

Burney Letter

Vol. 16 No. 1

The Burney Society

<http://dc37.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/burney/>

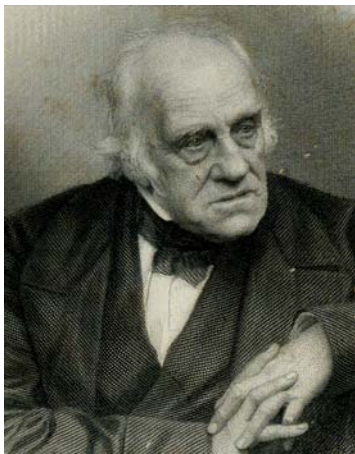
Spring 2010

ISSN 1703-9835

Through the eyes of a contemporary: Fanny Burney as seen by Henry Crabb Robinson

By Hilary Newman

The diarist and barrister Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867) knew many of the writers of his day. In fact, he is remembered now more for the contemporary writers he knew than for his own life. Crabb Robinson intelligently commented on poets, essayists and



novelists, and his remarks are still worth reading and considering today. He was also at one time intimate with Fanny Burney's circumnavigator brother Admiral James Burney (1750-1821) and his son Martin (1788-1852), and later with James and Fanny's younger half-sister, the novelist Sarah Harriet Burney (1772-1844). It is probable that he never actually met Fanny Burney, but he took an interest in all

her published writings, fiction and non-fiction. He did record on 20 August 1812 that he hoped to meet her at her brother James Burney's, but in the event he did not (p.108).¹ This brief article will look at Fanny Burney's published writings through the eyes of her contemporary, Henry Crabb Robinson.

Crabb Robinson's diary began in 1811, so he did not record his reactions to Burney's earlier novels as they were actually published. Nevertheless, he came to them all during Fanny Burney's lifetime and gave them his serious consideration. On 13 October 1812, he recorded reading the first volume of *Evelina* (1778) whilst travelling on the Bury coach to Bocking. Crabb Robinson claimed he preferred *Cecilia*, (1782) as in *Evelina*. "All the personages at all low much too low and the serious personages dry, formal, and dull" (p.110). Eleven days later on 24 October 1812. Crabb Robinson wrote that he had read the second part of *Evelina* "with more pleasure than the first." He had now concluded that "The development of the story is very happy" and that Lord Orville's dialogue with his "fashionable friends" was preferable to the "low humour" of the eponymous heroine's relations (p.111).

See Henry Crabb Robinson on p. 2

Last Chance to Book for Paris

By Kate Chisholm

**Women under Napoleon, 1802-12
10-11 June 2010**

There are still a few places left for the Burney Society's two-day conference in Paris, organised in association with the Université-Paris Diderot. A wide-ranging programme has been devised, taking us from the experiences of Helen Maria Williams and other English journalists during the Revolution (with talks by Nancy Johnson, Elizabeth Eger and Ariane Fennetaux) to an illustrated lecture on Napoleon as seen by French and English caricaturists, 1799-1815. Flora Fraser will talk on Pauline Bonaparte and Annette Kobak on Madame de Staël. Margaret Anne Doody, Tara Ghoshal Wallace and Elles Smallegoor will be presenting new interpretations of Frances Burney's intriguing novel, *The Wanderer*, while Sophie Vasset and Catherine Dille will be talking on women's education and health in the "season of democracy." Peter Sabor will deliver a portrait of "Madame

d'Arblay, Parisienne," and the conference will end with dramatised readings from a selection of women writers in Paris under Napoleon, devised by Hester Davenport and Karin Fernald. Dinners have been arranged at local restaurants and a guided tour of Paris on the Sunday morning. On Saturday, delegates are invited to join an outing by train to Joigny, Monsieur d'Arblay's birthplace.

Registration, which includes all beverages, lunch, and the Conference Reception on the Thursday evening, is £65 for members (£75 for non-members) or \$105 (members) and \$120 (non-members). Dinners have been arranged at local restaurants on the Thursday and Friday evenings, for an additional 45 euros per dinner. A list of recommended hotels is available.

Please contact (for those in the UK, Europe or elsewhere), David and Janet Tregear (tregear.david@virgin.net) or (in the US and Canada) Alex Pitofsky (pitofskyah@appstate.edu) as soon as possible to make a booking. The full programme can be viewed on the Burney Centre website at:

http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/conferences_2010_paris.html.

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Henry Crabb Robinson

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In 1814 Crabb Robinson was reading *Camilla* (1796) and found it “very far inferior” to Burney’s earlier two novels. The only character “carefully wrought up” was Sir Hugh Tyrold. The style of writing he found “insufferably pedantic” (18 January 1814). Two days later he had finished the second volume of *Camilla*, “which on the whole has greatly disappointed me.” He still thought that Sir Hugh was “well conceived” and, perhaps surprisingly, approved of the “episode of Eugenia and the beautiful idiot” which was “pathetic and strongly conceived” (p.135).

Three days later on 23 January 1814, Crabb Robinson recorded a discussion of Burney’s novels with a contemporary poet and essayist, Mrs Barbauld (1743-1825), who did not agree with his criticisms of the style of *Camilla*. They seemed to have talked as equals although Mrs Barbauld actually belonged to an older generation than Crabb Robinson. Mrs Barbauld made the interesting comment “that unless her new novel (i.e. *The Wanderer* 1814) be of different character from the former works, it will probably fall below them. She has probably exhausted herself in that way in which she has been so excellent” (p.136). (Note Mrs Barbauld’s two uses of the qualifying “probably”). Crabb Robinson persevered with *Camilla* after a five-month gap, recording on 5 June 1814 that he was reading it “with interest” (p.145).

Crabb Robinson followed the publication and responses to Burney’s final novel, *The Wanderer* as they occurred. Of a review of the novel in the *Quarterly Review*, he commented on 30 July 1814 that it was “an article of very unfeeling and disrespectful censure, though possibly not erroneous in the judgment itself” (p.146). However, Crabb Robinson seemed to think that Fanny Burney was one of the best female novelists of the time (3 August 1814, pp.146-7). He also recorded “an article on the great novelists” by William Hazlitt in the *Edinburgh Review*. On 24 April 1815, Crabb Robinson commented that Hazlitt “is also severe and almost contemptuous towards Miss Burney, whose *Wanderer* was the pretence for the article.” It is of interest to note that at this stage Burney’s contemporaries *did* regard her as one of “the great novelists” (p. 165).

However, Hazlitt may have been a persistent critic of Fanny Burney as a novelist, for in 1810 (p.16), Crabb Robinson had recorded that Hazlitt no longer visited Captain Burney (not yet made an admiral), because he had “affronted the Captain by severe criticisms on his sister Madame D’Arblay’s work.” According to Crabb Robinson, when Captain Burney and Hazlitt met in 1815 for the first time since quarrelling about Hazlitt’s review of *The Wanderer*, “They did not speak. Hazlitt looked wild and uncomfortable” (17 June, 1815, p. 170).

Nearly twenty years later, Crabb Robinson recorded reading Burney’s *Memoirs of Dr Burney*. He had nothing positive to say about it. Instead it was “ill written” and the “proper names which so frequently occur raise disappointment continually.” He found her “reverence” for the royal family “even provoking” and even that for Samuel Johnson and Edmund Burke was “beyond bounds.” The most damning comment he reserved until last, as he compares her fiction with the memoir: “The worst fact after all is that the book shows none of the talent for which in her youth she was famous. It tends to favour the extravagant remark cited by Hazlitt – that authors spend their lives after twenty in teaching what they had learned and thought before” (14 June 1833, p. 421). (Perhaps Crabb Robinson was misled by the erroneous rumour that Burney had been a mere seventeen when she published *Evelina*).

Some eight years later Crabb Robinson was involved in Charlotte Barrett’s seven-volume edition of Burney’s diary and journal. (Confusingly he referred to it as the *Memoirs of Madame D’Arblay*, or Barrett’s *Life*, as the editor did herself at times, despite its actual title: *Diary and Letters of Madame D’Arblay*). After reading the first volume he thought that its interest lay in the fact that it gave “a picture of manners in those days of formality.” (31 January 1842, p. 611) He later twice repeated this point. While admiring its “capital Johnsonian,” he also thought that it “has a great deal of tiresome twaddle.” It also emerges from his diary that Admiral Burney’s daughter, Sarah Payne, was “very sensitive” about the diary and letters “which she thinks very injurious” (23 May 1842, p. 617). In his *Reminiscences* (included in Edith J. Morley’s book),

Crabb Robinson summed up Charlotte Barrett’s edition of her aunt’s diary and letters. It was “a book which disappointed everyone. The first volume showed in the strongest light her intense vanity. She seems to have recorded nothing but what respected herself. Being given to the public one had a right to expect that such things would be published which had some interest for the public.” However, as already observed Crabb Robinson concluded that the volumes comprised “a picture of manners.” He also praised her talent in “comic and satiric description,” when Fanny Burney described a German lady in a way that Crabb Robinson knew to be accurate and witty (p. 617).

Again the reviewers were harsher than Crabb Robinson. He was “far from agreeing” with the *Quarterly Review*’s verdict on the *Diary and Letters of Madame D’Arblay*, that it was “the worst book of the kind ever written” and that Fanny Burney “was insincere and altogether an ordinary and very offensive person.” (20 August 1842, p. 623) Crabb Robinson’s final recorded discussion of the diary and letters occurred on 14 November 1842 (p.626), when the editor had sought

See Henry Crabb Robinson on p. 3

Burney Letter

The semi-annual newsletter of the Burney Society, which includes members in Canada, the UK, Europe, the US, and elsewhere.

President: Paula L. Stepankowsky

Editor: Lorna J. Clark

Address correspondence regarding newsletter articles to Dr. Lorna Clark, English Dept. English, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6 or by email to lclarklj@aol.com

Membership in The Burney Society is available for \$30 (Students \$15) US annually in the United States and Canada, and £12 annually in Great Britain. To request membership information, or to notify the society of a change of address, write in the United States and Canada to: Alex Pitofsky, 3621 9th St. Drive N.E., Hickory NC 28601, USA or to pitofskyah@appstate.edu. In Great Britain, write to David and Janet Tregear, 36 Henty Gardens, Chichester, West Sussex, England PO19 3DL or to tregear david@hotmail.com

Henry Crabb Robinson

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his advice. He then suggested to Charlotte Barrett that she “should correct minute faults of style, the book being full of the most outrageous faults of language; obsolete words and affectation, quite ridiculous.” The only thing that seemed to have touched Crabb Robinson’s bachelor heart was “Miss Burney’s amour with D’Arblay”!

