

THE ARTS & CRAFTS MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
COLORADO ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

www.coloarts-crafts.org

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SPRING 2015

The Colorado Arts and Crafts Society Presents
A GATHERING OF THE



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015

THE BOETTCHER MANSION

ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GOLDEN, COLORADO

9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

JOIN US FOR A GATHERING OF THE GUILDS & ANTIQUE APPRAISALS BY ROBERT RUST

THE COLORADO ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY ARTISANS' GUILD FORUM:
A PRESENTATION OF THE BEST IN REGIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP



CACS is celebrating local artisans and their hand-crafted works again this Spring at the "Gathering of the Guilds." It will be held Sunday, April 26th, from 9 AM - 4 PM at the historic Boettcher Mansion atop Lookout Mountain in Golden (www.jeffco.us/boettcher)

Whether you choose to learn from a favorite artisan - or just listen and observe from afar - here's your opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of passionate and talented people.

A variety of information, presentations, and demonstrations will be offered throughout the day, and many one-of-a-kind works will be available for sale. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

This year, we are excited to have Robert Charles Rust available for appraisals at the gathering. Robert is a USPAP Professional Personal Property Appraiser in good standing and an Accredited Member of the National Association of Appraisers and the Association of Online Appraisers. He specializes in Fine and Decorative Arts, especially antiquarian books, Arts and Crafts Era decorative arts, paintings, prints and furniture. Mr. Rust has owned 2R Fine Arts Appraisals since 1988. Previously, he was the co-owner of the Roycroft Inn and Shops and the 2R Fine Arts Gallery in East Aurora New York. He has authored or co-authored a half-dozen books on the Arts and Crafts Movement and is considered an expert in this field of study. He lectures and consults with museums and private collectors nationally. Bring in an object or two, or photos of larger objects, to share with Robert. Appraisals are \$5 per item.

General admission is \$5 per person (CACS and participating guild members can participate free of charge). A full schedule will be posted on our website (www.coloarts-crafts.org) by mid-April. For more information, please call Cynthia at (720) 497-7632.

CULTIVATING STANDEN:

From ancient farmland to family homestead

By Cynthia Shaw

The last edition of the Arts & Crafts Messenger left off with a story about my long-awaited visit to William Morris' Red House with fellow Victorian Society of America (VSA) London Summer School students in July, 2013. It picks up with a subsequent field trip to another Philip Webb-designed residence, Standen, located in West Sussex in the English countryside.



All photos courtesy of John H. Waters

Crafted in 1892-94 for a wealthy London solicitor, James Beale, his wife Margaret and their seven children, Standen exemplifies Webb's love and celebration of skilled craftsmanship, vernacular materials and family life. An avid proponent of "anti-scrape" (an ideal that spawned the creation of SPAB, Britain's Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings), he masterfully melded the existing 15th century Great Hollybush farmhouse and other agrarian structures into his dream of domesticity...giving them a new lease on life as part of a contiguous compound for the ever-expanding Beale clan.

With its exterior of handpicked local sandstone and brick, accentuated with hanging tiles and oak weatherboarding, the house blended harmoniously with its site against a hillside offering sloping views of Margaret's experimental garden, nearby meadows and distant forest. Webb gave the same attention to detail to the interior, with meticulous consideration lavished on the comfort of the occupants: light-filled rooms graced with Morris wallpaper and fabric, art pottery and cozy Victorian furniture (with later additions from Morris & Co.). The result was a pervasive sense of "heaven on earth" that not only delighted the family from the moment they moved in, but continues to cast its spell on subsequent visitors (take a look at some of the handiwork samples casually placed in some of the rooms and you'd swear the Beale sisters have simply stepped out for some afternoon tea).



Side View of Standen with Gardens

For 70 years, Standen served as home base for several generations of Beales (while most of the children had married or moved away by the turn of the century, they all returned regularly with their offspring for festive family gatherings or just plain "roamin' in the gloamin'"). After James died in 1912, Margaret and two unmarried daughters ran the estate. Before her death in 1972, Helen Beale asked The National Trust to take over the property. Standen - an early model of adaptive re-use and a modern day example of sustainable stewardship - has been deftly managed ever since as a testament to Philip Webb's version of "Life in the English Country House".



