The Preservation Society of Newport County
with
National Trust Insurance Services, LLC.
U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management
and Christie’s
presents
HIDDEN TREASURES
Preliminary Program
Sunday, April 28 through Wednesday, May 1, 2013
The Newport Symposium Committee
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The Newport Symposium

What far away palaces, villas, and temples are yet to be discovered? What great works of art, furniture, silver, and jewelry are sitting in the vaults of great museums, private collections, and libraries that have never been seen? The 21st annual Newport Symposium will explore the rarest and finest objects, from finely crafted chairs and old master drawings to exquisite porcelain from all corners of the globe. Lectures will examine the most remote, hard to see historic sites and the remarkable stories of art treasures that have been lost and then reclaimed. Join us for a diverse cultural and artistic feast.

Sunday, April 28

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Symposium Registration: Hotel Viking

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pre-Symposium Tour: Architectural Treasures
Kingscote (1841) is full of treasures collected by generations of the King family, such as China Trade objects, 18th century Newport furniture, and Aesthetic Movement pottery. The Isaac Bell House (1883) is a masterpiece of design with unique interior finishes, from a gilt-speckled ceiling to floral stencils, which were uncovered during the preservation process.

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception at The Elms (1901)
Celebrate the return of the last two Venetian paintings to the dining room of The Elms after their auction fifty years ago. Today, The Elms has the most complete series of 18th century history paintings outside of Venice. Truly, this is a story of treasures reclaimed!

Dinner on one’s own
Monday, April 29

8:00 a.m. Registration: Hotel Viking

9:00 a.m. Welcome
Donald O. Ross, Chairman of the Board
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI

9:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lectures at Hotel Viking Conference Center

Desert Island Pictures
Robert Cumming, Professor of Art History
Boston University, South Kensington Campus, London, England
Many collectors and art world professionals dream of discovering a hidden or long lost masterpiece or treasure. Journalists fantasize about thefts of works of art, supposedly done at the order of a reclusive billionaire to satisfy his private aesthetic pleasures. To set the scene for this year’s symposium, Robert Cumming poses the question: if you had the misfortune to be a castaway on a remote desert island, what four great paintings and what four precious objects would you wish to have with you? Robert will ask you for your choices and reveal his own.

Venetian Paintings in Newport: Discoveries, Loss, and Reclamation
Dr. Xavier Salomon, Curator of Southern Baroque Paintings
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
A substantial and extraordinarily important group of Venetian paintings was on display in Newport’s houses at the turn of the 20th century. It included masterpieces by artists such as Paolo Veronese, Francesco Guardi, Antonio Pellegrini and Sebastiano Ricci. While some of them eventually were bequeathed to and acquired by museums, others still remain in the mansions, at The Elms (1901), Marble House (1892) and Ochre Court (1891); several, sold at auction from The Elms in 1962, have now returned after a fifty year absence, a true testament to their worth and appreciation. This lecture will explore these works of art and look more broadly at their context in Venice and in Newport.
12:00 p.m. Lunch at Hotel Viking
Optional. Fee.

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent lectures and tours

**Château de Gizeux : The Galerie des Châteaux, A Hidden Treasure in the Loire Valley**
Karen Archer, Deputy Director, Strategic Development & Communications
French Heritage Society, Paris, France
Remodeled in the Renaissance, the château de Gizeux has been in the same family since 1786. In the 17th century, the château hosted a painting school which executed the mural frescoes in the majestic Galerie des Châteaux. These frescos represent the major French royal châteaux of the time, including Versailles and Fontainebleau. This lecture will discuss the urgent intervention needed to ensure the survival of the paintings and décor so that this hidden treasure is preserved for future generations.

**Salvaging the Past: Treasures in French Decorative Art from the Georges Hoentschel Collection at the Metropolitan Museum of Art**
Danielle Kisluk-Grosheide, Curator of European Sculpture & Decorative Arts
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
J.P. Morgan acquired medieval art, 18th century French furniture, woodwork and gilt bronze from the Parisian decorator Georges Hoentschel for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1907. This lecture highlights the exhibition of this collection, which had a far-reaching impact on the museum, American designers and manufacturers. Brought together in a focused manner, the exhibition of these objects, organized by the museum and Bard Graduate Center, will shed new light on treasures of decorative art that helped change American taste.

**Vintage Wallpaper Decors: A Truly Hidden Treasure!**
Carolle Thibaut-Pomerantz
Paris, France
The remarkable story of the art of wallpaper, an often forgotten and lost treasure of decorative art, will be revealed as an important page in the history of interior design. Very much in fashion since the 18th century, English, French and Chinese wallpapers enhanced the rooms of the aristocratic and
wealthy throughout Europe and America. From Marie Antoinette and Thomas Jefferson to Henry Francis du Pont and Jacqueline Kennedy, hear the stories of great patrons and their wallpapers in a magical world of private and public collections.