In conclusion, though Henry Crabb Robinson did not know Fanny Burney personally, he was well aware of all her published writings, fiction and non-fiction. His predominantly harsh judgments on her

published writings were actually often kinder than other contemporary reviews. Nevertheless, his own views and those held at the time on Fanny Burney’s later novels prevailed until her works were painstakingly resurrected in the 20th century. Ironically, the diary and letters did not fare so badly with the reading public, as parts of them, at least, were republished during the early 20th century by Annie Raine Ellis in 1907 and Austin Dobson who provided a preface and notes to Charlotte Barrett’s edition in 1904-05.

Notes

¹Henry Crabb Robinson on Books and Their Writers, ed. Edith J. Morley, 3 vols.

(London: J.M. Dent and Sons, 1938). All references to this edition will appear in the text.

Hilary Newman is a long-time member of the Burney Society. After completing a BA and MPhil degrees, with a thesis on Virginia Woolf, she has contributed numerous articles to the Virginia Woolf Bulletin, and has published five monographs in the Bloomsbury Heritage Series. As an independent scholar who specialises in Woolf and her Victorian background, she also publishes on Charles and Mary Lamb, William Morris, and L.M. Montgomery.

Tribute to Paula Stepankowsky

By Elaine Bander



At the beginning of the 1990s, Paula Stepankowsky, founding President of The Burney Society, first discussed the need for a Burney Society with fellow Burney enthusiasts at AGMs of The Jane Austen Society of North America. Over post-banquet glasses of Cabernet- Sauvignon in 1992, she and Lucy Magruder agreed to organise a meeting. Thus, in the Fall of 1994, in a New Orleans restaurant, about a dozen people officially

launched The Burney Society with Paula as President. By the 1995 JASNA AGM in Madison, WI, we had a society, officers,

and a splendid program featuring Prof. Margaret Anne Doody.

Under Paula's Presidency, the Society has grown and flourished on two continents, independent of JASNA. Thanks to her determination, organization, tireless diplomacy, and depth of knowledge about Burney and her family, The Burney Society has installed a memorial window in Westminster Abbey, restored the stone marking Burney's grave at St. Swithin's Walcot churchyard in Bath, published a lively newsletter and a refereed scholarly journal, established an essay prize to encourage scholarship, and held annual conferences on both sides of the Atlantic. Our membership has expanded steadily to match growing interest in Frances Burney, and the UK branch is now capable of standing alone.

We are where we are today because of Paula. It will be an enormous challenge to follow her. Anyone interested in Frances Burney owes her an incalculable debt of gratitude. Thank you, Paula.

Nominations for North American Officers, Board Members Open

Nominations are now open for new officers and board members of the Burney Society in North America. New officers and board members will be elected at the upcoming bi-annual conference of the society in North America to be held in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 28 and 29, 2010.

Burney Society co-founder and President Paula Stepankowsky is stepping down after 16 years of service. Both the North American and United Kingdom branches will now elect separate officers, although the Burney Society as a whole remains

united in its purpose and will continue to have joint publications.

Burney Society officers in North America include president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and at least three board members. There are at present no incumbents for the secretary and three board member positions.

Any member of good standing may submit his or her own name, or that of any other member for consideration. Please send nominations, or any questions related to the process, by June 15 to Jeanie Randall RandallJ@apsu.edu.

New Burney Listserv

A new listserv called “Burney announcements” is now open for anyone with an interest in Burney studies to join. The brainchild of Marilyn Francus, of West Virginia University, it is administered by web-master Joanne Holland of McGill University. It is a low-traffic listserv, mostly consisting of calls for papers and other announcements of interest to Burney enthusiasts. To join the listserv, visit <<http://groups.google.com/group/burney-announcements>>, and click on the “Join this group” link.

Paris Conference Program

Institut Charles V

Thursday 10 June 2010

9:30-9:45 Registration and coffee

9:45 **Welcome from Sophie Vasset**
(Université-Paris Diderot), **Kate Chisholm**
(The Burney Society)

10-11 **Pascal Dupuy** (Université de Rouen)
Napoleon through British and French caricatures (1799-1815)
Chair: Kate Chisholm

11-11:30 Coffee

11:30-1 **Panel 1: Life and Death under Napoleon**
Annette Kobak (biographer) *Life or death under Napoleon: Germaine de Staël's 1812 dilemma*; **Flora Fraser** (biographer) *Pauline Bonaparte: Procureess for her Brother the Emperor Napoleon?* **Katie Gemmell** (McGill University) *Frances Burney's Madame de Souza: A Novel Story*
Chair: Conrad Harper

1-3 **Lunch** (Chez Marianne, 2 rue des Hospitalières Saint Gervais – price included)

3-4:30 **Panel 2: Les Journalists et La Révolution**
Nancy Johnson (SUNY, New Paltz): *Williams and Wollstonecraft: Dispatches from France*; **Elizabeth Eger** (King's College, London): *Salon culture and national identity in the age of revolution: cross-Channel connections*, **Ariane Fennetaux** (Université-Paris Diderot): title tbc
Chair: Peter Sabor

6:30-7:30 Conference Reception (Institut Charles V)

8 pm. **Dinner** at a nearby restaurant (La tête d'ailleurs, 20 rue Beatreillis – optional: 45 euros each, including wine)

The price of the two-day conference, which includes tea/coffee and lunch on both days plus the conference reception on Thursday, is £65 for members of the Burney Society (£75 for non-members). Conference dinners on both days are optional, 45 euros each, including wine.

Friday 11 June 2010

10-11 **Peter Sabor** (McGill University) *Madame d'Arblay, Parisienne: new light on Burney's years in France*
Chair: Sophie Vasset

11-11:30 Coffee

11:30-1 **Panel 3: Madame d'Arblay, the Wanderer**
Margaret Anne Doody (University of Notre-Dame) *Reveries d'une promeneuse solitaire, or, Juliet's walk through the world in Burney's 'The Wanderer'*; **Tara Ghoshal Wallace** (George Washington University) *Dividing Life and Text: Wollstonecraft in 'The Wanderer'*; **Elles Smallegoor** (Universiteit von Amsterdam) *'What I may now, perhaps, venture to style my literary career': Frances Burney's 'The Wanderer' and the making of the professions*
Chair: Lorna Clark

1-2:30 **Lunch** (sandwich buffet, price included)

2:30-4 **Panel 4 Title tbc**
Sophie Vasset (Université-Paris Diderot); **Catherine Dille** (independent scholar) *The experience which teaches the lesson of truth: Burney and education in the season of democracy*; speaker tbc

4-4:30 **Tea**

4:30-5:30 *'Truly terrible and tremendous': English Women Writers and the Revolution*
Dramatised readings by **Karin Fernald** and **Hester Davenport**

5:30-6 **Conclusions**
Discussion led by Sophie Vasset and Kate Chisholm

8 pm **Dinner** at a restaurant close to Rue Mouffetard (Optional: 45 euros each, including wine)

Saturday 12 June: Daytrip to Joigny-sur-Yonne
Sunday 13 June: Walking Tour of Paris with guide from the Université-Paris Diderot, 10 am-12 noon, 15 euros.

12 June: 'Day Out' in Joigny

By Lorna Clark

Plans for the day trip to Joigny-sur-Yonne on Saturday 12 June 2010 are shaping up. In planning the day, Karin Fernald has had the generous help of Dr. Bernard Fleury, a retired physician living in Joigny who has published a study of *Joigny de la Révolution à la Belle Époque* (2005) and is a past-President of l'Association Culturelle et d'Études de Joigny. He published an article on "Frances Burney et Joigny" in the Fall 2003 issue of the *Burney Letter*, which generated much interest in seeing this lovely French town on the banks of the Yonne River.

Joigny was, of course, the hometown of Alexandre Piochard d'Arblay whom Frances Burney married in July 1793. Adjutant-général in the French army, he had fled France for England in 1792, joining Louis, comte de Narbonne and Mme Germaine de Staël at Juniper Hall, where he and Burney met. After enjoying an idyllic life in Surrey where their only child, Alexandre, was born in 1794, M. d'Arblay returned to France in 1801 to apply for his pension and try to reclaim some of his property. Required to remain in France for a year, he sent for his wife and son who joined him in Paris in April 1802; prevented from returning to England by the war, they stayed for ten years, living for the most part, in Passy and in Paris.

In July 1802, the d'Arblays visited Joigny for a fortnight at which time M. d'Arblay was given a hero's welcome and his English wife was received warmly. They returned again for six weeks in the fall, when they met Louis Bonaparte, Napoleon's brother, who kissed young Alex. They stayed with M d'Arblay's uncle Bazille (whose house is on the tour) and were given a 'diner de nocé' in the room in which M. d'Arblay was born, hosted by a cousin, Mlle. Chollet; Mme d'Arblay described the beautiful view from the room, which was in the imposing château at the top of the hill. She noted that of all the relations gathered there, her son was the last to bear "the old family real name, Piochard," which was not quite true (in a lunch-time talk, we will learn more of this branch of the family). In 1803, they returned on their "annual visit" to see this beloved uncle, who died the following year.

M. d'Arblay did return several more times to his native land, although Mme d'Arblay, it seems, did not. He never managed to recover his property.

The town of Joigny has an interest of its own, apart from Burney associations. The original settlement dates from the 10th century, when the first castle was built, at the foot of which, a market town began to grow (a market, held on Saturday morning, will coincide with our visit.) The remnants of some of the early walls, rampart gates, a 13th-century tower and part of a Gothic church still survive, but little else that was built before 1530, when a fire destroyed much of the town, which was rebuilt with the wealth from the wine trade (the surrounding vineyards can be glimpsed from l'avenue Gambetta). 'Les maisons à pans de bois' and part of Saint-Jean church date from the Renaissance, while the jumble of "scrambling, narrow" streets (complained of by Mme d'Arblay) retain their medieval character, as do the town squares where townspeople have gathered for centuries.