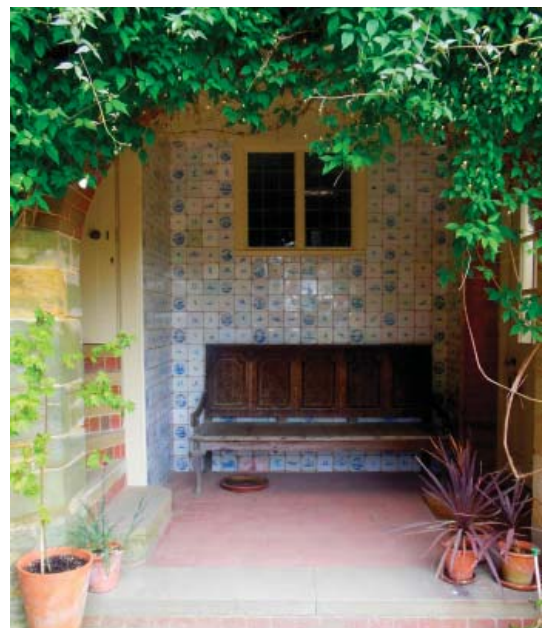
One of many fireplaces in Standen.



Staircase designed by Philip Webb.



Bedroom complete with copper bathing tub.



Tiled Porch

GROVE PARK INN CONFERENCE RECAP

BY DENNIS BARRETT



Traffic signs at Grove Park Inn are distinctively Arts & Crafts

Is there a holy-of-holies of the Arts and Craft Movement, one site that should be preserved at all costs? Some would nominate Gustav Stickley's Craftsman Farm in NJ, some Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft Inn in NY, others Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in PA or Taliesin in WI.

But I think you could be forgiven for suggesting the 120 x 80-ft cavern that is the Great Hall at the Grove Park Inn, in Asheville, NC. Constructed in 1913 on a mountain, of local materials (granite boulders!), by local artisans, and furnished originally entirely by Roycroft, the Inn still stands proudly a century later...and serves each February as the site of the National Arts & Crafts Conference.

I reported after last year's Conference on the departures from A&C décor (ranging from the unfortunate to the unforgivable), that new management had inflicted when the Inn passed from the Sammons family to a firm called KSL. After 18 months KSL had flipped the property to the Omni Group. At the time of the 27th Conference last year, the Inn had just become the *Omni* Grove Park Inn. The big question as we approached the 28th conference was: would the new owners continue on the path to mongrelization, or work to restore the A&C heritage of their property.

And the answer is: not much has changed this year.

The traffic signs on the property are still in a distinctive A&C font. The welcome sign for the Conference still references Stickley and Hubbard. Guests still rock in front of crackling logs in the heroic-scale fireplaces at north and south ends of the Great Hall. The two grandfather clocks still tick. And there is a new exhibit with memorabilia of F. Scott Fitzgerald, one of the Inn's most famous guests, that takes you right back to the 1920's.

But the Great Hall still shows the hybrid tendencies that appeared last year: fine furniture of the period is inter-



Weather-proof polyester rattan on the porch.



The Great Hall has a few grey monsters like these, mingling with Roycroft and Stickley.

persed with pieces that might charitably be described as Mid-Century Modern. The grey monsters are still there – easy chairs with low seats and high backs, rising perhaps 7 feet (“Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful”?.....sorry!) In the Edison Grille the chandelier with the white-painted antlers still lights the way. Out on the veranda you can sit on a white polyester rattan sofa and watch the gas-fired artificial logs not burn.

In the Sammons wing, however, there is positive change! The long long corridor outside the lecture hall, with the windows overlooking the spa and golf course, which last year housed little café-style tables and chairs, this year is restored to an endless row of Stickley rocking chairs with Harvey Ellis inlays. They appear quite new, so I turned one over to look for marks. It was stamped “2006,” with a paper identifying the maker as “L and JG Stickley, Manlius, NY.” So they are 9 years old, but there are a score of them; where had they been hiding? Confronted with this puzzle, Bruce Johnson, the Conference organizer, was unimpressed. “They move the furniture around all the time,” quoth he. I asked whether Bruce thought the Omni own-



