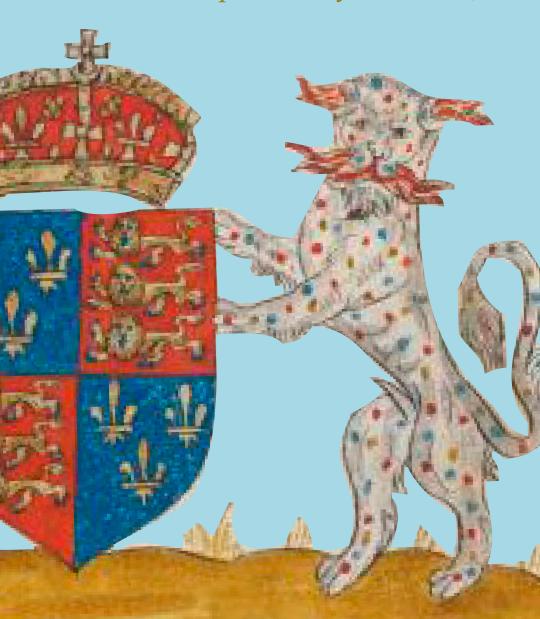
# A COLLECTION'S PROGRESS

The Lewis Walpole Library, 2000-2014



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An exhibition at The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University
14 April through 3 October 2014
Curated by Margaret K. Powell, W.S. Lewis Librarian & Executive Director

Yale university library



Philip Dawe (1745?–1809?), *Can you forbear Laughing* London: Printed for R. Sayer and J. Bennett, 14 June 1776 Mezzotint, hand-colored

yale University's Lewis Walpole Library is the happy result of the life's work of two collectors who lived several centuries and a broad ocean apart: Horace Walpole (1717–1797) and Wilmarth Sheldon ("Lefty") Lewis (1895–1979).

Horace Walpole, the third son of Sir Robert Walpole, the powerful Whig politician often called the first "prime minister," was a collector of note. Strawberry Hill, his "little gothic castle" outside London in Twickenham, was stuffed full of all manner of books, manuscripts, ceramics, paintings, prints, and curious objects. He was an instigator of the Gothic revival in architecture (Strawberry Hill) and fiction (*The Castle of Otranto*), a memoirist, and an early historian of British art. He served in Parliament and was an admirer of America. He was also a remarkably prolific and self-conscious correspondent; some of his epistolary relationships endured for more than forty years of his long life and give us an extraordinarily broad yet intimate picture of the world he inhabited.

W.S. Lewis grew up in northern California, where, he writes in several autobiographical accounts, even as a young boy he was an enthusiastic collector of stamps, coins, and butterflies. But, he writes, "My first collection was of house flies. It was kept in a discarded cigar box that was thrown out one day without my knowledge or consent. A year later, at the age of six, I collected shells at Santa Cruz, California. This collection was also thrown out without my knowledge or consent. It was thus brought home to me early on that one must be on one's guard against non-collectors" (*Collector's Progress*, 1). He came east to attend Yale, and it was during his undergraduate days (he was Class of 1918) that he started to collect books, but in those early forays he was quite indiscriminate. Not until his late twenties, after a brief fling with the works of John Masefield, did he encounter what would become the lifelong object of



Seventeen titles in twenty volumes from Walpole's library have been added to the LWL's collections in the past fourteen years.

his collecting: Horace Walpole and the eighteenth-century British world in which he lived.

By the time of his death in 1979, Lewis, with the wholehearted help of his wife, Annie Burr Lewis (1902–1959), had amassed an exceptional collection of books, manuscripts, prints, paintings, furniture, and decorative arts, all having at their center the life and writings of Horace Walpole, and housed in the Lewises' eighteenth-century home in Farmington, Connecticut. Lewis went after Walpole's letters and other manuscripts, books from his library, copies of his works, and the productions of his printing press at Strawberry Hill. Walpole's collections and the other contents of Strawberry Hill had been dispersed

through a great sale in 1842 that went on for a month; catalogs for that sale exist in six editions and in many copies, some annotated and some even extra-illustrated. Lewis hunted down association copies and items with significant provenance, material relating to Walpole's friends and associates, and anything connected to the refashioning and "gothicizing" of Strawberry Hill. In the mid-1950s, relatively late in the game, he and Annie Burr set an ambitious program to acquire eighteenth-century satiric prints as well as engraved portraits and topographical views from the period.

