

Healthcare and medical portrait collections in London

Wednesday 4 September 2013, 9.30 — 16.50

Programme

Professor Ludmilla Jordanova is informal chairperson for the day

9.30—10.00 Meet at **Apothecaries' Hall**, Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6EJ (near Blackfriars station) for registration and refreshments.

10.00—11.00 **Tour of the portrait collection at Apothecaries' Hall, home of The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, with Dr John Ford, Archivist**

The collection has grown almost entirely by gift since the Society's foundation by Royal Charter in 1617. It is commemorative of those who in their time were important to the Society and to medicine, as well as contemporaries remembered for their contributions to the profession. Royal portraits (for example James I by Snelling and the school of de Critz; Queen Anne and William III after Kneller) represent the Society's connection to the Court through members being appointed Royal Apothecaries. The collection includes two portraits of the Society's founder Gideon de Laune (1565—1659) and those of thirty-three Masters from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries by artists such as Lemuel Abbott (1760/61—1802), Sir James Gunn (1893—1964) and June Medoza. Other artists represented in the Society's portrait collection include Joshua Reynolds, Allan Ramsay, James Middleton and Frank Salisbury.

11.00—11.20 Walk to **St. Bartholomew's Hospital**, West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE.

11.20-12.20 **Tour of the portrait collection at St Bartholomew's Hospital with Katie Ormerod, Deputy Archivist**

St Bartholomew's Hospital, or Barts as it is popularly known, is one of the oldest and most distinguished hospitals in the world. It was founded in 1123 by the monk Rahere and granted by Henry VIII to the City of London in 1546. St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives & Museum incorporates the finest hospital archives in Britain; an art collection incorporating works by Hogarth, Millais and Reynolds; and a museum displaying many of the treasures of the hospital, within the setting of the Grade I listed North Wing. From the time of the refoundation, the hospital's governance was under the influence of the City of London, and many early portraits were the gifts of presidents and treasurers who served the hospital and maintained the connection with the City. In the nineteenth century it became customary for students to present the hospital with a portrait of their teacher, and they invariably commissioned the Academician of the day. The portrait was then engraved and distributed to those who had shared the cost. Extremely good examples of the work of this period are represented by J E Millais, J P Knight, Herkomer, H W Pickersgill, and W W Oules. Some items from the collection which are displayed in meeting rooms will not be accessible on the tour.

12.20—12.30 walk to **The White Swan**, 108 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1ES for lunch



12.30—13.30 **Lunch** provided for all delegates.

13.30—13.45 walk to the **Royal College of Surgeons**, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PE.

13.45—14.40 Tour of the portrait collection at the Royal College of Surgeons with Dr Sam Alberti, Director of Museums and Archives

Works of art are displayed throughout the RCS building. Collected by John Hunter (1728–1793) and later by the College, they range in subject matter from portraits of surgeons, patients and visitors to London, to interesting medical cases, operating scenes, and exotic animals. Hunter and his wife Anne Home were friends with many of London's leading artists, including their neighbour Sir Joshua Reynolds. His portrait of Hunter, now displayed in the College's Council Chamber, had pride of place in the Hunters' drawing room. In the 19th and 20th centuries the College continued to collect paintings and drawings of new species or unusual medical conditions. Others provide a record of surgical treatment or show surgeons at work. To these were added portraits and sculptures commemorating distinguished members, fellows and benefactors of the College. Among the many artists represented are studio of Holbein, William Beechey, George Romney, Martin Archer Shee, James Sant, Meredith Frampton and Barbara Hepworth.

14.40—15.20 Walk/take tube or taxi to the **Royal College of Physicians**, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE. Delegates will be responsible for any transport costs.

15.20—16.20 Tour of the portrait collection at the Royal College of Physicians with Emma Shepley, Curator

The RCP holds an important collection of oil and sculptural portraits of eminent physicians spanning 500 years of medical history, executed by some of Britain's greatest artists. The museum collection holds over 5,000 oil paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. They are mainly portraits of presidents, fellows and individuals associated with the history of medicine and the RCP from its foundation in 1518 to the present day. In 1596 the College announced that any member or 'noble person' could display his portrait or coat of arms on payment of £10. Unfortunately, almost all the early portraits were lost when the College was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. From the 18th century a deliberate policy of building up the portrait collections began, but it was not until the 1940s that a portrait of every out-going president has been commissioned after their term of office. On display are works by Cornelius Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Johan Zoffany, Thomas Lawrence and Elisabeth Frink.

16.20—16.50 **Refreshments and final comments.**

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