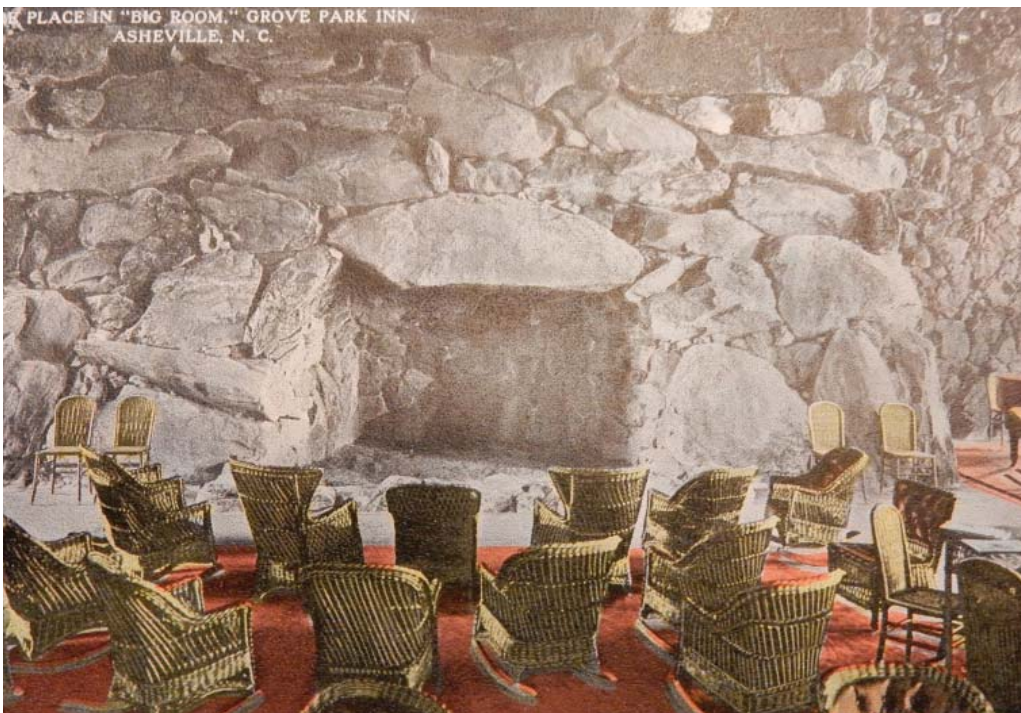
Modern Stickley rockers, with Harvey Ellis inlays, line the corridor in the Sammons wing.



The same fireplace today with sturdy wooden rockers of more familiar A&C style

ers were any more respectful of their A&C treasure than the previous lot, and he opined that they are coming to recognize the legacy of the place, but conceded that they don't ask his advice (as Mrs. Sammons did in the good old days.)

As I was basking in my pleasant glow of disapproval, I toured the Antiques show. And among many objects to covet (e.g. the 1903 Gustav Stickley cube chair with Harvey Ellis inlays, offered for \$195K), I happened upon a collection of penny postcards, including ancient views of Grove Park Inn. Arggh! There stands the South fireplace (identifiable by that giant central boulder), in the "good old days," and it's surrounded by a battalion of wicker rocking chairs. Now I know that *wicker* was popular in the early A&C Movement, but I have a rather intense dislike for the stuff. There went my notion of the pristine Grove Park Inn! So chastened, I've revised my opinion. I don't want the Great Hall restored to its original glory; I want it restored to the way I remember it when first I saw it! (Or will I perhaps learn to make peace with the newer stuff?)



Antique postcard shows the Great Hall fireplace, circa 1920, with rattan rockers

Saturday Evening Girls & their Paul Revere Pottery

WOMEN OF THE ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT

ARTICLE BY NONIE GADSDEN

This quarter's installment of the Women in the Arts & Crafts movement continues with the reprint of an entertaining and educational article by the Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture, Art of the Americas, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The second half will appear in our next newsletter.

It is said that every object tells a story. A mug recently given to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, quite literally tells one (Fig. 1); inscribed on the side of the mug are the words: "In the forest must always be a nightingale and in the soul a faith so faithful that it comes back even after it has been slain." A thicket of trees creating a dark canopy at the mug's rim and a small bird, presumably a nightingale, perched on a branch illustrate the narrative. Where did this verse come from and why is it written on the side of this mug? Investigation into these questions reveals more stories; these broader narratives feature a young immigrant woman in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Boston and the reform efforts of the period that shaped her life and the lives of generations to come.