From 1603 to 1792, the Gondi family (of Italian descent) dominated the county; it is their château that overlooks the town, built between 1569 and 1608. In the 17th century, the town's features began to change, when two monastic communities were founded, while urban planning in the 18th century destroyed some structures and created others: the bridge, town hall (now library) and municipal offices all date from that time.

As a garrison town in the 19th century, and even while the wine industry was suffering through a recession, Joigny acquired wide boulevards, a court building and a covered market; later, the building of the railway also had an impact and the 20th century saw even further expansion. Today, the wine industry is still a feature of the region, and the town is accessible on a suburban train from Paris.

Visit to Joigny

Those who prefer a do-it-yourself tour and a relaxed morning browsing the markets will be provided with a do-it-yourself walking-map and brochure. For those who wish to benefit from the expertise of those well-versed in local history and architecture, the following

program is offered.

The morning tour and lunch-time talk will be given by M. Jean-Luc Dauphin, member of La Société des Etudes Staéliennes (dedicated to the study of Mme de Staël), and President of the Amis de Joubert (Friends of Joseph Joubert (1754-1824), 18th-century philosophe). M. Dauphin is generously volunteering his time to meet with us and share his invaluable expertise and knowledge of the period and of the town.

The afternoon tour will be guided by M. Didier Doré, a bilingual, professionally trained guide at the national level.

There is no extra charge for these tours.

9:20 Train departs from Paris-Bercy station next to Gare de Lyon (Métro ligne 14). Buy your own ticket at the station for 21:50 euros (return).

10:34 Train arrives Joigny; walk to town-centre, 1 km, fifteen-minute walk.

11:00 Meet at l'office de tourisme, with our guide, M. Dauphin

11:00 to 12:30 Walking tour of the town, focusing on the sights and places that Mme d'Arblay would have known, including the house in which M. d'Arblay grew up, the house in which the d'Arblays stayed, and that of Louis Bonaparte.

12:45-2:15 Lunch at restaurant Les Voyageurs, rue Gambetta (pay your own way). M. Dauphin will give a brief talk explaining the history of the Piochard branch of the family, prepared by M. Fleury.

2:30 An official welcome at l'office de tourisme, from M. Nicolas Soret, adjoint au maire, in charge of culture.

3:00 to 5:00 Afternoon tour with Didier Doré, nationally accredited guide, of the general historical sites of Joigny, including the hill-top château, where the 'nativity banquet' was held in the room in which M. d'Arblay was born

18:33 Train back to Paris

The trains can be booked on the website www.voyages-sncf.com

The Burney Society in the UK — Growth and Change

By David and Janet Tregear

The notion of a Conference in Paris seems to have attracted the attention of some beyond the Society's membership; there have been a noticeable number of registrations from such people. Perhaps the connections with other literary figures, or the historical fascination of the post-revolutionary period of French history, linked so inextricably with that of Britain, have spurred desires to know more. Altogether, the more that is thought of the programme for the Conference, the more it entices, and encourages preparatory reading, possibly in more than one language!

Such considerations may well lead to a modest growth in membership for the UK Society, and the new brochure produced by Hester Davenport and the prospective new Secretary, Tracey Kelly, has certainly done much to encourage such growth. We hope that among the present and new membership there will emerge a small number whose interest will extend to sustaining the day-to-day life of the Society in a commitment to membership of the Committee.

'Burney and The Gothic' To Be Considered in Portland, Ore.

By Paula Stepankowsky

Frances Burney and the Gothic elements of her works will be the theme of the 17th annual general meeting of The Burney Society in North America on Thursday, Oct. 28, and Friday, Oct. 29, 2010, at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland, Ore.

Cynthia Wall, professor of English at the University of Virginia, will be the plenary speaker for the meeting, which will coincide with a display of first editions and letters by Burney and her contemporary women writers.

Prof. Wall is the author of *The Prose of Things: Transformation of Description in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 2006) and *The Literary and Cultural Spaces of Restoration London* (Cambridge University Press, 1998), and the editor of *Blackwell's Concise Companion to the Restoration and the Eighteenth Century* (Blackwell, 2004).

The Burney Society meeting is being held immediately before the Annual General Meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America in Portland, which has *Northanger Abbey*, Austen's parody of a Gothic novel, as its theme. Frances Burney's literary career coincided with the Gothic movement in Great Britain, framed roughly by Horace Walpole's *Castle of Otranto* in 1764 and Robert Maturin's *Melmoth the Wanderer* in 1820.

A Call for Papers, whose deadline was May 1st, has been posted on many online sites and listservs devoted to this period of time in literature. A list of speakers should be set by May 15th.

The Burney Society will also be sponsoring a reception in conjunction with the Jane Austen Society of North America at Portland's nearby Multnomah County Library. The library will be exhibiting first editions of works by women writers such as Burney, Jane Austen, Elizabeth Inchbald, Anne Radcliffe, Hannah More, Jane West, Charlotte Smith, Amelia Opie, and Maria Edgeworth, as well as Burney letters and Gothic cartoons by Gillray and Rowlandson, including Gillray's iconic "Tales of Wonder." The works on display come from the collection of Burney Society

At the UK's AGM in October, apart from the change of Secretary/Treasurer, it will be necessary to appoint a new Chairman and new Committee members. The retirement of Paula Stepankowsky as President of the Society will also lead to changes in the way the Society operates in the UK and North America. We are hoping to elect a President of the UK society who will work in close cooperation with the newly elected President of the Society in North America. In a small Society such as the UK Society, the formalities for such appointments although laid down by the Constitution, are best preceded by informal approaches and soundings; so, if you, dear reader, are aware of any likely person, do please let us know.

The long-awaited move to have the UK Society registered as a Charity may well become the first achievement of the new Secretary and committee. The benefits to the growth of members, and to the finances through tax relief, should soon become apparent.

president Paula Stepankowsky and her sister and brother-in-law, Marian LaBeck and James Petts.

The Hemlow Prize awarded to a graduate student writing the best essay in Burney studies submitted to the committee this year will also be awarded at the conference. This prize is given in honour of the memory of Dr. Joyce Hemlow, the founding editor of the Burney Project, which is housed in the Burney Centre at McGill University in Montreal.

The Burney Society conference will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning and end at 12:30 p.m. on Friday. In addition to sessions all day Thursday and Friday morning, the conference will include a dinner Thursday evening at the Hilton Hotel.

Pricing and other information will be announced closer to the time of the conference.

Anyone with questions can contact Alex Pitofsky, pitofskyah@appstate.edu, Secretary/Treasurer, or Paula Stepankowsky at pstepankowsky@comcast.net.

The Burney Society UK

AGM 2010

2 October 2010, 2 - 5 pm

King's College, London

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Burney Society in the UK will be held in the Council Chamber of King's College, London (in the main building on the Strand, WC2R 2LS). At 2 pm, the formal business meeting will begin. At 3 pm Kate Chisholm will give a talk on *Wits and Wives: The women who knew Dr Johnson*; followed by tea and home-made cake. The meeting will be free to members, with voluntary donations for the tea and cake!

Devoney Looser Headlines Burney Annual Meeting in Bethlehem

By Geoffrey Sill

The 2009 Annual Meeting of The Burney Society in North America met on 8 October 2009 at the Hotel Bethlehem in the city of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. About 20 members attended to hear a talk given by Professor Devoney Looser of the University of Missouri, "An Elderly Lady With No Remains of Personal Beauty: Frances Burney and Old Age."

The title of Professor Looser's talk comes from a description of Burney by Sir Walter Scott, whom she met in 1826, and reflects the common prejudice against her (and other elderly women) held by reviewers and journalists of the time. Despite this prejudice, Burney returned in 1832 to her "long forsaken" pen at the age of eighty to revise (or rather, *rewrite*) her father's memoirs, written in 1805-06 when *he* was eighty. Professor Looser gave us a fascinating account of the relation of authorship to memory and age in Burney's neglected last work, the *Memoirs of Doctor Burney*.

In a business meeting that preceded the talk, Catherine Parisian, the liaison between ASECS and its affiliated societies, reviewed plans for the 2010 ASECS meeting in Albuquerque, where at least two sessions of particular interest to Burney scholars have been scheduled. Emily Friedman was planning to chair a roundtable on "The Age of Burney," and Laura Engel would chair a session on "Frances Burney and Fashion." (See Report, p. 8).

Lorna Clark, editor of the *Burney Letter*, said that contributions are always welcome and asked if any members who had attended celebrations for the tercentenary of Samuel Johnson would consider sending in a report. She also drew attention to the features in the newsletter of "Letters to the Editor," "Members' News" and "First Impressions," the latter of which is particularly well suited for students, who may be encouraged to write about their 'First Impressions' of Burney (preferably in 800 words or less).

Marilyn Francus reported on the

Burney Journal, noting that although there have been delays, the next volume of *The Burney Journal* is in process and should appear in spring 2010.

The Hemlow Prize for 2009 has been awarded to Kate C. Hamilton, a doctoral student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for her paper entitled "London and the Female Bildungsroman: Female Coming of Age in Frances Burney's *Evelina*, *Cecilia*, and *The Wiltings*." Committee members agreed that the essay was eloquently written and carefully researched. Kate will receive a prize of \$250, publication of her essay in *The Burney Journal*, and a year's membership in the Burney Society.

The current committee for the Hemlow prize is now stepping down; thanks were expressed to Audrey Bilger (chair) and John Wiltshire for their contributions. Next year, the committee will include representatives from the UK (Jennie Batchelor), the Antipodes (Jocelyn Harris) and North America (Lorna Clark, who will chair).

Catherine Parisian reminded members of the next conference hosted by the UK Burney Society on 10-11 June 2010 in Paris on the theme "Women Under Napoleon, 1802-12" with a particular emphasis on Burney's experiences in Paris. Plans are well underway which include a day trip to Joigny for Saturday 12 June. (For more details, see pp. 4-5).

