewater, bequeathed them to Mr. Jenrette.

Classical American Homes obtained the tables from the Christie’s sale of the Jack Warner (Westervelt) Collection last year. Upon learning of the tables’ Donaldson heritage, Bill Thompson, founding Director of Classical American Homes Preservation Trust and partner of Richard Jenrette, made a generous donation to facilitate their return to Edgewater. We are thrilled to have yet another piece of Edgewater’s history back “home” — a reminder to visitors of the Donaldson era and a testament to Bill Thompson’s generosity and pivotal role in CAHPT’s founding. Read more about Edgewater in More Adventures With Old Houses: The Edgewater Experience and explore the history of Duncan Phyfe in The Metropolitan Museum’s Duncan Phyfe: Master Cabinetmaker in New York — both available for purchase at our Shop online.
We cannot believe how far we’ve come since our founding in 1993, all thanks to your generous support and sustained interest in what we do. Because of friends and supporters like you, Classical American Homes has been able to continue our preservation mission. The story began....

Classical American Homes started as a non-profit foundation in December 1993 with Dick Jenrette’s gift of Ayr Mount, built circa 1815, in Hillsborough, NC. It became our first historic house museum. The Baker Houses’ carriage house at 69 East 93rd Street was the next house to be given in 1996 to CAHPT for use as its headquarters. The most recent gift was Millford Plantation in Sumter County, SC in 2008. Roper House, Cane Garden, Edgewater and Baker House at 67 East 93rd Street are all still private residences of Dick Jenrette’s and are slated to be given to CAHPT at a future date.

 Classical American Homes was founded with a mission to preserve, protect and open to the public examples of American residential architecture, surrounding landscapes and scenic trails, fine and decorative arts for the first half of the nineteenth century. This has remained unchanged, except for the addition of “surrounding landscapes and scenic trails.” With approximately 1000 acres comprising the property at all six houses, we realize the overall significance that the land plays in relationship to these houses and the enjoyment it provides to the visitor. Over time we have purchased property surrounding our houses to further protect them from encroaching development.

Happy 20th Birthday PARTY to Us!

Ayr Mount, Hillsborough, NC
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

In honor of our 20th birthday, we hosted a reception at Ayr Mount in Hillsborough, NC, on October 23rd. Nearly 300 friends and supporters came to help us celebrate on this crisp, Fall evening. The house was open for guests to tour while food and drinks were served outside on the terrace. Vistas of undulating fields down to the Eno River created an idyllic setting for the occasion.

The evening featured memorable remarks by the Mayor of Hillsborough, Tom Stevens, and Dick Jenrette. Mayor Stevens presented Mr. Jenrette with a locally-crafted key to the town of Hillsborough and an Official Accolade for his generous preservation of Ayr Mount, its associated scenic trails, and surrounding land in the Eno River Valley. Mayor Stevens began his comments by asking, “What does one call someone who lives in Hillsborough?” His answer? “Lucky!” — due in part to individuals like Dick Jenrette. He praised Dick’s vision for Ayr Mount and thanked him for his gift to the community and beyond. Bill and Schatzie Crowther were also applauded for their constant and exemplary management and care of Ayr Mount and its scenic trails.

Pictured at left: Dick Jenrette accepting the key to the town of Hillsborough from Mayor Tom Stevens on October 23, 2013. (Kent Murray)

Pictured at left: Anne Faircloth & Fred Beaujeu-DuFour and Dick Jenrette; center: Vic & Mary Grady Bell, Buddy Jenrette, Dick Jenrette; at right: Julia Carpenter and Dick Jenrette.

Pictured at left: Schatzie Crowther and Charles Floyd; center: rolling hills at Ayr Mount (photo courtesy of Kent Murray); at right: Macon, Josie and Jim Patton.

Pictured at left: Mac Griswold and Chip Callaway; center: Bill Crowther and Hopie Avery; at right: Dick Jenrette at Ayr Mount (photo courtesy of Kent Murray).
The Halls are Alive with the Sound of Music!
Millford Plantation, Pinewood, S.C.
Sunday, September 22, 2013

Music at Millford was a resounding (no pun intended) success this year. The response was tremendous (sold-out), the weather was sunny and clear, and the stellar performance by virtuoso violinist Chenyi Avsharian, Gold Medalist of the 2008 China International Violin Competition, and accomplished international pianist, Amy I-Lin Cheng, was extraordinary. The grand yet intimate setting of Millford’s elegant double parlors — paired with Chenyi’s unparalleled performance — created an afternoon not to be forgotten.