Fig. 1: Mug, Sara Galner, December 1914. Earthenware. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Inscriptions painted onto the base of the mug read: "S.E.G./12-14" and an "S." surmounting a "G." (Fig. 2). S.E.G. stands for the Saturday Evening Girls, a club for young immigrant women living in Boston's North End at the turn of the twentieth century. The club was established in 1899 as a library reading club that met once a week under the guidance of librarian and reformer Edith Guerrier. Guerrier had been working for several years at the North Bennet Street Industrial School (NBSIS), a community charitable institution turned settlement house, when she was appointed the librarian of the North End branch of the Boston Public Library, located in the reading rooms of the NBSIS. Combining the missions of both organizations, Guerrier established a reading



Fig. 2: Detail of base of mug in fig. 1.

club to fill a void she saw in social and educational opportunities for girls. The group gathered on Saturday evenings for discussions of classic literature and for lectures by prominent Bostonians, soon adopting the name the Saturday Evening Girls (SEG).¹

Attending the weekly meetings were the daughters of working-class Italian and Jewish immigrants living in the densely populated tenements of the North End. Their fathers were street peddlers, tailors, shopkeepers, and laborers, and their mothers worked in local sewing or dressmaking factories, or at home. The majority lived in crowded quarters, often sharing small apartments with extended family members and boarders.²



Fig. 3: Sara Galner working at the Paul Revere Pottery, circa 1914. Photography courtesy of Betty Revis, Sara Galner Bloom's daughter

The "S." and "G." on the base of the mug are the initials of the mug's maker, Sara Galner (Fig. 3). In 1901, at the age of six, Sara emigrated from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to the United States with her mother and younger sister Sophie to join her father and older siblings who had left two years earlier in search of economic opportunities and religious tolerance. The family eventually settled on Salem Street, a Jewish enclave in the North End. Sara's father, Benjamin, worked as a butcher and her mother, Rebecca, stayed home to care for their six children and the household.³

Sara attended one of the local elementary schools, the Hancock School on Perimeter Street. Through the public school curriculum, many students were introduced to the NBSIS, if they had not been familiar with its charitable mission already. A leader in educational reform, the NBSIS ran several joint programs with the local schools, offering vocational skills training for boys and girls.

This article and a full footnote list will be continued in next month's newsletter.

UPCOMING CACS EVENTS

1st Annual Chasing & Repoussé International Exhibit

Saturday, June 6, 2015
Littleton, CO

Outnumbered Gallery is excited to be hosting this fabulous event on Chasing & Repoussé. The juried exhibition will showcase exceptional metal work from around the world. The Exhibition will open to the public June 6, 2015. Fabrizio Acquafresca and Nancy Meli Walker will be giving demonstrations. CACS will meet at the gallery with a picnic afterwards. Details to come.

A Little Journey: Study Field Trip

Saturday, October 10, 2015
Colorado Springs & Manitou Springs, CO

We will travel by motorbus and visit the collections of the Pioneers Museum which includes a large collection of Van Briggles Pottery and also paintings by Ann Gregory Van Briggles and Artus Van Briggles. We will also see the collections not on public display. We will stop for lunch in the Springs and also tour the National Register Van Briggles Memorial Pottery Building designed by Nicholas van der Arend and Ann Gregory Van Briggles. We will also visit an unknown early 1910s Arts and Crafts community nearby.



Gently Used STICKLEY FURNITURE For Sale by Original Owner All pieces Cherry Finish #503

- Harvey Ellis Armoire/TV Stereo Cabinet
- Mission Collection Prairie Spindle Settle and Lounge Chair
- Square Book Lamp Table and Round Lamp Table
- Coat Rack
- 2 Harvey Ellis Dining Room Chairs with Burgundy Leather Seats
- 2 Tiffany style lamps - one table, one hanging

Email: ljwinston1956@yahoo.com to receive flyer with photos, dimensions and prices.

Buyer(s) must arrange to pick up from Boulder CO location and pay with cash or Bank Cashiers Check

WORKER BEES NEEDED



Design by
Yoshiko Yamamoto

Here's the buzz: We need volunteers to help us before, during and after the next "Gathering of the Guilds" event on Sunday, April 26th!

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to Noon or 1:00 to 5:00 p.m

We are looking for help with overall event staffing and vendor arrivals and departures.

Please call Cynthia at (720) 497-7632 to sign up for a 4-hour shift...volunteers are entitled to a free lunch!

The Arts & Crafts Messenger, the newsletter of the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, is published quarterly for the society's members as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to julie.leidel@gmail.com. All articles are ©2015 the Colorado Arts & Crafts Society, with rights reverting to the authors after publication.

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GIVE A FRIEND THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE COLORADO ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

Make a special gift of the growing enthusiasm, activism and educational opportunities offered by the Colorado Arts and Crafts Society. Our members are always the first to learn about our special events, such as our annual Winter Symposium and Gathering of the Guilds, plus neighborhood walking tours and field trips to significant Arts and Crafts sites. Plus, as members they'll receive discounted or free admission to all CACS events, and our quarterly newsletter. Give a gift today!

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