The meeting concluded with conversation over an excellent buffet dinner, which lasted nearly until time for a performance of Acts IV and V of Burney's comedy, *The Wiltings*, with parts read by members of the East-Central regional meeting of ASECS (some of whom are also members of the Burney Society). Those taking part included Teri Doerkin (Cecilia Stanley), Linda Troost (Lady Smatter), Emily Friedman (Mrs. Sapien), Lisa Berglund (Mrs. Voluble), Robert Mayerovitch (Beaufort), Laura Engel (Censor), Sayre Greenfield (Dabler), Peter Staffel (Jack), Ellen Moody (Codger), and Laura Kennelly (Mrs. Wheelde, Miss Jenny, Betty, and Bob). All agreed that the performance

was the event of the season. Some members of EC/ASECS were overheard to say that they had not known the play before, but that they would now plan to read it with their classes.

An innovative feature of this Burney Annual Meeting was its link to the EC/ASECS meeting, which began with the reading of *The Wiltings* and ran through Sunday, October 11. In previous years, the Burney meeting coordinated with that of JASNA, which met in Philadelphia on the same weekend. Linking with EC/ASECS instead of JASNA provided the Burney Society with exposure to a new audience, particularly the large number of younger scholars and graduate students who attend a regional meeting such as EC/ASECS. Four papers at the EC/ASECS conference focused on the Burneys, and numerous ones on related topics provided opportunities for cross-pollination. Like all new ideas, the linking of the Burney Society to an ASECS affiliate has proven slow to catch on, and attendance at the Burney meeting was probably further affected by the central Pennsylvania location, the recession (which has affected travel reimbursements at some schools), and conflicts with other conferences. Those members who did attend, however, were rewarded with an inspiring paper, an elegant repast, and an entertaining evening of theatre.

Professor Geoffrey M. Sill is Professor of English at Rutgers University, Camden, N.J and well-known as a scholar of Defoe. Outgoing chair of EC/ASECS, he gave the presidential address at the meeting. Editor of vol. 5 of The Court Journals of Frances Burney, he contributed to The Complete Plays of Frances Burney and co-edited with Peter Sabor an edition of The Wiltings and The Woman-Hater. He included a chapter on Burney in his book on The Cure of the Passions and the Origins of the English Novel (Cambridge, 2001) and is currently working on one on the sentimental novel.

Members' News

By Lorna Clark

Canada

Prof. Peter Sabor, Director of the Burney Centre at McGill University, Montreal, writes that he and Prof. Stewart Cooke, editors of vols. 1 and 2 of the *Court Journals of Frances Burney*, covering the years 1786 and 1787, are nearing completion of their task and looking to a 2011 publication date for their volumes. As well, Director Emeritus, Prof. Lars Troide and Prof. Cooke are close to submission of vol. 5 of the *Early Journals*. Vol. 5 covers the years 1782-83 and includes accounts of Samuel Johnson in his last years, the crisis over Mrs. Thrale's second marriage which led to her ostracism, and Burney's own heart-burnings over the wavering attentions of the clergyman George Cambridge. Thus 19 of the projected 24-volumes of Burney's journals and letters, spanning more than seventy years, from 1768 to 1839, will soon be in print.

Spain

Carmen Maria Fernandez writes from As Pontes de García Rodríguez (Spain) of a new publication; her chapter on "The Cervantine Influence in Burney's Works,"

By Marilyn Francus

The Burney Society sponsored a roundtable entitled "Age of Burney," which was chaired by Emily Friedman (Auburn University), and featured Peter Sabor (McGill University), George Justice (University of Missouri), Emily H. Anderson (University of Southern California), Lori Halvorsen Zerme (West Virginia University) and Margaret Anne Doody (University of Notre Dame). Peter spoke of the notion of "ages" of Burney, and suggested that there was significant work to be done on Burney's time in France at the beginning of the 19th century; George spoke about the notion of an "age of Burney" as a pedagogical construct (and the ways one might construct and "Age of Burney" course); Emily suggested that the label "Age of Burney" raises questions of celebrity as an ideological construct (within Burney's time, as well as the celebrity that we attribute to Burney); Lori spoke about the propriety of an age of Burney insofar as Burney helps define and challenge

is soon to appear in a volume of essays on world literatures edited by Dr. Nilanshu Kumar Agarwal (Jaipur: Bookencrave, 2010). She has also been busy with a review of *A Celebration of Frances Burney* (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007) which has appeared in an online Spanish journal entitled *Miscellanea* (University of Zaragoza):

http://www.miscelaneajournal.net/images/stories/articulos/vol40/105_misc40_.pdf.

Her review of Lorna Clark's edition of *The Romance of Private Life* will appear very soon in *Atlantis*, the journal of the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies (AEDEAN).

Australia

Michael Kassler writes from Australia that his latest book, *The Music Trade in Georgian England* is nearing completion. He also draws our attention to a rare book dealer, who is offering a Burney item at a fair price. The first French edition, a translation by Elisabeth de Bon, of Sarah Harriet Burney's *Clarentine*, 4 vols. (1796), in its original uncut condition is on sale at John Hart Rare Books for US \$475.

Mr. Kassler also points to a fascinating trio of manuscripts on sale for more than

Report of ASECS 2010

courtship narrative; and Margaret spoke Burney in light of economics, specifically Adam Smith, and engaging with issues of debt, finance, etc. (especially in works like *Cecilia*). There was a lively discussion (there were approximately 60 people in attendance -- it was standing room only) -- about whether the notion of "the Age of..." as a construct was hoary and worthless; whether it was useful as an intellectual exercise; whether Burney should complete the phrase (versus other authors...).

The Burney Society also sponsored a panel entitled "Frances Burney and Fashion" which was chaired by Laura Engel of Duquesne University. Suzanne Cook of Duquesne University presented "Mr. Lovel and the Monkey: A Critique of Fashion and Foppery in Frances Burney's *Evelina*"; Alicia Kerfoot of McMaster University presented "Declining Buckles and Movable Shoes in Frances Burney's *Cecilia*"; and Lori Halvorsen Zerme of West Virginia University presented "Observing Only Her Dress: Fashion as Performance and the Plausibility of

US \$7000 from Samuel Gedge Ltd in Norwich, UK. The first is an autograph poem by Charles Burney, "New Year's Ode, for 1777," written for his good friend Thomas Twining (1734-1804). This is juxtaposed with a poem of Twining's, "Let us pray." Lastly, there is a letter from the tea-merchant Richard Twining (1749-1824) to Charles Burney Jr., concerning the planned publication of the letters of his half-brother Thomas, dated Twickenham, 3 Sept. 1817. In it, he gives his account of the importance of the friendship between the two men, based on "their love of music, and a striking similarity of taste, [that] render'd them most apt companions." Burney leaned on Twining's learning, encouragement and original discoveries about ancient music which he published in his *A General History of Music* (1776-89). Twining, a country curate who lived in a quiet village, enjoyed his correspondence with Burney and the window it gave him on the busy life of the metropolis. Together, these three manuscripts create an evocative portrait of the friendship between the two men.

Identity in *The Wanderer*." The panel was well attended, as the panelists discussed fashion as social critique (not only criticizing the fop in fop, but as an antitype to Orville, a truly fashionable man), economic critique (and ways to read shoe buckles, shoe styles, and status), and disguise in Burney's novels (primarily in light of *Juliet* -- and those who read her based on her clothes, and those who do not).

There were two papers on Burney on a Wollstonecraft panel, but I was not able to attend the session. Tara Ghoshal Wallace, George Washington University, presented "Self and Text: Wollstonecraft in Burney's *The Wanderer*" and Jodi Wyatt, Xavier University, "Re-Making Mary: Figuring 'Female Difficulties' in Frances Burney's *The Wanderer*." And there was a roundtable on "ECCO, EBBO and the Burney Collection: Some Noisy Feedback" (a bit for Charles Jr. there) chaired by Anna Battigelli, SUNY Plattsburgh.

BEDAZZLED BY BURNEY

Sales of Frances Burney Books, Manuscripts & Images
from the Paula Peyraud Collection (Chappaqua, New York).
Bloomsbury Auctions, New York (May 2009)



By Maureen E. Mulvihill

Princeton Research Forum, Princeton, NJ

Commissioned by THE BURNEY LETTER (Spring 2010),
editor Lorna J. Clark. THE BURNEY SOCIETY

Excerpted, with permission, from the author's Peyraud auction report,
Eighteenth-Century Studies (Fall 2009), 151-163; with 8 images & detailed buyers' list
[Bloomsburyauctions-peyraud-mulvihill.pdf](#)



Portrait Miniature of Burney by John Bogle, 1783

Watercolour on ivory, oval. 4" x 3". Signed & Dated

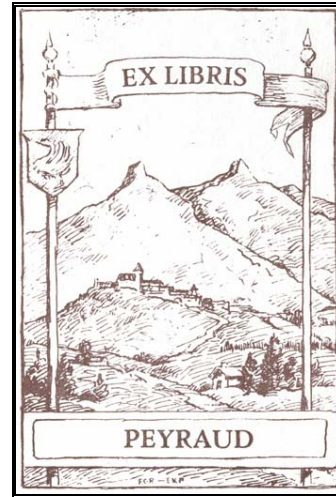
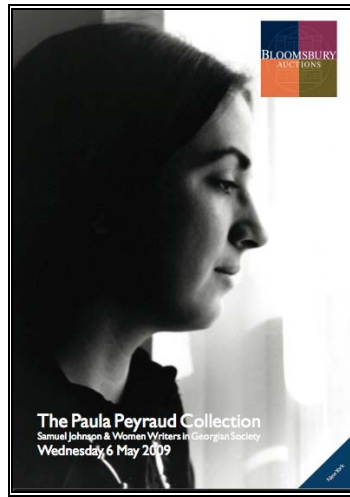
Inscribed on verso, "Miss Burney"

Peyraud Sale, Lot 185. \$12,200, including fees. Private Collection, Prudence Carlson, NY

This buyer also acquired Lot 186, a portrait miniature of Burney's mother (1759), \$3904, with fees Photographer, Oliver Lei

Han, Bloomsbury Auctions NY. Peyraud sale catalogue, p.117

With kind permission of the owner and Bloomsbury Auctions NY



‘DARK LADY’ OF RARE BOOK COLLECTORS: PAULA FENTRESS PEYRAUD (NY, 1947–2008)

Peyraud Collection Auction, May 2009, Bloomsbury Auctions NY. 483 Lots (books, mss., images).

\$1.6 million, including fees. Photographer, Margie Van Dyke.