As the years went by, Lewis embraced the implications of his initial commitment to Walpole, in his bibliographic enthusiasm even embarking on what he referred to as "Lewis's Folly": a plan to acquire every book published in Britain between 1751 and 1800 not already in the Yale Library. This ambitious scheme was modified after several years to exclude books on subjects already strongly represented at Yale; he did allow himself, however, to acquire "little-known books that throw light on the daily lives of eighteenth-century men and women and that are particularly needed for the study of Horace Walpole" (Collector's Progress, xviii-xix). He also went beyond strictly "library" materials (books and manuscripts) to gather up other "Bits of the True Cross": paintings, prints, furniture, and decorative objects from Strawberry Hill, and even the front door from Walpole's London town house in Berkeley Square. (Characteristically, Lewis just happened to be on the spot when the building was being demolished in the 1930s to make way for modern offices.)

This collection, the house and its furnishings, the extensive grounds and related historic buildings, and endowment funds to support that gift were all left to Yale as the Lewis Walpole Library with the expectation that the University would accept the gift and realize the Lewises' vision

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of a center for eighteenth-century studies located in Farmington. There, under Yale's aegis, Lewis intended that the collection would continue to grow, that more and more scholars would visit to consult the library's treasures, and that significant publications would result from their work. These three elements — collections, scholars, publications — made up the "learned process," as Lewis's early mentor, Yale professor Chauncey Brewster Tinker, had defined it to his receptive student. After spending more than fifty years developing his collection, Lewis did not want that development to end with his death. He seems not to have thought of the Lewis Walpole Library as a completed monument but rather as a living thing that required growth and change lest it become, in his words, "static and moldy" (*One Man's Education*, 469).

When the University formally accepted the Lewis bequest in 1980, it was not at all clear what it would take to manage and care for this most individual of facilities forty miles from New Haven, with its trove of eighteenth-century materials and its small devoted staff, its circle of interested and opinionated Walpolian scholars, and its donors' loyal friends and neighbors. Indeed, the years immediately following Lewis's death proved to be lean ones for the acquisitions budget. But after a period of inactivity, a succession of librarians and curators have continued the Lewises' work, acquiring materials for the LWL as the vagaries of the antiquarian market and the fortunes of the library's funds have allowed. The LWL's current collection development policy follows Lewis's priorities for the most part, although there are some differences. Unless they are books, manuscripts, or prints, "Bits of the True Cross" are not as ruthlessly pursued as they were by Lewis. Growing attention is being paid to "little-known [materials] that throw light on the daily lives of eighteenth-century men and women," and there has been a steady increase in the variety of visual materials considered for acquisition.

This exhibition provides a selection of the materials acquired by the LWL in the fourteen years since 2000. Its display cases suggest the surprising number of Walpole's books and letters captured in those years; provide a representative sample of the variety and scope of the many additional printed books, manuscripts, and ephemera that document the "daily lives" of Walpole's contemporaries; and show off several volumes of significant visual interest and importance. On the walls are prints and drawings that similarly demonstrate a collecting strategy that builds on strengths such as visual satires, supports programs such as exhibitions and master classes, and moves to develop parts of the collection that had not before been a particular focus. This rather routine description does not do justice to the objects themselves, each of which speaks to us of another time and of the men and women who lived then. Together they demonstrate a committed continuation of Lewis's "hot pursuit," his determination to keep his library alive and growing. As Geoffrey Waldegrave, the twelfth earl, wrote to Lewis in 1955: "I do see how this collecting business can be the most exciting thing in the whole world and beat detective stories into a cocked hat."

### Further reading

Hazen, Allen T. (Allen Tracy). *A Catalogue of Horace Walpole's Library*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1969.

Lewis, W.S. (Wilmarth Sheldon). *Collector's Progress*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951.

One Man's Education. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967.
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Rescuing Horace Walpole. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1978.

