

THE NEWSLETTER

Issue No.1 – September-October 2009

An Introduction

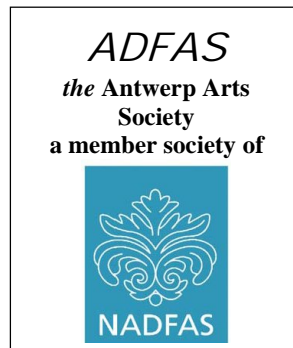
Dear Members,

I hope you all had a good summer. Mine, as you may have heard, was not so good, but I am glad to report that I am feeling much better, and hope to be with you all at our first meeting in October. We have a good programme for the coming season, and I know you will all find something to enjoy.

As you will remember, we had our AGM just before the May lecture; this means that your membership for the 2009-2010 season is now due, and our Treasurer Edgard will be more than happy to receive your payment. As a reminder, single membership is €70 and double membership €135, with half-year membership from February 2010 at €35 or €70. Alternatively you can attend lectures for €12 per evening (€10 for students) and as one of the Volunteers you can pay just €20 (this however, does not entitle you to attend lectures for nothing).

I hope you will admire our new lectern! It will create a more professional feeling to the lecture evenings, hopefully much appreciated by our speakers, and it will generally be easier for them to use rather than the table we have had up until now. It was paid for with the profit of last years' raffles. So thanks to all those of you who bought raffle tickets. Thank you.

Just before the season started, our Volunteers group met with the Paris DFAS group who were in Belgium for a two-day tour of Bruges and Antwerp. They wanted in particular to see some of the work done by our Volunteers, who are of course the only Volunteers group among the Mainland Europe DFAS groups, and Jantje Gleisner (one of the ADFAS members who is also a volunteer at the St Andrieskerk) and the Volunteers took great pleasure in showing them the work that has been done in the St-Andrieskerk over the years.



I finish by repeating the plea I have made to you before. Please, if you want to support ADFAS, if you have a little time and lots of ideas, put yourself up for the committee. It's worthwhile, enjoyable and it's great fun. If you want to know more, approach any member of the present committee and find out what's required.

Angela Dodds

Flanders Today

Flanders Today is a new, independent weekly newspaper. As its name suggests, it publishes news on Flanders – politics, business, recent happenings – and it contains an Arts and Culture section which covers new exhibitions, museum developments and events. It also publishes a 3-page weekly agenda of concerts (classical, jazz, folk and pop), theatre, visual arts, festivals and special events. *Flanders Today* is free to subscribers; if you would like to see a copy, why not send your name and address to: Flanders Today, Subscription Department, Gossetlaan 30, 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden, or e-mail subscription@flanderstoday.eu, and see what you think of it.

What to do before the season starts again

Lambermontmartre

27 September, 12 noon to 5 pm.

An open-air art market on the Lambermontplaats in Het Zuid. A

chance to see – and maybe buy – the work of more than 100 artists. See: www.lambermontmartre.be

Monument Day

On 13 September, Flanders throws open the doors of monuments and buildings that are normally closed to the public. Most visits are free or have a small charge. See: www.openmonumenten.be

Beaufort 03 – Art by the Sea

Until 4 October, at outdoor locations up and down the Belgian coast as well as in Ostend's Kunstmuseum aan Zee – contemporary art by 29 Belgian and international artists. See: www.beaufort03.be

Europalia.CHINA (Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels)

1. *Son of Heaven*

From 10 Oct-24 Jan, this exhibition contains almost 200 pieces of work woven in and around the Chinese emperors, or Sons of Heaven, representing the embodiment of the sacred bond between heaven, earth and humans.

2. *The Orchid Pavilion*

The art of writing in China, where in the eyes of the people language and writing are inseparable and a testimony to their cultural identity in the world.

3. *The State of Things, Brussels/Beijing*

Is art not always its reflection and a concentrate of society? It is this thought that two contemporary Chinese artists focus on for Europalia.China, the big art exhibition in Brussels. For all three exhibitions see www.bozar.be

Our lecture venue:
The Church Hall (St.Boniface
Anglican Church), Grétrystraat,
2018 Antwerpen
Info: 03/230 39 36.

The October and November lectures

Monday 5 October 2009
COLLECTING THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY
Lecturer: Paul Atterbury

Paul Atterbury's lecture concentrates on design, the decorative arts, industrial production and the domestic interior. The second half of the 20th century is a period that we have all lived through, and as with consumers through the ages, we have bought and lived with objects we considered utilitarian, but which future generations may well think are collectables, or more than that, valuable collectables. At what point do we throw out Aunt Mabel's apparently unattractive chair, lamp, silver sugar bowl, glass vase, and at what point are we able to see into the future, lay the object aside and wait for it to become something that other people desire?