Collector’s Family Bookplate: Peyraud copy of Burney’s *Cecilia* (Lot 218), McGill University Library, Montreal.



Though Hester Thrale Piozzi was the priciest literary lady at the Peyraud sale – her *Spectator* fetching \$140,300 from Yale’s Beinecke Library – Frances Burney was the runaway favourite. A quantity of Burney and Burneyana graced the auction catalogue. The principal Burney sale was an autograph manuscript notebook (Paris, c1809-11; red morocco gilt, 8vo, some 95 pp) of mostly literary exercises (*thèmes*) by Frances Burney, addressed to her French circle, most notably Barron Larrey who performed her mastectomy. The notebook was acquired for \$14,640, including fees, by McGill University, home of The Burney Centre. Burney holdings at McGill’s library are now enhanced by this new acquisition, along with 9 other lots from the sale. “Paula Peyraud was the world’s most active Burney collector,” said Peter Sabor, Burney Centre director, in his pre-auction talk, “but who of us knew the extent of this collection!”

On 6 May 2009 at Bloomsbury Auctions, New York City, the largest archive in private hands of books, manuscripts, and images associated with the late Georgian period (1760–1820) was sold in 483 lots. The sale of the Peyraud Collection was the principal literary event of New York’s 2009 spring season. The auction’s total sales, including fees, of \$1,598,114 surpassed the presale estimate of \$1 million. Of the 104 registered buyers, most of these were private collectors and buyers for U.S. libraries. The dominant figures in the collection were literary women of the late Georgian era: Frances Burney, Hester Thrale Piozzi, the Bluestockings, Maria Edgeworth, Jane Austen, and the Brontës; literary men on offer included Samuel Johnson (some 30 items), Alexander Pope, Edmund Burke, David Garrick, Horace Walpole, and Lord Byron. The entity organizing the Peyraud sale was the New York office of Bloomsbury Auctions. The event’s principals – Richard Austin, Tom Lamb, James Cummins, Stephen Massey, Oliver Lei Han – worked the consignment with special care; their handsome sale catalogue (277 pp), with its large colour images and generous lot descriptions, is itself a collector’s item and scholarly resource. The sale represented some 30 years of dedicated collecting by an intriguing ‘dark lady’ in the antiquarian market: **PAULA FENTRESS PEYRAUD**, the quietly gifted librarian at The Chappaqua Library, NY. Her principal agents were Robert J. Barry (C.A. Stonehill Inc., New Haven, CT) and Joanne Winterkorn (Quaritch Ltd., London); these two were admitted to Paula’s rarefied world. By the time of Peyraud’s sad death from lung cancer in 2008 (aged 61), the total Peyraud Collection ran to some half a million printed books and over 100 paintings; this considerable trove of rarities – very probably three generations of Peyraud family libraries – ‘lived’ in the subterranean gallery of the family home in Chappaqua. While the Peyraud auction was not comparable in scale to, say, the Hyde Eccles Collection sale (Christie’s 2004) or the Brett-Smith Library sale (Sotheby’s 2004), it was a dramatic validation of continuing interest and commercial investment in cultural property of the Georgian period, especially its women writers. The Peyraud Collection is now dispersed (sadly), but it has been given a second, public life. And Paula Peyraud is not lost in time. ◆

Selected List of Burney Sales (Books & Manuscripts), Peyraud Auction (May 2009)

All sums reflect hammer prices + auction house premium.

For additional buyers, see the author's auction report, *Eighteenth-Century Studies* (Fall 2009), 151-163; 8 images.

Update: Sold, lot 210, a Burney family album of letters & documents, Bloomsbury Auctions NY, 24th Feb 2010, \$7000.

Buyer undisclosed. See <http://ny.bloomsburyauctions.com/detail/NY041/210.0>

Canada

McGill University Library, Montreal. 10 Lots: Frances Burney & Burneyana

Frances Burney, rare ms notebook, red morocco gilt, 8vo. Some 40 (draft) letters in French by Burney to her circle; Lot 202, \$14,640, **highest Burney sale** (funder: Breslauer Foundation, NY). Also: Sophia Elizabeth Burney, niece of Frances, her ms of "Novels. Plays. and Poems" (c1790), Lot 223, \$5124. And: Lot 204, \$1708; Lot 205, \$3904; Lot 211, \$1830; Lot 216, \$1098; Lot 217, \$2684; Lot 218, *Cecilia* (1812), with Peyraud bookplate, \$1952; Lot 219, \$2318; Lot 223, \$5124. See news piece, McGill U. Web site.

United Kingdom

John Rylands Library, University of Manchester. 9 Lots: Autograph Letters of Frances Burney

ALS (initials) to Hester Thrale Piozzi re *Cecilia*, etc., Lot 193, \$9150. ALS (initials) to same re their circle, Lot 190, \$6100. ALS (initials) to her father Charles Burney re Samuel Johnson's views on her *Cecilia*, Lot 194, \$7930. Other Burney acquisitions: Frances Burney to Hester Thrale Piozzi, Lot 192, \$7930; Lot 195, \$3660. Also: Lots of Thrale Piozzi mss: Lot 381, \$793; Lot 393, \$7320; Lot 404, \$9150; Lot 406, \$5490.

United States

Harvard University, Houghton Library, Hyde Eccles Collection (Johnson & His Circle). 36 Lots

Hester Thrale, ALS, to Frances Burney on Thrale's impending marriage to Piozzi; Lot 383, \$19,520.

Harvard was the **principal buyer at the Peyraud auction**, acquiring most notably Thrale's annotated copy of Richard Cumberland's *Memoirs*. Lot 426, \$42,700. Also: Samuel Johnson, ALS, to Hester Thrale Piozzi; Lot 305, \$23,180. Other Peyraud properties at Harvard: Lots 306, 309, 328, 380, 382, 384-89, 390-92, 394-99, 402, 403, 405, 412, 424, 427, 431, 440-44, 463. See news piece, Houghton Library Web site.

Vassar College Libraries, Special Collections, Poughkeepsie, NY. 3 Lots of Burney Letters

Frances Burney ALS ("F. Burney") to Mrs. Walsingham on her appointment to the Queen. Lot 197, \$1708.

Also: 8 autograph letters to Burney from female correspondents, Lot 209, \$1464.

Also: Autograph letter from Burney's niece, describing Burney's death, Lot 224 (\$610).

Thus, a small but interesting Burney collection (10 items) at Vassar. See Vassar's Web site for news piece.

Yale University, Beinecke Library. 9 Lots (\$165,615)

ALS from Frances Burney to her father on *Camilla*, Lot 201, \$7,320.

Also: Hester Thrale Piozzi, her heavily annotated copy of *The Spectator* (8 vols.), later provenance in Queen Victoria, Lot 422, \$140,300 (**star of the show**). Also: Lots 413, \$1464. Lot 189, \$3660. Lot 198, \$2684. Lot 334, \$2928. Lot 344, \$3904. Lot 367, \$2440. Lot 368, \$915.

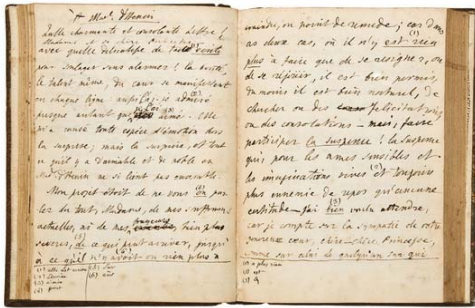
Selected Private Collectors

Paula Stepankowsy, President, Burney Society. 1 Lot. Frances Burney ALS (1770) to her sister Esther "Hetty" Burney, re Hetty's engagement to Charles Rousseau Burney, Lot 188, \$1464.

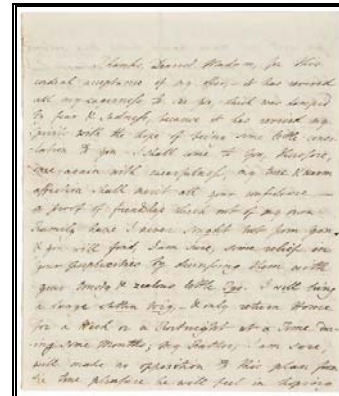
Lorna J. Clark, Carleton University, Ottawa. Member, Burney Society. Editor, *The Burney Letter*. Authority on Sarah Burney, literary sister of Frances. 4 Lots. Sarah Burney, *Traits of Nature*, 5 vols. (1813), Lot 221, \$1098. Also: Lot 212, \$610; Lot 220, \$976; Lot 222, \$336.

Loren R. Rothschild, Los Angeles. Prominent Johnsonian. Former owner of Reynolds's 'blinking Sam' portrait (gift to Huntington, 2006). 2 Lots. Edmund Burke's letter (1782) to Burney, praising *Cecilia*, Lot 174, \$2928. Also: ALS, Burney to Hester Thrale re Mr Thrale's death (1781), Lot 191, \$9760. ♦

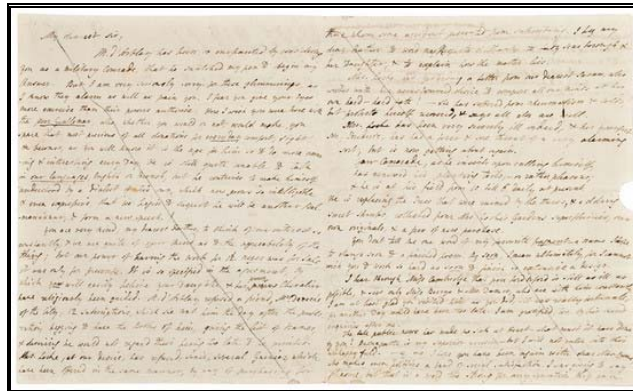
SELECTED BURNEY SALES, PEYRAUD COLLECTION AUCTION (NY, MAY 2009)
 FROM THE PRINTED CATALOGUE, OLIVER LEI HAN, PHOTOGRAPHER. LOT 197 IMAGE FROM ONLINE CATALOGUE.
reduced format; sale prices include premium



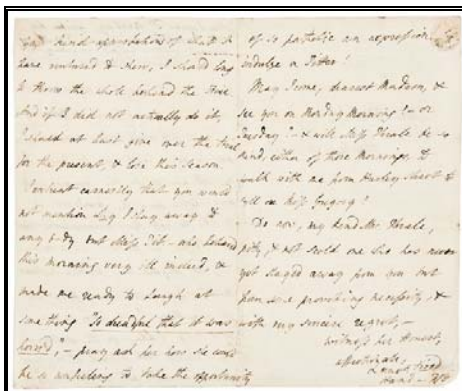
Frances Burney, Manuscript Notebook. Lot 202.
\$14,640. McGill University Library, Montreal.