#### Exhibition checklist

#### CASE ONE

The English Baronage from William I to James I [detail: cover]
Seventeenth or eighteenth century
Folio 49 3499

Horace Walpole (1717–1797)

A Catalogue of the Royal and Noble Authors of England: With Lists of Their Works. The second edition, corrected and enlarged London: Printed for R. and J. Dodsley..., and J. Graham..., 1759 [i.e., 1758]. Two volumes 49 2978B

Andrea Palladio (1508–1580)

The Architecture of A. Palladio; in Four Books... Revis'd, Design'd, and Publish'd by Giacomo Leoni [above]

The third edition, corrected. With notes and remarks of Inigo Jones
London: Printed for A. Ward, 1742.

Two volumes
Folio 49 3593

Picturesque Views of the Principal Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, in England and Wales London: Harrison & Co. No. 18, Paternoster Row, 1786–88 Quarto 49 3849



William Melmoth (1710?–1799)

Letters on Several Subjects by the Late
Sir Thomas Fitzosborne, Bart.

London: Printed for R. Dodsley,
1748–49. Two volumes
49 1442

John Beale (1608?–1683) Herefordshire Orchards, a Pattern for All England: Written in an Epistolary Address to Samuel Hartlib, Esq. London: Printed by Roger Daniel, 1657 49 2333

Catastrophe Mundi: or, Merlin Reviv'd, in a Discourse of Prophecies & Predictions,... With Mr. Lilly's Hieroglyphicks Exactly Cut... By a Learned Pen London: Printed by John How, 1683 49 2352 Lucan (39–65)

M. Annaei Lucani Pharsalia cum notis

Hugonis Grotii, et Richardi Bentleii...

Strawberry Hill: Strawberry-Hill Press,

1760 Quarto 33 7 Copy 12

George Herbert (1593–1633)
The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private
Ejaculations by Mr. George Herbert...
Together with His Life with Several
Additions

London: Printed by W. Godbid, for R.S., 1674 496 2013

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra

(1547–1616)
Les principales avantures de l'admirable
Don Quichotte, représentées en figures par
Coypel, Picart le Romain, et autres habiles
maitres: avec les explications des XXXI
planches de cette magnifique collection,
tirées de l'original espagnol de Miguel de
Cervantes

A La Haie [The Hague]: Chés Pierre de Hondt, 1746 Quarto 49 3081

John Dryden (1631–1700)
Fables Ancient and Modern; Translated
into Verse, from Homer, Ovid, Boccace,
and Chaucer; with Original Poems. 2d ed.
London: Printed for Jacob Tonson, 1713
49 1849

Aeschines Socraticus (4th century B.C.)
Aeschini Socratici dialogi tres: Graece et
Latine, ad quos accessit quarti Latinum
fragmentum vertit et notis illustravit
Joannes Clericus. Cuius & ad calcem
additae sunt Silvae Philologicus, cum
omnium indicibus necessariis
Amstelodami [Amsterdam]: Apud
Petrum de Coup Bibliopolam, 1711
49 2207.3

Thomas Smith (1638–1710)

Vitae quorundam eruditissimorum et illustrium virorum: Quorum nomina exstant in pagina sequenti

Londini [London]: Apud Davidem

Mortier in via dicta de Strand ad insigne Erasmi, 1707
49 860

Sir William Dugdale (1605–1686)
The Baronage of England, or, An
Historical Account of the Lives and
Most Memorable Actions of Our English
Nobility...

London: Printed by T. Newcomb, 1675–76. Three volumes in two Quarto 49 590

Thomas Weaver (1616–1662) Songs and Poems of Love and Drollery London: Printed in the year 1654 49 1992 Thomas Cox (1655/6–1734)

Magna Britannia et Hibernia, antiqua and nova. Or, a New Survey of Great

Britain,... Collected and composed by an impartial hand

London: In the Savoy, printed by

E. Nutt, and sold by M. Nutt [etc.],

1720–31

One volume only, identified on the spine as "Maps to Magna Britan"

49 621

Doubtfully attributed to Charles Leslie (1650–1722)

Memoirs of the Lord Viscount Dundee, the Highland Clans, and the Massacre of Glenco: with an account of Dundee's officers after they went to France. By an Officer of the Army London: Printed for Jonas Browne, 1714 49 1565

Horace Walpole (1717–1797)

Letter to Charles Lyttelton [right, top]

King's College, [Cambridge],

22 May 1736

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) *Letter to Thomas Pitt* Strawberry Hill, 5 June 1764

James Granger (1723–1776) Letter to Horace Walpole Shiplake, [England], 24 July 1764 Catherine Douglas, Duchess of Queensberry (1701–1777) Letter to Horace Walpole Monday, 177[?]