The diverse musical program selected was mesmerizing with works by composers Tchaikovsky, Vitali, Mendelssohn, Chopin, Waxman and de Sarasate, as well as a piece by Ernst that is rarely performed due to its challenging nature. This same musical program debuted last month on the world-stage at Beijing’s Bird Nest Stadium, which was built for the 2008 Olympics.

The afternoon began with guests touring the house and grounds before getting seated. After the concert more drinks and hors d’oeuvres were served with an opportunity to meet the musicians. Music performance has always been a tradition at Millford, and John Laurence Manning would have been proud to see the quality of music performed at his house and the enjoyment it brought to those who attended.

A huge round of applause to our Music at Millford Benefit Committee whose contributions were invaluable — Mary & Clinch Belser, Thomas Bennett, Ginny Bush & Warren Schwarzman, Rita & Marvin Caughman, Christina & Emory Clark, Jerry Dell & Benjamin Gimarc, Sallie & Charles Duell, Kathleen & Kirkman Finlay, Cathy & Buddy Jenrette, Charlotte & Alan Kahn, Lee Manigault, Betsy & Julius McKay, Caroline & Swing Meyer, Suzanne & Peter Pollak, Anne & Alan Reyner. A special round of applause goes to Christina Clark whose efforts and guidance were immeasurable.

To watch part of this performance, visit our Facebook page, under “Music at Millford.”

Top row: (left) Chenyi Avsharian performing; (center) Chenyi and pianist, Amy I-Lin Cheng; (right) Elizabeth Ravenel, Kathy Ravenel, Anne Cleveland.
Middle row: (center) Peter & Suzanne Pollack with Stephen Schar; (left) Emory Clark and Caroline Meyer.
Bottom row: (left) Kate Adams, Marjorie Spruill, Cathy Jenrette; (center) chairs set up in Double Parlor; (right) Don Doyle, Marjorie Spruill, Cathy & Buddy Jenrette.

Art Acquisitions

Exciting news — more Manning family heritage found its way back to Millford this summer! The spouse of a Manning descendant contacted us regarding several pieces of Manning family silver, along with a mahogany chest that originally housed a full set of Manning Family silver flatware. The mahogany chest is now one of the newest pieces to our collection and boasts a silver nameplate with the inscription “J.L. Manning” for Governor John Laurence Manning. Select pieces of Manning silver were also acquired and include: a footed waste bowl by S. Kirk and Son (Baltimore), a Ball, Tompkins & Black (New York) chalice, and a ladle with inscription. The silver chalice is inscribed “JLM from MGC” and came with a calling card that remains with the piece indicating that it was most likely a gift to John Manning from his mother-in-law, Mary Good Clarke, probably at the time of his marriage to his second wife, Sallie Bland Clarke.
SUMMER/AUTUMN NEWS 2013

Dick Jenrette Welcomes John Trumbull’s Portrait of Hamilton to The American Wing
Vanderlyn Gallery, The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Friday, October 4, 2013

On Friday, October 4th, Dick Jenrette gave a lecture to the Friends of the American Wing at The Metropolitan Museum of Art entitled, “My 20 Years with Alexander Hamilton.” Dick was invited to help celebrate The American Wing’s recent acquisition of the John Trumbull portrait of Alexander Hamilton (1792), which is co-owned with The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR, which was a gift to both museums from Credit Suisse, who acquired it from Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette. It will rotate between these two institutions every two years.

The lecture, which Dick also aptly referred to as, “Adventures with Old Portraits,” gave an overview of the Hamilton portrait and recounted the fate of many of the portraits in the former New York Chamber of Commerce portrait collection—all of which featured political and financial leaders from the late 18th to mid 20th centuries.

In 1980 DLJ purchased the Alexander Hamilton portrait, among others, when the Chamber decided to move from Wall Street to Midtown. This portrait was considered the crown jewel of the DLJ Collection of Americana, greeting guests at the office’s elegant staircase. Portraits of President Abraham Lincoln and Generals William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant were a few portraits from the Chamber’s esteemed collection that also went on to grace the walls of DLJ. Dick purchased several portraits for his personal collection, most of which are showcased at The Baker Houses on East 93rd Street in Manhattan.

Over sixty Friends of the American Wing attended the lecture. Dick shared his personal account of acquiring the Hamilton portrait and those like it: a tale that involved good timing, prudent decision-making, a bit of luck, and a deep appreciation for a dozen or so world-renowned American artists.