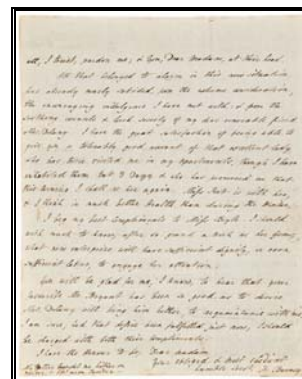
Frances Burney to Hester Thrale, on the death of Mr Thrale. Lot 191.
\$9760. Loren R. Rothschild, Los Angeles.



Frances Burney to her father, Dr Charles Burney, on Camilla.
Lot 201, \$7320. Beinecke Library, Yale University.



Frances Burney to Hester Thrale Piozzi, on Burney's Cecilia. Lot 193. \$9150.
Rylands Library, University of Manchester UK.



Frances Burney to Mrs Walsingham, on her royal appointment. Lot 197. \$1708.
Vassar College Libraries, New York.

First Impressions

By Catherine Fleming

My initial introduction to Frances Burney was through the play *The Witlings*. I was immediately caught by the ironic humor and detailed treatment of the characters. In her play, Burney used well-developed characters as well as caricatures. Her use of an old and very typical love story as the basis for her play is especially fascinating as it allows her to satirise not only the characters themselves but also the plot. Just as her character, Dabblers, takes pieces of poetry and ideas from other sources, so the tired love story that Burney uses to such devastating effect is copied over and over again by writers. Burney's satire extends to her own career, and she pokes fun even at the idea of acting itself through her emphasis on appearance versus reality. This is one of those plays that is enjoyable on multiple levels, being hilariously funny to read as entertainment and having multiple levels for the critical reader to explore.

Not only does Burney criticise her contemporaries in a way that they can understand, she also draws a picture of the circle in which she moves that is clear enough that it allows readers like me to picture and understand her world nearly two centuries after her death. Burney taps into human nature, showing not only the intellectual hypocrisy and pretense to knowledge that does not exist, but the underlying motives of each of her characters. Her audience is invited to laugh at her characters, but also to sympathise with them as they struggle to make and to keep their reputations. The intellectual milieu in which Burney moved is not the same as we see today, but many of her characters and their foibles still ring true. Reputation is still far too often more important than reality. People still love to be praised and will willingly listen to flattery even from someone they despise. Many plays and novels are nearly unreadable by audiences unfamiliar with the culture and time in which they were written, but Burney does not rely on common assumptions or use simple stock characters and formulas. Her play is as understandable and its satire as biting today as it was two hundred years ago.

It is a great pity that Burney was discouraged from writing plays and wrote only a very few comedies. *The Witlings* is a wonderfully humorous invention, and it was her first step into the genre. One can only imagine what Burney might have done if she had continued to exercise her talents in the field of the theatre. Her first play already demonstrates a master-hand at work in the stagecraft and in her use of the visual language of the theatre to broaden a story.

Many plays have only a few characters on stage at one time, forcing the gaze of the audience to rest where the author intends,

but Burney does not restrict herself that way. Instead, she makes certain that no matter where the audience looks on the stage there is something there to entertain and a lesson to be learned. Characters never simply fade into the background. If they are on stage, then there is some reason for their presence. Even when the characters themselves ignore each other the audience is encouraged to pay attention to their physical presence on the stage. When Codger falls silent and is ignored for several pages, his lack of speech does not diminish his importance but makes the other characters' scorn even more evident.

Burney's primary genre was the novel, and although her play is written to take advantage of the theatre rather than the written page, I can still see elements of a novel in *The Witlings*. The most obvious correlation is in the extraordinary length of her play. Burney's novels are hundreds of pages long, and while her play does not extend nearly as far as a novel, the length far exceeds that of most plays. In plot and character too Burney writes like a novelist, as though she had time to develop each of her characters over the long pages of a novel. Her plot is not simply the stock romantic formula, but she uses the established weaknesses of her characters in a way that neatly ties together her satirical commentary on people who pretend to intellect in order to gain fame and reputation. Unlike plays such as *The Rover* where often unnecessary subplots continually arise, every scene in *The Witlings* contains a revelation that is necessary for the final denouement. Burney simply does not have the space to include subplots, not when even the unimportant romantic story which she uses to drive her play takes a hundred and seventy pages.

I think that I would like to have met Burney. Having written novels popular enough to bring her to the attention of many of the best-known writers and playwrights, she chose for the theme of her first play the problems of intellectual women and writers. Any author who could so devastatingly and so fearlessly pinpoint the weaknesses of the group to which she herself belonged must have been a wonderfully clear-sighted woman with a gift for seeing humour in everything.

Catherine Fleming encountered Burney in a course about 18th-century women playwrights in her senior year as an English major at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She describes herself as "walking around campus with a book in front of her face" all the time, and she finds books both an "area of study and a primary hobby." Her goal is to pursue a PhD and become a university teacher so that she can spend "the rest of her life thinking and talking about books."

Research Query

I am a research assistant for Professor Miriam Bailin, from the English Department at Washington University in St. Louis, who is writing a book about literary societies in Britain. She's curious about any connections between literary societies and local historical or antiquarian societies. Are you aware of any ties between the Burney Society and nearby historical societies? For instance, I'd be interested to know if any of your founding members were also involved in historical or antiquarian societies, or if members today are also active in them. Thank you for any help you may be able to give, Emma Hine, ekhine@artsci.wustl.edu

Cook's Protégés and the War That Almost Was

By Ronald Thompson

The following is a prelude to The Wind from All Directions, a novel forthcoming from Canadian writer Ronald Thompson. Based on accounts of explorations of the Pacific north-west, the novel focuses on George Vancouver, veteran of Cook's voyages, who is in command of an expedition sent to survey the coast. The novel begins with Vancouver's arrival in the region in 1792 and his encounter with Spanish mariners determined to thwart Britain's territorial ambitions. Students of 18th-century history will be intrigued by this exhaustively researched treatment of a little known encounter between European powers at the edge of the known world, and the role of exceptional leaders in extraordinary circumstances.

In 1788, a half-pay British naval officer-turned-trader named John Meares acquired land within Nootka Sound in the Pacific north-west from Maquinna, local chief of what is now the Mowachaht nation. He sealed the bargain with ten sheets of coppers and some trinkets brought from his trading base in China. Whether Maquinna actually conveyed ownership to Meares or merely accepted the gifts and tolerated his presence became the subject of substantial dispute. Meares forever insisted the land was his but his record of verisimilitude left much to be desired. Maquinna denied the claim and referred to Meares as "Aita-Aita Meares" – Liar Meares. Yet there is agreement on what followed: that Meares erected a structure on the site in Friendly Cove, to serve as his local base of operations, and traded in the area all that summer.

Spain had long claimed sovereignty over the Pacific coast of the Americas. Its claim was based on the Papal Bulls issued in 1493 by Pope Alexander VI (himself a Spaniard). However, for three hundred years the Spaniards did little to enforce their claim in the far north-west reaches of the territory. They made few voyages of exploration, and no attempts at settlement. But a few bold foreigners made incursions to the region. The English corsair Francis Drake was the first, in 1588, during his extended round the world raid on Spanish dominions. (To this day Drake is considered a swashbuckling hero by the British and a vicious pirate by the Spanish.) From the north, a succession of Russian-commissioned adventurers probed down the coast from the Aleutians, finding rich trade prospects with the natives they encountered. And in 1778, Britain's intrepid James Cook became the first European to enter Nootka Sound, to effect repairs to his two ships, *Resolution* and *Discovery*. Serving on the *Discovery* were two young officers from King's Lynn, James Burney, the First Lieutenant, and midshipman George Vancouver. They had served together previously on Cook's second voyage, which had approached Antarctica in search of the fabled Southern Continent. Their present voyage, which was seeking the north-west passage, would be Cook's last. Within a year he would be dead, murdered by natives in Hawaii; but his brief sojourn within Nootka Sound was sufficient to strengthen British claims to sovereignty, the pope's bull notwithstanding. It had two other significant impacts. First, it introduced venereal disease to the aboriginal population; there was considerable, documented fraternization between the locals and the visitors during that month-long port of call. Some of the gentlemen entered into the spirit of fraternization with great enthusiasm.¹ Second, it

spawned a veritable gold rush to the region. After Cook's death, his crew carried word home of the plentiful sea otter population on the north-west coast, and of the rich prices their furs fetched in China. In the years that followed numerous adventurers and traders – mostly Britons and newly-independent Americans – made the voyage to cash-in on the bounty.

In 1789, the viceroy of New Spain, alarmed by the encroachments of foreign traders, directed Estevan Jose Martinez to establish a fortified post within Nootka Sound on present-day Vancouver Island. Martinez was a veteran of the few Spanish voyages of exploration in the region. He was an experienced mariner, but he was also hot tempered and volatile, and had a liking for drink that impaired his judgement.

Martinez arrived in Nootka Sound in May 1789. Spanish accounts of the event emphasize two things: that the Indians welcomed them with gifts and demonstrations of joy; and that there was no evidence of any prior European presence (i.e. Meares's trading post) upon the land. There were, however, several British, American and Portuguese trading vessels at anchor in the sound.

From the moment of his arrival, Martinez's every action was intended to demonstrate Spanish sovereignty. On behalf of his king, he offered aid and sustenance to any trader in need. He boarded and inspected vessels, questioned their captains about their activities in the area, and closely examined their papers. Before the month was out, he confiscated a nominally Portuguese vessel that was clearly English-owned and crewed and operating under a flag of convenience. Later, in July, he became embroiled in a heated argument with James Colnett, captain of one of two British-flagged vessels in the sound. Colnett had served as a midshipman on Cook's second voyage; he had been a shipmate and fellow midshipman with Burney and Vancouver on Cook's flagship, the *Resolution*. Although described by another of Cook's midshipmen as "Clever and Sober," in his interactions with the Spaniards he proved as hot-headed as Martinez. Colnett boasted to Martinez about his plan to build a permanent British establishment in Nootka, to be named Fort Pitt, in honour of the prime minister, William Pitt.