Horace Walpole (1717–1797)

Letter to Sir William Hamilton

[detail: right, bottom]

Arlington Street, 18 February 1776

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) Letter to Charles Burney Strawberry Hill, 6 July 1786

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) Letter to Lady Diana Beauclerk Written between 1782 and 1790

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) Letter to Hannah More Strawberry Hill, 17 August 1788

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) Letter to Joseph Walker Strawberry Hill, 4 April 1791

Horace Walpole (1717–1797) Letter to Bertie Greatheed Berkeley Square, 22 February 1796

I have been at txford; how could you possibly leave it! after seeing that charming place, I can harold ask you to come to cambridge. But when will you? Hong to talk it all over with you. I just saw Sir Edw? Tool tare fur ad hardly time to exchange a Syllable with Kim; He looks just what He always; I wanted mightily to shake Him into a fat good natura laugh. Mandlin Walks please me most; I felt a pensive joy in am occasional by thinking two futlelton's had been drowned in the adjoyning stream; & another had so often walked there. Too hear the current ungot his little play; The yeilding Bank beneath his feet retird, And his soft soul absorbed by Waves expired. The Pious youth (ah. Is rant of the flood Hhy vainly pious, why untimely good? Plunght after him pre cipitate; & try'd To save his Brother; but in trying, Byed.

you will find Park place I fill augmented in Beauty. Mor Conway is gone this her on an alarm of a track by the late ferrible frost in his oron Bridge, but I do not doubt but his I kill will repair it. I advised any Hamilton to beg, buy, or steal all the Plumes from all the Theatres on her road: The will want them for a single faskionable head drefs, nay, & governs & the long into the bargain. you will think the William the Conqueror that you meet mareling forests.

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X Henry Probison.					Refere to Mc Adams
John Mardle &					Mife Oto has 3 bown but no mills
Ann Pearson	alnurch	3	2	11,5	Mone
X Leda Embleton &					Sister Industrious & Hoot
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X Bob! Wilson	Lucher	2,			There had the decides they
& Thos M. Dougal	SCHOMOV	~	3	10,4,1,	
* Habel Green head	alnes	3	1	10,2,4,	Trolish NI he a Millow
X Balph Hunter	alnuh.	3/6	2	7,2	
x Thos Seoff	Modhorn	1/3			Very Plo & Poot
Detty Shepherd	alnuich	18			78,
*ann Dowison	alnuich	3	2	6,3,	at the list
+ Marg Inowball	alnurch	18			Middow & Oto
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goton martacal	ad almorch	2	1	-	very sie

#### CASE 2

List of persons needing assistance, Pottergate, Narrowgate, and Balegate, Winter of 1795 [detail: above] Eshott Papers, LWL Mss 2 Box 14, Folder 12

A selection of eight receipts from 1810 for a variety of goods Eshott Papers, LWL Mss 2, Box 59, Folder 4

The "Royal Briton" Ship's Book 1762–85 LWL Mss Vol 197

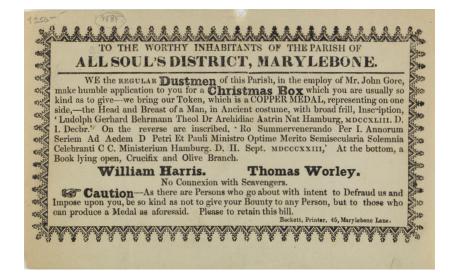
12

Catalog of Pictures at Raynham Hall
177[?]
LWL Mss File 28

A True and Perfect Inventory of [the] Goods, Shattells, Rights and Creditts of Sam. Twissell... Weaver Bisley, [England], 27 March 1728 LWL Mss File 111

A True and Perfect Inventory of the Goods and Chattles of Robert Clark... Blacksmith Arlingham, [England], 26 September 1738 LWL Mss File 95

A True and Perfect Inventory of All and Singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and Credits, of Richard Clark... Yeoman Frampton-upon-Severn, [England], 1 November 1765 LWL Mss File 92