A Guide to Moorcroft Pottery 1897 - 1993
by Paul Atterbury

With an emphasis on design and the decorative arts of the second half of the 20th century, Paul's lecture looks at the main style trends of that era. It considers the impact of European and American styles upon Britain and British culture and suggests a range of items for collectors with an eye to the future. He would be happy if members attending the lecture wished to bring items they considered to be possible antiques of the future.

Collecting the 20th century is both a cultural phenomenon and a popular pastime. The styles that launched the century, Art Nouveau and Art Deco, are well established, but the second half of the century is less familiar in collecting terms. Starting in the 1940s, we are asked to look at the various styles that dominated European taste and fashion until the 1990s, in order to identify what is collected now and what may be collected in the future.



Paul Atterbury at a recent
Antiques Roadshow

Paul has been appearing on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* for nearly twenty years, where his valuation of the public's items from the 19th and 20th centuries has always aroused great interest.

PA/AMD

KW/AMD

Monday 2 November 2009
ROYAL SCANDALS THROUGH
THE AGES
Lecturer: Kate Williams

Kate Williams will tell us how royalty and scandal have been in a riotous and uneasy marriage throughout history. In this lavishly illustrated talk, Dr Williams explores the stories of some of the most notable royal scandals.

Paying particular attention to the eighteenth century, the lid is lifted on tales of cash for honours, spurned mistresses, ambitious courtesans, mistreated wives and truly eye-popping levels of spending.



Charlotte Augusta of Wales, Princess
Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld
by George Dawes

We also have the story of Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV and the Queen who never was. Princess Charlotte was the only child of The

Prince of Wales, later King George IV, and granddaughter of Mad King George; she should have become Queen of England on her father's death. In the event, however, her cousin Princess Victoria became Queen, as Princess Charlotte (who had married to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld in 1816) died in childbirth in 1817. How the histories of the United Kingdom and of Belgium were changed by this event.

We will be given a unique view on royal life and how kings and queens and princes really comported themselves when out of the public's eye.

Our October and November
lecturers

PAUL ATTERBURY

Writer, lecturer, exhibition curator and broadcaster, Paul Atterbury specialises in the art and design of the 19th and 20th centuries. He has written books on ceramics and silver, canals and railways. He has been a member of the team of experts on BBC TV's *Antiques Roadshow* since 1990 – and was part of the team that brought the *Roadshow* to Amsterdam about 12 years ago.

KATE WILLIAMS

Dr Kate Williams is an author and historian, specialising in the 17th, 18th, 19th centuries. She speaks regularly on Radio 4 and has consulted and appeared on historical programmes for BBC and Channel 4. She presented 'Camilla's Family Secrets' for the *Revealed* Series on Channel 5 and the History Channel in July 2008 and a one hour *Timewatch* special on 'Young Victoria' on BBC 2 in October 2008. Kate's biography of Emma Hamilton, *England's Mistress: the Infamous Life of Emma Hamilton* was 'Book of the Week' on Radio 4, shortlisted for the Marsh/ English Speaking Union Prize for best biography published in 2005-6, chosen by the Times as a Book of the Year and the Independent as best biography read of the summer 2007.

Other items of interest

Please send us your contributions and we will publish them. Thank you.

"Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler" at the British Museum, London Saturday 14 November 2009

Once again, BRIDAFS (our sister society in Brussels) has invited ADFAS members to join them in their annual study day in London. This autumn the British Museum's major exhibition is "Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler".

This major exhibition explores Aztec civilisation through the divine, military, and political role of the last elected ruler, Moctezuma II (reigned AD 1502–1520). From his capital in Tenochtitlan, Moctezuma's empire comprised much of modern highland Mexico, stretching from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Ocean. His power was reflected in the splendour of his capital's architecture, his command of the prestigious Jaguar and Eagle military orders, and his sacrificial rituals to the gods. Moctezuma's world was unrivalled, and this remained so until the devastating arrival of strangers – Cortés and his Spanish fleet. The legacy of this tumultuous event and the semi-mythical status of Moctezuma will be reassessed through the display of imposing stone sculptures, rare gold and turquoise objects, many of which will be seen for the first time in the UK. Rediscover the world of the Aztecs and trace the foundation of modern Mexico in the **British Museum's** major exhibition on great rulers.