Profile: Kathy Healy-Gillen
CAHPT Registrar and Treasurer

This newsletter’s Profile will focus on Mrs. Kathy Healy-Gillen, Classical American Homes Preservation Trust’s Registrar and Treasurer. Kathy is one of CAHPT’s longest tenured employees, having been with the organization since 2001. Kathy is responsible for the registration of all the fine and decorative arts in the CAHPT collection and maintains the art database, which individually tracks each item. Kathy also coordinates special events and the many group tours at Classical American Homes’ three properties and Richard H. Jenrette’s four properties. If you have visited a CAHPT property on a tour, it is very likely that Kathy was instrumental in its organization. As Treasurer, Kathy is responsible for banking and all accounts receivable and payable for Classical American Homes.

Prior to her time at Classical American Homes, Kathy served as Associate Curator at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, where she began working in 1986. A Long Island native, Kathy has a love and deep appreciation for old houses, and especially enjoys managing CAHPT’s and Richard Jenrette’s collection of Duncan Phyfe furniture. Kathy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arts Management and Art History from Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, and has completed the Attingham Summer School program and the Winterthur Winter Institute.

Kathy currently lives in Long Island with her husband, Michael, whom she met while working at DLJ, and their 13-year old son, Michael, and their 10-year old daughter, Jacqueline, along with dogs, Banks and Sara. She enjoys reading (especially about Civil War history), visiting museums, and collecting sea glass and shells on the beach. She also likes fishing and is a sports enthusiast, particularly as a fan of the New York Yankees and UNC Tar Heels basketball team.
Gibbes Museum visits New York
The Baker House, New York City
Wednesday, October 16th, 2013

Dick Jenrette and Classical American Homes welcomed the New York friends of the Gibbes Museum of Art to 67 East 93rd Street on Wednesday, October 16th. The reception was organized by the Gibbes to cultivate support for the museum’s upcoming renovation and celebrate their recent opening of the Photography and the American Civil War exhibition over one month ago.

Executive Director Angela Mack welcomed the crowd on behalf of the Board of Directors and museum staff. She gave comments about the long-term vision for the Gibbes Museum, which includes a multi-million dollar renovation to refurbish and expand upon the institution’s Beaux Arts building in Charleston to be led by museum designer Jeff Daly (see pictured below). Mrs. Mack also spoke about the featured exhibit, which was organized by The Metropolitan Museum of Art and includes more than 200 rare pictures of the American Civil War. Jeff Rosenheim, Curator in Charge of The Met’s Department of Photographs, was at the reception lending his support (see below). The Met’s influence on the exhibit further emphasizes the Gibbes’ connection to New York City’s arts community, she remarked.

Food, drink and merry conversation floated around The Baker House on this Wednesday evening. Over 60 guests explored the home and connected over their interest in the success of the Gibbes Museum for years to come.

Pictured at left: Philippe de Montebello & Edith Myles, Dick Jenrette, Angela Mack

Pictured at left: An evening view of the colonnade at The Baker House; center: Scott Bessent (CAHPT Board Director) & John Freeman; at right: Dick Jenrette, Angela Mack and Nigel Redden.

Pictured at left: Mary & Howard Phipps; center: Jeff Rosenheim and Jeff Daly; at right: Jerry Millbank & Caroline Rennolds.

Pictured at left: Kayla Nalven, Dick Jenrette and Ted Lee; center: Dr. & Mrs. Jasper Gaunt; at right: Mrs. & Mr. Van Campbell. All Gibbes reception images by Taylor Jewett.
Events & Tours
From South Carolina to New York
June to November 2013

Summer and the beginning of autumn flew by in the blink of an eye! Over the past five months our properties have seen visitors from all around the country and the world - from California and Illinois to Hong Kong and the UK. While diverse, our new friends surely have in common an interest in preserving these homes for their beauty and historical significance.

This summer we have had the pleasure of welcoming visitors from the Asheville Art Museum, the Owens-Thomas House, the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts Summer Institute, the Preservation League of New York State and a special guest, Madame Ban Soon-taek, wife of the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, with CAHPT Board Director Amie James and members of the Colony Club Foreign Visitors Committee. We suggested at that time that Madame Ban Soon-taek would enjoy a trip to Edgewater when the leaves were at their peak — and she took us up on it!