#### William Harris

To the worthy inhabitants of the Parish of All Soul's District, Marylebone: we the regular dustmen of this parish... make humble application to you for a Christmas box... [above]

London: Beckett, Printer, 45 Marylebone Lane, 1823 Handbill File 63 823 H317

13

Seven Bills from a Collection of Twenty Printed Bills from English and Welsh Inns 1784–1804 LWL Mss File 85 Joseph Shepperd

John Andrews's Circulating Library

Calcutta: The Library, 1774

Bookplate File 66 774 J65

Mrs. Newsham the White Negress

London, 1795 Copper token

3 cm (Diam.) File 66 795 M94

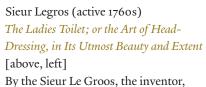
Foundling Fields 1795

London: J. Burton, 1795

Copper token 3 cm (Diam.)

File 66 795 F771





and most eminent professor of that science in Paris...

London: Printed for George Bickham, 1768 657 768 L44

A Lecture on Wigs Illustrated by a Man Who Does Not Wear One: Addressed to All the Wig Wearers and Wig Makers in the United Kingdom [above, right] London: Gold and Walton, 1818 657 818 L43



CASE 3

Ebenezer Forrest (1700?–1793)

An Account of What Seemed

Most Remarkable in the Five Days

Peregrination of the Five Following

Persons, viz. Messieurs Tothall, Scott,

Hogarth, Thornhill, and Forrest...

[right, top]

London: Printed for R. Livesay, 1782

Sir Henry Edward Bunbury (1778–1860) *Omnium Gatherum* [right, bottom] ca. 1815–52 LWL Mss Vol 194

Folio 75 H67 782 Copy 2







Arthur Pond (1701–1758)

Soixante et dix estampes qui imitent les desseins [above]

London: Publié par Jean Boydell, graveur, rue de Cheapside, à Londres, [after 1773?]

Folio 724 734P

John Pearson (1777–1813)

Sketchbook of Views, Landscapes, Ruins,
Castles

Yorkshire, England, between 1799
and 1805
Folio 75 P359 805

#### NORTH WALL

791.06.26.01+

William Dent (active 1783–93)
French Flight, Or, the Grand Monarque
and the Rights of Kings Supported in a
Sublime and Beautiful Manner
London: Published by William Dent,
26 June 1791
Etching, hand-colored
39 x 12 cm (plate), 48 x 25 cm (sheet)

Robert Cruikshank (1789–1856)

Reflection. To be, or not to be? [right]

London: Published by S.W. Fores,

11 February 1820

Etching, hand-colored

34 x 23.3 cm (plate)

820.02.11.01





James Gillray (1756–1815)

Visiting the Sick

London: Published by H. Humphrey,
28 July 1806

Etching and aquatint, hand-colored
29 x 41 cm (mount)

806.07.28.01+

Charles Williams (active 1797–1830)

A Great Stream from a Petty Fountain; –
or – John Bull swamped in the Flood of
new-Taxes: Cormorants Fishing in the
Stream [above]
London: Published by S.W. Fores,

May 1806 Etching, hand-colored 24.8 x 35.4 cm (plate), 27 x 40 cm (sheet) 806.05.00.09+

16

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#### EAST WALL

Robert Cruikshank (1789–1856)

The Flying Privy, from Westmoreland
[right]

London: Published by G. Humphrey,
June 1827

Etching, hand-colored

34.5 x 23 cm (sheet)

827.06.00.06+

C. J. (Charles Jameson) Grant (active 1830–52) *Quite Unbearable* [left, bottom]

London: Published by S. Gans, 1831

Lithograph, hand-colored
29.2 x 37.5 cm

831.02.00.11+

C. J. (Charles Jameson) Grant (active 1830–52)

The Striking Likeness

London, between 1830 and 1852

Pen and ink with wash

27.9 x 21.7 cm (sheet)

Drawings G761 no. 1 Box D123

#### SOUTH WALL

Artist Unknown

The French King's Scheme for an Invasion
London: Sold in May's Buildings
Colour'd, 1756
Engraving
22 x 33 cm (image), 23 x 38 cm (sheet)
756.02.00.01



Thomas Rowlandson (1757–1827)