The group will meet for coffee in the Museum at 9.45 am, after which they will watch a DVD on Moctezuma, and be given a private lecture by Dr. Colin McEwan or Dr. Elisenda Villa Llonch, co-curators of the exhibition, followed by lunch and a timed admission to the exhibition itself. After private tea and cakes, the day will end at 4.30 pm.

Cost for the Study Day is €50 per person, which covers everything mentioned above other than your travel to London. The programme easily fits within a day trip to London. If anyone is interested, get in touch with me and I will give you full details and a booking form.

Angela

The National Trust in Belgium

There has been a regional National Trust Association in Belgium (NTAB) since 1997. It is the first such group ever set up outside the UK and manages to combine its dedication to the aims of The National Trust in the UK with the provision of information and organising enjoyable events within Belgium and Luxembourg for its members.

With the exception of July and August, the NTAB organises a monthly visit or event to different places of interest in Belgium. The programme provides opportunities to become acquainted with the immense historic and artistic heritage of Belgium, and to socialise with fellow members. Visits are often conducted by specialist guides or lecturers, and in addition many of the places are difficult to visit as individuals. Each year, in June, there is a 4-5 day trip "behind the scenes" to a National Trust property somewhere in the UK.

For further information, consult the NTAB website at www.ntab.be or send them an e-mail: info@ntab.be. The Chairman, Johan Van Brabant, can be contacted by mobile on 0475/276 972.

The Volunteers

By now the volunteers all have aureoles! There is not one name of a Saint, a name of a pilgrimage place in Belgium, an aspect of the life of Jesus or that of the Holy Virgin or we have had a print of it through our hands!

We are reaching the end of the project of packing and classifying the devotional prints at the Museum of Folklore (part of the *Museum aan de Stroom*). In fact it took much longer than expected because we had to go through the more than 12,000 prints a second time. In the first round we put each devotional print in a kind of acid free plastic bag. But due to unclear directions at the start, like how to wrap doubles or what to do with groups of devotional prints with different inventory numbers in one envelope we had to go through all of them again. In the second round we had to separate pictures and even add new inventory numbers. We have worked each

Thursday morning throughout the summer and now the prints are almost ready to be packed in big acid free boxes, except for a few classification problems which still have to be solved. In fact classifying these devotional prints was sometimes very boring, but we often had good laughs with some strange or tasteless prints.

As for the next project, which will be at the Felix Archives (City Archives) Werner Pottier will first organise an instruction day, but so far no date has been fixed. The Volunteers must first be sure the project for the MAS is definitely ended.

I hope to be able to tell you more about the next project at the October lecture.

GDB

The National Theatre Direct

Thursday 1 October 2009 at 19.30 in the Metropolis, Antwerp

All's Well That Ends Well

by William Shakespeare

With Claire Higgins, Ben Allen, Cassie Atkinson; Director: Marianne Elliott
210 minutes (1 interval)
No subtitles

The feisty but lowly Helena falls in love with Bertram, a haughty count. To gain his hand she is set a string of impossible tasks. Even if accomplished, they can hardly guarantee his love. He refuses to bed her and yet says he'll only be hers if she bears his child; and he lusts after another. Nevertheless, our heroine, whether wisely or no, refuses to give him up.

Set against a background of sexism, snobbery and a battle between the generations, Shakespeare's *All's Well That Ends Well* turns fairytale logic on its head. A wondrous, bittersweet story.

'A fairy-tale for adults... beautiful, funny and touching.' *Daily Telegraph*
'It is so richly conceived, such a pleasure in every detail that I'd love to see it all over again.' *Observer*
'The performances are uniformly excellent...Marianne Elliott's direction has a clarity not short of visionary.' *Evening Standard*

DATES TO REMEMBER

5 October 2009	Collecting the Twentieth Century Lecturer: Paul Atterbury	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
2 November 2009	Royal Scandals through the Ages Lecturer: Dr Kate Williams	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
7 December 2009	The Ego Adorned, A Fascinating Story Lecturer: Jennie Baeten (by kind permission of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre)	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
11 January 2010	The Art of the Panorama and the Cyclorama Lecturer: Professor Ian Beckett	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
1 February 2010	Houses and Gardens of Normandy Lecturer: Helen McCabe	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
1 March 2010	The Splendours of North Africa: Roman and Islamic Art of Libya, Tunisia and Morocco Lecturer: Christopher Bradley	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
12 April 2010	History of the Long Case Clock Lecturer: Dr Colin Lattimore	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm
10 May 2010	Ocean Liner Art: Ships that Shaped our Lives 1800-1950 Lecturer: James Taylor	Church Hall, Grétrystraat as from 7 pm Lecture at 8 pm

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