This plan, or his being called a "Goddam Spaniard" by Colnett, was too much for Martinez. He seized both British ships and arrested their crews. During his incarceration Colnett attempted suicide; his own second officer described him as in a "high state of insanity." Whether he was insane or unstable, or whether their argument was fuelled by drink, their volatile behaviour and poisonous personal chemistry brought their countries to the brink of war.

The impounded ships belonged to none other than John Meares – late of Nootka Sound – and his partners. Meares had chosen not to return to the north-west that summer, but to remain in China. When word of the seizures eventually reached him there, he realized he was a ruined man; he raced back to England where he arrived in April of 1790 to lodge a complaint against Spain with the British government, claiming substantial personal losses from the seizure of his shore establishment and ships. Whatever the legitimacy of his claim to property on shore, his trading losses were real, and his case of British commerce unfairly restrained by

an arrogant foreign power was timely and convenient for Pitt's government, which saw an opportunity to weaken Spain's claim to lands claimed by right of discovery, but never occupied.

The case was received sympathetically by the British public. Public passions (stoked quietly by the government) quickly became inflamed against Spain. On April 30 – just weeks after Meares first made his case – Cabinet responded to the furor by ordering the mobilization of the fleet. Britain, it appeared, was ready to go to war over an argument between two headstrong and temperamental men in far away Nootka Sound. But the Spanish Armament, as the mobilization became known, was a bluff. Pitt knew that Spain could not afford a war, that it was isolated. France, its traditional ally, was in the early stages of a revolution and would not come to Spain's aid. Pitt saw advantage to be gained, at Spain's expense. This must have been sweet to Pitt and his circle, given the support Spain had so recently afforded the American revolutionaries. The loss of the American colonies still stung.

As Pitt had calculated, the Spanish readily acceded to negotiations to avoid a conflict. By late October an agreement was approved by both governments. The Nootka Convention provided for full restitution of the ships, property and tracts of land seized by Martinez. The Spanish Armament ended with Britain winning all its diplomatic objectives, not least being recognition of the existence of British property on the north-west coast of America. This alone would undermine Spain's claim to exclusive possession of and sovereignty over the Pacific coast.

Even before the negotiation of the Convention the Spaniards released the impounded British ships and their crews. Colnett, recovered from his breakdown, completed his trading voyage (and later returned to service in the Navy). But an item of diplomacy remained to be transacted: the return of British-owned buildings and tracts of land on shore at Nootka. George Vancouver, still only thirty-three but a veteran of two of Cook's voyages, had already been assigned command of a voyage of exploration and survey on the north-west coast; he was now given an additional task: to satisfy the terms of the Convention, by formally receiving the British lands and territories in the region from the Spanish. Vancouver's expedition, comprising the sloop *Discovery* (under his command; it was his first), and the armed tender *Chatham* sailed from England on April 1, 1791.

By today's hindsight, Vancouver's role in Anglo-Iberian diplomacy seems but an afterthought to the ambitious goals of the survey he was ordered to conduct. But consider the inflamed passions of the period: his diplomatic mission was clearly as important to British interests as his survey mission.

Important or not, this diplomatic brief may have been one of history's more mischievous April Fools jokes, for George Vancouver was a diligent and dutiful naval officer, an excellent and experienced seaman and surveyor – but he was no diplomat. He was testy and remote, a harsh disciplinarian, arbitrary, irritable, authoritarian, stubborn and uncompromising – characteristics required of his station, but ones that would neither endear him to his men nor equip him for the inner salons of European court diplomacy. Despite his relative youth, he had already served twenty years in the Royal Navy, most of them at sea. He was one of the few men alive who knew the north-west coast and Nootka Sound, from that rainy spring of 1778. Accounts suggest he picked up a smattering of the local language during that brief sojourn – but

he had no Spanish with which to communicate with his counterparts on the diplomatic matter.

Like his mentor James Cook, and William Bligh, another of Cook's men, Vancouver was not high born. Cook was the son of a farmer, Vancouver and Bligh the sons of minor customs officials – middle-class for the time, but without pedigree. Their ascension to command mirrored the slow evolution of British society and institutions, to the point where men of capability could rise to command men of privilege. The “lower decks” – the common seamen – had to put up and shut up in the face of their captain's authority. Officers, though, operated within a milieu of class distinction, and well-bred gentlemen groused and bridled at the arbitrariness of a social inferior acting in the temporary capacity of a military superior. And there was no shortage of well-bred gentlemen on Vancouver's *Discovery*. Given the fame and mystique that had accrued to Cook, an extended voyage like Vancouver's was considered a plum and a leg-up for the ambitious young sons of the élite. The titled and powerful exerted their considerable influence to secure berths for their progeny. Many of these youths served dutifully; some, like the prime minister's cousin, Thomas Pitt, would be a constant thorn in Vancouver's side.

Vancouver's orders regarding his duties as British Commissioner at Nootka were vague and incomplete. He was told that a third ship, the transport *Daedalus* (under the command of yet another of Cook's men, Vancouver's friend Richard Hergest) would meet him in Hawaii the following winter, to resupply his ships. It would also deliver to him detailed instructions for the completion of his diplomatic mission.

The *Daedalus* missed the rendezvous in Hawaii. When it finally joined him, in Nootka in August 1792, just as Vancouver himself arrived from his first season of survey, it delivered no additional instructions.² George Vancouver, Master and Commander of *Discovery*, discovered he was on his own.

And unbeknownst to him, the Spanish had resolved to win back some of their diplomatic losses under the Nootka Convention. It would be up to Cook's greatest protégé, a man largely forgotten by history, to counter the Spanish effort.

Notes

¹James Burney described the Nootka lasses as “Jolly, likely Wenches”; he was not averse to a romantic interlude to soften the long, hard voyages, judging from the cynical Samuel Crisp's reference to “the dear piece that he left behind” in “Otaheite,” *ED* 2:321.

²*Daedalus* did bring news of Vancouver's friend, Richard Hergest. He was murdered en route to Nootka Sound, by natives in Hawaii, in circumstances similar to Cook's death.

Ronald Thompson is a graduate of the Universities of Saskatchewan and Toronto and the London School of Economics, and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Early in his career he trained and served as a naval officer on Canada's west coast (where this novel is based) and for two years worked in development as a resource planner on the edge of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. Subsequently, he worked as an economist, management consultant and investment banker before returning to his first love, writing. He has just completed his second novel, A Person of Letters, of which an excerpt will appear in Canadian Voices, an anthology of works by emerging Canadian writers.

Conference Report:
Reynolds reappraised:
new insights into the life, career and influence of Sir Joshua Reynolds
8-9 January, 2010, University of Plymouth

By Sam Smiles

This conference was organised to showcase new research on Sir Joshua Reynolds. As such it was deliberately intended not to duplicate the contents of the exhibition (whose research was fully documented in the catalogue), but to use the occasion to present and discuss new findings by Reynolds experts on all aspects of his life and career.

Delegates were given ample time to visit *Sir Joshua Reynolds – The Acquisition of Genius* in Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery (including an evening reception, with a welcome from Nicola Moyle, the Museum's Director). The conservator Seonaid Wood, spoke in the gallery on her discoveries while

conserving Reynolds's Port Eliot paintings.

Delegates were also able to visit *Encountering Reynolds* in the University of Plymouth's Peninsula Arts Gallery. This display was designed to complement the exhibition at the Museum by looking at Reynolds's continuing presence today. Curated by Dr Jenny Graham (University of Plymouth), who also contributed the essay on Reynolds's posthumous reputation to the *Acquisition of Genius* catalogue, *Encountering Reynolds* combined a range of popular and artistic responses to his legacy, beyond the walls of the museum. Filmmaker Dr David Hilton explored Reynolds's commemorations at some of London's leading landmarks, and in conversation with the

painter Maurice Cockerill, Keeper of the Royal Academy, explored the continuing relevance of Reynolds's life and art to today's art world. The exhibition also displayed examples of photographic work by the contemporary artist, Victoria Hall, who had used Reynolds's paintings as inspiration. The final section of the display tracked Reynolds's fame via the ephemera associated with his most appealing works. Together, the separate parts of the exhibition demonstrated that Reynolds has remained part of the nation's cultural memory.

The exhibition closed on 20 February, as did *Sir Joshua Reynolds – The Acquisition of Genius*.

The papers presented in the conference hall were as follows:

Harry Mount (Oxford Brookes) "Reynolds's Camera: an Englishman and the Ideal"

Harry explored Reynolds's ownership of a camera obscura (Science Museum), arguing that his art theory was seemingly hostile to the particular nature the camera recorded, due to a fundamental tension between the empirical premises which underlay so many areas of British thought and the idealism of the continental art theory which Reynolds was so keen to promote. He concluded that Reynolds's writings can be viewed as a series of attempts to resolve this tension.

Richard Stephens (York) "Reynolds's visit to Paris in 1768"

Reynolds's visit to Paris in 1768 is poorly understood. Although the painter's connections with French art and artists are accepted, we still know very little about what Reynolds saw and did on his visits to France. Richard examined the evidence of Reynolds's activities in Paris, and presented a new account of his time there, looking at his contacts and the possibility that this exposure to the French art world may have helped him reappraise the possibilities for English art and, perhaps, have helped him decide to accept the Presidency of the Royal Academy.

Giovanna Perini (Urbino) "Reynolds's Italianate Englishmen – and Ladies too!"

Reynolds's borrowings were often obvious to his contemporaries, from Horace Walpole and Nathaniel Hone to contemporary journalists. What is less evident, however, is how systematic his application of Italian patterns to the portraits of the English gentry and court aristocracy was. Sifting methodically through his sketchbooks, Giovanna showed how often Reynolds borrowed

poses and compositions. Her most contentious point (not accepted by all the delegates) was that the *Self-portrait with Shaded Eyes* can only have been produced after his trip to Italy.