An Architectural Inspection [left, top]
England, 180[?]
Pen and ink and watercolor
13.7 x 21.5 cm (sheet),
23 x 30 cm (mount)
Drawings R79 no. 12 Box 113

Thomas Rowlandson (1757–1827)

Italian Picture Dealers Humbuging

My Lord Anglaise

London: Published by T. Rowlandson,
30 May 1812

Etching, hand-colored
35.4 x 25 cm (plate), 38 x 27 cm (sheet)
812.05.30.01 Impression 2



Samuel Alken (1756–1815)

Bookseller & Author

London: Published by I.R. Smith,

25 September 1784

Etching and aquatint, hand-colored

34.5 x 40.6 cm (plate), 37 x 44 cm (sheet)

784.09.25.01+

#### WEST WALL

G. M. (George Moutard) Woodward (1760?–1809)

Six Old Women Discussing Their Cats [above]

England, ca. 1792

Pencil, ink, and wash

26.3 x 24 cm (sheet)

Drawings W87 no. 34 Box D204

Artist Unknown

Slight of Hand by a Monkey – or the

Lady's Head Unloaded

London: Printed for Carington Bowles,
25 October 1776

Mezzotint
35.3 x 25.2 cm (plate), 36 x 26 cm (sheet)
776.10.25.01+

Philip Dawe (1745?–1809?)

Can you forbear Laughing [p. 2]

London: Printed for R. Sayer and

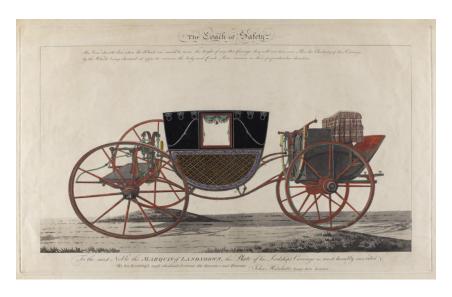
J. Bennett, 14 June 1776

Mezzotint, hand-colored

35.4 x 25.6 cm (plate),

38.9 x 28.9 cm (sheet)

776.06.14.01+



#### Artist Unknown

The Coach of Safety [above]
London, ca. May 1789
Etching with engraving and aquatint with elaborate watercolor, and body color, heightened with silver and areas of shellac or gum arabic 30.1 x 50 cm (plate), 35.9 x 55.9 cm (sheet) 789.05.00.01+

#### LONG HALL WALL

Antwerp School

The Rest on the Flight into Egypt [p. 22]
Netherlands, first half of seventeenth century

Oil on copper 62.2 x 85.5 cm (frame) Art Object 1

Henry William Bunbury (1750–1811)

Scene from the Merry Wives of Windsor,

Act 4, Scene 2

England, ca. 1790?

Pencil and pen and ink with watercolor
51.6 x 64 cm (frame)

Drawings B87 no. 1

20 21



Antwerp School, *The Rest on the Flight into Egypt* Netherlands, first half of seventeenth century

## Acknowledgments

Many collaborations have made progress possible at the Lewis Walpole Library over the last fourteen years. I am grateful to the following colleagues whose particular contributions to the work and life of the LWL are represented in the descriptive labels they generously agreed to write at very short notice for a number of objects in this exhibition. My thanks for their participation in this collaborative project will serve, I hope, as a modest payment on large debts owed.

John M. Clegg, Building Operations and Security Manager, LWL

Ellen Cordes, Head of Technical Services, LWL

John Gambell, University Printer, Yale

Sarah Kinkel, Managing Editor, Eighteenth-Century Studies

Brian Maidment, Professor of the History of Print, Liverpool John Moores University

Rachel Mihalko, Catalog Assistant, LWL

Laura O'Brien Miller, Conservator, LWL

Joseph Roach, Sterling Professor of Theater and English, Yale

Kevin Rogers, Associate, Peter Inskip + Peter Jenkins Architects, Ltd.

Cynthia Roman, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Paintings, LWL

Michael Snodin, Chairman, Strawberry Hill Trust

Susan Odell Walker, Head of Public Services, LWL

Cover: Detail, *The English Baronage from William I to James I*, seventeenth or eighteenth century

Designed and set in Yale typefaces by Rebecca Martz and edited by Lesley Baier Office of the Yale University Printer Printed by GHP in West Haven, Connecticut