**Treasures from the Archives**
Miranda LP Keagle, *Collections Manager*
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI
The Preservation Society’s archival collection of prints, drawings, photographs, letters, and journals is a hidden treasure that informs conservation efforts and research projects. Ms. Keagle will show remarkable pieces that are normally kept in storage, including a photo album documenting the construction of The Breakers (1895), rare views of The Elms (1901) gardens, and a collection of photos from the filming of *The Great Gatsby* (1974) at Rosecliff (1902).

**Hidden in Plain Sight**
Charles Jeffers Moore, *Chief Conservator*
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI
After two years of conservation work, the three 18th-century Chinese export lacquer panels from the K’ang Hsi period, their matching overdoors, and a fourth lacquer panel provided by the interior designer Jules Allard are reinstalled in the breakfast room at The Elms (1901). The architectural context and scale tend to overwhelm the detail, and much of the material history of the panels is not readily apparent. Details and discoveries will be explored in the presence of the panels themselves.

**Tour: Fine and Decorative Arts Revealed: Interior Treasures of Marble House**
Charles J. Burns, *Associate Curator for Research*
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI
The 17th and 18th century French-inspired interiors of Marble House (1892) will be the setting for a discussion of recent discoveries made during the Preservation Society’s “Highlights of the Collections” research project. View the Vanderbilts’ French royal portraits in the dining room, learn the provenance and fate of two monumental Gobelins tapestries originally intended for Louis XVI, and see a silver centerpiece made by renowned English silversmith Paul Storr for a wealthy Portuguese nobleman.
Tour: Treasures at The Breakers
Paul F. Miller, Curator
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI
From the earliest French period room in America to La Farge portieres and fragments from the Demidoff collection, The Breakers (1895) continues to amaze as once obscure objects come under closer inspection and masterpieces stand revealed. Join Mr. Miller as he outlines the stories behind the re-emergence of forgotten treasures from the collection of Cornelius Vanderbilt II.

Tour: Hidden Connections in Newport’s Craftsmen Community
Alice Dickinson, Decorative Arts Fellow
The Preservation Society of Newport County, Newport, RI
Prominently situated in the historic Point District, Hunter House (circa 1748) exhibits the work of some of the most important 18th century Newport craftsmen. Using the Hunter House collection of outstanding Townsend-Goddard furniture and Newport pewter, this lecture will examine the hidden connections between Newport’s artisans and the objects they created.

Tuesday, April 30
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lectures at Hotel Viking Conference Center

Legendary Monuments, Hidden Treasures
Bonnie Burnham, President
World Monuments Fund, New York, NY
The World Monuments Fund has been in the vanguard of seeking out, protecting and aiding in the preservation of historic sites on every continent. From the most remote sites in Peru and Tibet to hidden treasures, such as medieval frescos in long forgotten churches, this lecture examines places of great legend and those often overlooked sites that are equally fascinating and offer an intimate view onto lost worlds.
A Felicitous Chance Encounter with a Renaissance Sculptor: The Miniature Wax Portraits of Giovanni Battista Capocaccia
Frank Dabell, Lecturer in the History of Art
Rome, Italy
The recent rediscovery of some polychrome wax reliefs of the 1560s, cited in Vasari’s Lives of the Artists (1550) but practically unknown, casts light on Giovanni Battista Capocaccia, a sculptor from Ancona who worked for Pope Pius V and his scandal-ridden nephew, Cardinal Michele Bonelli. A refined low relief image of the Pope with a newly identified donor, still in its original leather case from Vatican bindery, has resurfaced in a U.S. private collection, and is here connected with other works by this intriguing artist.

12:00 p.m.  Lunch at Hotel Viking
Optional. Fee.

2:00 – 4:30 p.m.  The series of Monday afternoon sessions will be repeated on Tuesday afternoon.

7:00 p.m.  Dinner at The Breakers (1895)

Wednesday, May 1

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  Lectures at Hotel Viking Conference Center

Analysis of a Treasure: An Ark of the New Republic
Nicholas R. Bell, The Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator of American Craft and Decorative Art
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
This lecture unveils one of the most unusual works of early American furniture ever to confront scholars. An early 19th century Philadelphia table in the collection of the Winterthur Museum stumped admirers for decades before Mr. Bell discovered its startling true history. Lavish decoration and intricate compartments reveal layer upon layer of symbolism as this long-hidden treasure is finally decoded.
Reconstructing from Fragments: Georges Hoentschel’s Study Collection and French Style in America
Dr. Ulrich Leben, Visiting Professor and Special Exhibition Curator
The Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, New York, NY
Dr. Leben reveals the discerning taste of the Parisian decorator Georges Hoentschel, who assembled the most precious treasures, from medieval art to French 18th century paneling and paintings. This lecture is a review of the Belle Époque, the rediscovery of 18th century French design, and a collection that would entice J.P. Morgan and influence American design in the early 1900s. Dr. Leben is working with the Metropolitan Museum of Art on their upcoming Hoentschel exhibition.

12:00 p.m. Lunch at Hotel Viking
Optional. Fee.

Schedule subject to change.