Robert Jones (Leeds) "Friendship and Opportunity: Reynolds's Later Portraits of Admiral Keppel"

Robert looked at the meanings in Reynolds's later portraits of Admiral Augustus Keppel. By the end of the 1770s, Keppel was a controversial figure, recently court-martialled for his role in the battle of Ushant. Seemingly the victim of a crude ministry plot, his predicament was a focal point for the Whig Opposition and for more bellicose elements in the City of London who looked to Keppel as a counterpoint to the inequities and corruption of the present age. Reynolds's canvases, painted on Keppel's acquittal in February 1779, gained significance when they entered the possession of Keppel's legal and political associates, John Lee, Edmund Burke and Thomas Erskine. For his part, Reynolds profited from a politicized and commercialised market for portraiture.

Mark Hallett (York) "Attracting the Public Eye: Joshua Reynolds and Britain's First Art Exhibition"

In the late spring of 1760, Reynolds submitted four paintings to an exhibition being held in a "Great Room" located in Denmark Court, just off the Strand. This display is familiar to scholars of the period as the nation's first ever public exhibition of contemporary British art. Despite its obvious art-historical importance, the precise origins and character of this foundational exhibition remain murky and misunderstood and Mark presented new insights into it, revealing the multi-layered history and

character of this exhibition, and showing the distinctive ways in which Reynolds, and his quartet of paintings, responded to the challenges and opportunities offered by the Great Room display.

Michael Rosenthal (Warwick) “Painting in a commercial world”

Reynolds and Gainsborough were provincial artists who exploited any patronage in their native towns, and who eventually successfully evolved means of marketing both themselves and their art in the metropolis. This paper was intended to explore how extensively Reynolds advanced his career by such means, comparing his example with Gainsborough, Joseph Wright, Thomas Beach, and others working in Edinburgh, Glasgow or the English Midlands, and investigating the role of the press as a mediator between artist and public.

Cristina S. Martinez (Toronto) “Sir Joshua Reynolds: Gentleman of the Law and Legislator of Art”

Cristina looked at the significance of Reynolds’s relation to the legal profession, not merely his honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law at Oxford, but also his relations with lawyers, his understanding of the law, and his references to it in his writings. She explored Reynolds’s struggle to formulate a rational system of principles and demonstrated how he had restored order and laid down the laws of art, in an age of conflicting attitudes. She showed how central to Reynolds’s self-image were the remarkable number of self-portraits in which the artist’s relaxed attire is substituted for dignified legal robes

Martin Postle (Paul Mellon Centre) “Location, location, location: Reynolds and the view from Richmond Hill”

Taking advantage of its recent availability for inspection (the house was up for sale) Martin had examined the interior of Reynolds’s house on the brow of Richmond Hill, built in 1771. In his paper, he looked at the circumstances surrounding Reynolds’s occupation, both strategic and social, and considered other artistic

residences in the area – not least the cottage occupied nearby by Gainsborough. He then showed how Reynolds’s house became incorporated into the visual landscape by the early years of the 19th century, due to Reynolds’s pre-eminent position within the British School of art.

Donato Esposito (Plymouth) “What’s in a mark?, or what marks can tell us”

Upon his death Reynolds’s collection was put up for sale. The works on paper were each stamped with an indelible black mark and this mark is the only secure method of identifying, with certainty, the prints and drawings that Reynolds once owned. Donato revealed how the location and position of the mark itself reveals a wealth of subsidiary information: ‘superior’ items were stamped on the recto, while “inferior” items were stamped on the verso. The position of the mark on the sheet can also shed light on mounts, repairs and infill of drawings. He also showed how Reynolds’s mark has also been widely faked.

Rica Jones (Tate) “Reynolds’s painting techniques and their significance”

This paper was intended to look at the technical tradition that Reynolds inherited through Hudson, and also at the techniques being used by other artists in London in the 1740s, when he was doing his training, compared to Reynolds’s technique after his return from Italy and in later decades.

Sam Smiles is Emeritus Professor of Art History, University of Plymouth. He has published widely on the history of British 18th-and 19th-century British art, especially landscape painting, the career of J.M.W Turner and the interplay between art and antiquarianism. His most recent book was J.M.W. Turner: The Making of a Modern Artist (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2007).. He is currently finishing a book on Turner’s last years and the concept of ‘late style.’ An expanded version of this talk appeared in Reynolds News.

Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies

The Burney Society invites submissions for the Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies, named in honour of the late Joyce Hemlow, Greenshields Professor of English at McGill University, whose biography of Frances Burney and edition of her journals and letters are among the foundational works of eighteenth-century literary scholarship.

The Hemlow Prize will be awarded to the best essay written by a graduate student on any aspect of the life or writings of Frances Burney or members of the Burney Family. The essay, which can be up to 6,000 words, should make a substantial contribution to Burney scholarship. The judges will take into consideration the essay’s originality, coherence, use of source material, awareness of other work in the field, and documentation. The winning essay will be published in the *Burney Journal* and the recipient will receive an award of US \$250, as well as a year’s membership in the Burney Society.

The Hemlow Prize will be awarded in October 2010. Essays should be sent, by email attachment, to the Chair of the Prize Committee, Dr. Lorna Clark, LJ_Clark@carleton.ca or at Department of English, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6. Submissions must be received by July 1, 2010.

The Early 'Britannica': the growth of an outstanding encyclopedia, Ed. Frank A. Kafker and Jeff Loveland

What made the *Encyclopaedia britannica* into a best-seller? This first examination of the three eighteenth-century editions traces the *Britannica*’s extraordinary development, and explores its publication history and evolving editorial practices, its commentary on subjects that came in and out of fashion and its contemporary reception.

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Chawton House in 1833

CHAWTON HOUSE LIBRARY VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

In partnership with the University of Southampton

Applications are invited for 1-3 month visiting fellowships at Chawton House Library (CHL) to be taken up between October 2010 and the end of August 2011. The deadline for completed applications for these fellowships is May 30th 2010. All Fellows will be offered accommodation in the Elizabethan Stable Block at CHL, and office space in the main Library building. They will become visiting fellows in the School of Humanities at the University of Southampton, a privileged that grants access to both electronic and archival resources at the Hartley Library.

Chawton House Library is an independent research library and study centre focusing on women's writing in English from 1600 to 1830. Accommodated in the Elizabethan manor house that once belonged to Jane Austen's brother, in the village of Chawton in Hampshire, the library's main aim is to promote and facilitate study in the field of early women's writing. The magnificent library collection of early editions from the period is freely accessible to members of the public, while the Library also runs a programme of events and activities relating both to the historical house and the focus of the collection. For more information please see www.chawtonhouse.org

The aim of these fellowships is to enable individuals to undertake significant research in the long eighteenth century. In keeping with the mission of the CHL and the special qualities of the library's collection, projects that focus on women's writing or lives during the period are warmly welcomed. Any proposal, however, that promises significant research on the long eighteenth century will be given careful consideration.

The fellowships would be of particular interest to members of university and college faculties on leaves from their institutions and graduate students for whom a stay at Chawton would be beneficial in completing the thesis or dissertation required for their degree. All Visiting Fellows would be expected to be in residence in Chawton for the duration of their fellowship, and will find the tranquillity of the location especially conducive to their work. The Library catalogue is online and can be accessed via the library website <http://www.chawtonhouse.org/library/index.html>

Visiting Fellows will be expected to donate a copy of the manuscript or published work resulting from their stay at Chawton House Library to the Library collection, and to publish a short article in the Library newsletter, *The Female Spectator*.

Informal expressions of interest should be sent for the attention of Dr Gillian Dow, who administers the scheme on behalf of the University of Southampton and Chawton House Library, and chairs the selecting committee. She can be contacted on gillian.dow@chawton.net A typed letter of application including the preferred dates of study and a brief research proposal (not to exceed three pages), should be sent electronically for the attention of Gillian Dow to the following email address: visitingfellowships@chawton.net The proposal should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae. The applicant should also arrange to have two confidential letters of recommendation sent electronically to the Library, using the visitingfellowships@chawton.net email address.

Call for Papers

Proposals are being solicited for a special topics issue of *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. The issue will focus on English Catholic Women Writers, 1660-1829. It will examine their imaginative work as it was inflected by Catholicism or through self-identification with a Catholic minority culture during the long eighteenth century. Articles on eighteenth-century Catholic women from the British Isles, including exiled English women working abroad or in the colonies are sought exploring topics including, though not limited, to the following:

- the strategies English Catholic women used to express, promote, or protect their faith;
- the intersections of gender and faith, particularly in the face of anti-Catholic polemic equating all Catholics with women or with the feminine;
- women's education
- the role of religious houses or religious orders within literary texts or as sites of literary or artistic production
- the reciprocal influence of Anglo-Catholic culture and Gothic literature
- Catholic women's political engagement as Torries or Jacobites
- their literary, artistic, or political responses to the Restoration Court's Catholicism, the Stuart kings, the Revolution of 1688, the Whig ascendancy, or Catholic emancipation
- their representation of English national history or English national identity
- their participation in the minority press

Most of the essays will concentrate on women writers, but essays on other forms of women's imaginative work, particularly the visual and domestic arts, are welcome.

All essays should be informed by the rich repository of recent work in early modern Catholic studies. Articles should not exceed 25 pages (6250 words) and should conform to the 15th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word. Initial queries and abstracts are encouraged, though final acceptance will be determined by the completed essay. Please send abstracts by June 1, 2011 (earlier is best) and final submissions via e-mail by September 1, 2011 to both:

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Contributions Welcome

The *Burney Letter* welcomes contributions from members. Any notes, news, letters, essays, reviews, accounts, announcements, notices, queries, photos, ideas or suggestions may be sent in to the Editor at lclarklj@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

To join the Burney Society, or to renew your membership for the 2009-2010 dues year starting from 13 June 2010, please fill out (or simply copy) the form below and return it with your cheque (payable to the Burney Society). Those who live in the US or Canada should send a cheque for US \$30 to Alex Pitofsky, Secretary/Treasurer, 3621 9th St. Drive, N.E., Hickory NC 28601, USA. Those living in the UK, Europe or elsewhere should send a cheque for £12 to David and Janet Tregear, Secretaries/Treasurers UK, 36 Henty Gardens, Chichester, West Sussex, PO 19 3DL UK.

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