In mid-October, Madame Ban returned to Edgewater with her husband, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and 10 Ambassadors and their spouses from Finland, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Malta, Tunisia, Thailand, Spain, Hungary, Chile, Vietnam, and the Philippines, along with members of the Colony Club Foreign Visitors Committee. They enjoyed Edgewater and other Hudson Valley sites on a gorgeous Autumn day.

The Fall season began with a whirl. In New York City we welcomed the Harvard Business School Women’s Association of New York, The New York Friends of the Gibbes Museum of Art and members of the Ceramic Circle of Atlanta, who also made a journey up the river to see Edgewater.

Edgewater was especially popular this fall! The Greenwich Antiques Society, The Greenville County Museum of Art, Victorian Society, Princeton University Art Museum and Historic Natchez Foundation all visited the Hudson Valley home. Two groups even came via boats up the Hudson River on two beautiful fall days — members of the New York Yacht Club (NYYC) and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The NYYC presented Dick Jenrette with an official plaque as a token of their appreciation. But like all of our visits - the pleasure is truly ours!

In the South, Roper House welcomed members from the George Washington Foundation, curators from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, visitors from The Preservation Society of Charleston and members of the Speed Art Museum. In addition to the 20th anniversary reception, Ayr Mount held two wedding celebrations and hosted members of the Friendly Force Club-an Anglo-American exchange program based in Raleigh.

With 2013 coming to a close, we are continuing our planning for next year. The new visitation season will begin with tours in New York City during Americana Week in mid-January. Should your group be visiting near one of our wonderful sites, please let us know; we would look forward to welcoming you, and perhaps a friend or two, in 2014!
Events & Tours
From South Carolina to New York
March to May 2013

As the azaleas, camellias and wisteria were beginning to bloom, the winter doldrums here at Classical American Homes were beginning to melt, especially in anticipation of the many visitors to our houses and the Millford Picnic and Barbecue this Spring.

Gardens, Jardins, Landscape Architecture... are all words we love to hear! In April we welcomed 70 members of the Garden Club of South Carolina to Millford during their extraordinary “Follow the Blooms” tour. This tour was to benefit their educational and cultural efforts. In Charleston we were pleased to have members of the American Horticultural Society and the Garden Club of Cleveland visit the Roper House. During Historic Charleston Foundation’s Annual Festival of Houses & Gardens and the Charleston Antiques Show, we had more than 500 people visit Roper House, a tradition we have participated in for many years pro bono publico. In fact, HCF recorded a boost to the local economy of over $6.4 million during this time with a 13% increase over 2012. How’s that for newsworthy — Bravo!

The Millford Picnic and Barbecue on April 6th was a party that would have made Scarlett happy, even if Ashley weren’t there! With the wisteria beginning to open up and the camellias at peak perfection, over 200 friends and supporters came to tour Millford and see the latest additions, catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and partake in a delicious Southern-style lunch. The Picnic and Barbecue was a benefit for the Friends of Millford. The event was held under a festive white tent, surrounded by Millford’s graceful old trees with Spanish moss, with tables scattered under them both. Kudos to the chefs at Doc’s Barbecue in Columbia, SC for their mouthwatering cuisine — and special appreciation to Kirkman Finlay for underwriting the catering. Scarlett would have approved of the whole day and perhaps would have added a few inches to her waistline.

Towards the end of the month, Millford hosted the Historic Charleston Foundation Benefactors for a tour focusing on the Phyfe furniture, followed by a box lunch. In between this visit and quite a few others, we also hosted the fifth grade classes from the Laurence Manning Academy in Manning.

Go to our Facebook Page for many more photographs on the Millford Picnic & Barbecue.
SPRING NEWS 2013

Further north, Ayr Mount in Hillsborough, NC reopened in March with a busy Spring season. There were many groups visiting Ayr Mount, including church groups, women’s organizations, and a History class from N.C. State University. The property also hosted several events, including family reunions, a wedding, and a baby shower. The house museum welcomed many individuals during its open schedule from Wednesday to Sunday. Click here for Ayr Mount’s tour schedule. Others came to enjoy the blooming environs and to walk the Poet’s Walk. For more information on Ayr Mount and to understand how it ticks, please see the Profile on Ayr Mount’s Site Supervisors later in the Newsletter.

Continuing this spring tour migration to New York City, we welcomed the American Friends of the Georgian Group to the George F. Baker House for a lecture on our houses and collections by our own Executive Director, Margize Howell. Following the lecture, refreshing mint juleps were served (for historical purposes only). The mint julep originated in the South, most likely during the eighteenth century, and has had a long and winding journey to its present incarnation. It was definitely a fitting way to celebrate the rites of Spring.

We look forward to welcoming you to all our sites and hope you will consider visiting one (or more) of our houses this year. Thank you!

Sofia Vergara at Roper House
Star of the TV show Modern Family visits Charleston

On a clear and sunny day in early April, the Roper House was the ocean-side setting for an afternoon visit with celebrity guest Sofia Vergara (pictured at right). Ms. Vergara, who is well known for her current role as Gloria Delgado-Pritchett in the ABC series Modern Family, has been nominated for three Golden Globe Awards, three Primetime Emmy Awards and three Screen Actors Guild Awards for Best Comedy Actress for the show.

Ms. Vergara and her boyfriend, Nick Loeb, spent a weekend in Charleston. She was the talk of the town! The Daily Mail (UK) reported on the couple’s trip.

O

Pictured at left: Ned and Lily Johnson. Center: The Friends of Millford Co-Chairs Lee Manigault (left) and Kirkman Finlay (right) with Dick Jenrette. At right (left to right): Tommy Bultman, Harriett Green, Director of Visual Arts at the South Carolina Arts Commission, and Dick Jenrette.


Pictured left: Statuesque Sofia beside Roper House’s monumental columns. Pictured right: Dick Jenrette, Nick Loeb, Sofia Vergara, and Bill Thompson.
Spring was in the air in the Big Apple too! We held our annual Spring Patrons Party at the George F. Baker Houses on May 30th. Over 175 friends and supporters, coming all the way from Dallas to Miami to Chicago, joined us in New York to catch up and enjoy a cocktail. We raise our glasses to all those who attended the event, and to those who could not join us that evening, and say “Thank you for your support!”

Classical American Homes recently received another generous gift from Stuart and Sue Feld. Mr. and Mrs. Feld contacted us last summer to offer a stunning pair of late nineteenth century French Restauration sinumbra lamps to display in one of our house museums. They previously gifted us a singular Gothic Sinumbra Lamp, which is currently at Millford in South Carolina. The pair of painted spelter and ormolu lamps, just under three feet tall, have partially frosted, blown glass shades and wheel-cut glass chimneys. The French Restauration style is characterized by a shift from gilded and carved ornamentation to more simple, plain surfaces such as the unadorned pillar and scroll form, which Scottish-born cabinetmaker Duncan Phyfe began producing in the late 1830s and 1840s. With its extensive collection of Phyfe furniture, and the recently acquired Phyfe pieces from The Met, Dick Jenrette thought Millford would be a fitting home for the lamps, as they are of the same period as the house. We invite you to visit Millford to see the lamps on display.

Acquisitions
19th Century Sinumbra Lamps

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Awards and Honors
Richard H. Jenrette recognized by two institutions for his contributions in the field
April and May 2013

The Iris Foundation Award for Outstanding Patron from the Bard Graduate Center, NYC

On April 17th, Richard H. Jenrette (pictured at right) was honored as a 2013 recipient of The Iris Foundation Award for Outstanding Patron from the Bard Graduate Center in New York City. The award recognizes Dick’s “long-standing and passionate commitment to preserving and restoring classical American houses and their related collections, [which] reflects the true spirit of the Iris awards, and that [his] decision to share them with the public through Classical American Homes Preservation Trust is especially important to celebrate.”

A First Recipient of MESDA’s Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award

A month later, on May 17th, Dick Jenrette was presented with the inaugural Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem Museum & Gardens. This award was named for Frank L. Horton, whose shared vision, along with his mother Theodosia “Theo” Taliaferro, established MESDA as the preeminent museum for domestic objects made in the South. Robert Leath, the Chief Curator and Vice-President, Collections and Research at Old Salem, said “Dick Jenrette is the perfect person to honor with our first Frank L. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award. His southern roots and unprecedented contributions to the fields of preservation, conservation and collection have made him an important presence in our world.” It was a wonderful evening with many of Dick’s friends from his home state of North Carolina and beyond. We encourage you to visit MESDA, and their newly opened Anne P. and Thomas A. Gray Library and Research Center.

Columns by the Sea: The Roper House
By Richard Hampton Jenrette

Columns by the Sea is the third of Dick Jenrette’s books chronicling his love of old houses, following the widely read memoirs, Adventures With Old Houses and More Adventures With Old Houses. In his new book, Mr. Jenrette focuses in greater detail on one of these houses – Roper House, an outstanding example of early 19th Century Greek Revival architecture, circa 1838, on the Battery in Charleston. In Columns by the Sea Dick Jenrette gives his highly personal account of how he discovered Roper House strolling on the Battery one moonlit night by accident in 1968 and how his dream of owning this house with its colossal colonnade soon became a reality.

$20 (softcover) available online at: www.classicalamericanhomes.org/shop
CAHPT 20th Anniversary Pop Quiz

1. What movie influenced Dick Jenrette’s love of classical architecture?
2. What was the first house Dick Jenrette purchased to begin his collection of houses?
3. Ayr Mount is located along which important early trading route?
   a) Carolinian Silk Road  b) Old Indian Trading Path  c) Tar Heel Tunnel  d) Trader Joe’s Produce Aisle
4. True or False. In 1854 Edgewater had a unique octagonal library added to it by A.J. Davis, which later became Gore Vidal’s study.
5. The architect/builder of Millford Plantation, Nathaniel Potter, was related to which famous Potter who helped save Millford from destruction during the Civil War?
6. What does the Guggenheim Museum have in common with the Roper House?
   a) Roper House’s architect was the great-uncle of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Guggenheim’s architect.
   b) Robert William Roper was Solomon Guggenheim’s dear friend.
   c) The spiral design of the Guggenheim Museum was said to be in interpretive “modern columns” inspired by the Roper House.
   d) Solomon Guggenheim, who built his namesake museum, once owned and resided at the Roper House.
7. Which house belonged to a prominent banker who founded Citibank?
8. President George Washington didn’t necessarily sleep there, however he keeps “watch” at these two houses.
9. Which one of our houses was owned by the same family for 170 years?
10. Column-mania – Which house has the tallest columns?
    Which house has the most?
    Which is the only house with Corinthian columns?
    Name two houses with Doric columns?
    Name two with Ionic columns?
    What is the total of all columns?
11. Which house survived the Civil War, 1866 Earthquake, Hurricane Hugo and Sofia Vergara’s visit?
12. Owned originally by French Count DuVal, this oldest home in the collection was used as a monastery and later functioned as a sugar cane plantation under the ownership of Scotch-Irish planters.
14. The Historic Occoneechee Speedway Trail, a 1-mile oval track adjacent to Ayr Mount, served what purpose before it was turned into stretches of scenic trails?
    a) mysterious crop circle
    b) the original NASCAR racetrack before NASCAR moved to Talladega/Daytona Beach
    c) a popular Occaneechi Indian sports arena
    d) all of the above
15. Which house had a “sister” house, Millwood, which was burned down in the Civil War?
16. Which house has a documented collection of Duncan Phyfe furniture that accidentally fell in the Cape Fear River in transit to Fayetteville, NC and returned over 100 years later from a descendant living in Spain?
17. This house was designed by Delano & Aldrich as part of a family compound complete with a private railroad spur and car for easy rail travel to the owners’ country house.
18. Which house shares its lead architect, Dr. William Thornton, with the White House?
19. If Scarlett O’Hara had not returned to Tara, which house would she have chosen?
20. True or False. One of Dick Jenrette’s requisites for Classical American Homes is to enjoy these old houses and have fun with them!

**ANSWERS**

1. Gone with the Wind (1939), directed by Victor Fleming and George Cukor, and Sam Wood.
2. True
3. b) Old Indian Trading Path – although a Trader Joe’s produce aisle would be convenient!
5. c) Brig. Gen. Edward Elmer Potter
6. d) Solomon Guggenheim, who built his namesake museum, once owned and resided at the Roper House
7. The George F. Baker House
8. Roper House and Edgewater
9. Ayr Mount
10. Baker House has eight columns. / Millford / Cane Garden and Edgewater / Baker House and Roper House
11. Roper House
12. Estate Cane Garden
13. The George F. Baker House (67 East 93rd Street)
14. b) the original NASCAR racetrack before NASCAR moved to Talladega/Daytona Beach
15. Millford
16. Edgewater
17. The George F. Baker House
18. Estate Cane Garden
19. She would probably fancy them all, but would have loved the curtain at Millford best!
20. TRUE! Come have some fun!
Visit Our Houses

To schedule a tour, please go to:
www.classicalamericanhomes.org

Our mission at Classical American Homes Preservation Trust is to preserve, protect and open to the public examples of classical American architecture, surrounding landscapes and scenic trails, as well as fine and decorative arts of the first half of the 19th Century.

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