



FALL
2021

ROYAL OAK PROGRAMS





Royal Oak's Fall 2021 Programming will mainly be online. We will add more online and in-person events if possible. Please check our website at royal-oak.org for details.

Sincere Thanks to Our Sponsors

For the Fall 2021 season we gratefully acknowledge the support of the Marian Meaker Apteckar Foundation and an Anonymous Donor.

Individual Support for Lectures

We are grateful to loyal Royal Oak members for generously providing critical funding for lectures this season, including: Max & Christine Ansbacher, Thomas and Patricia Bain, Barbara Roisman Cooper & Martin M. Cooper, Pria Graves and George Koerner III, Janine Luke, Scott and Betsy McClendon, Linda Pedro, Lynne R. Pickens, John and Phillis Warden, Robert and Roberta Young and some anonymous donors. Updated full list at www.royal-oak.org/events.

Registration for Live Zoom Lectures & Tours

Some lectures & tours will be held via Zoom. After registering on our website, you will receive an email with a link to the Zoom webinar or meeting. A reminder with the same link will be sent one hour before the lecture. We strongly recommend joining the Zoom at least 10 minutes before the lecture to check for screen and sound issues. A virtual waiting room is open starting 30 minutes before the lecture.

Registration for Zoom Lecture & Tour Rentals

Most lectures & tours will be recorded and available to rent for a 3 or 5 day period. The link to the recording will be emailed to you at 12 p.m. (eastern) the day after the live lecture or tour and will expire at 11:59 p.m. (eastern) on the date listed on the website. **It will not be available after that date and time.** Email zoom@royal-oak.org if you do not receive the rental link within 24 hours of the live event. The video is available for streaming only, not for download. Copyright is held by the speaker.

Fees & Refunds

Royal Oak members receive a discount on all lectures. You must be signed into the website to receive the discount. Click the sign in button at the top right of the shopping cart. Add the standard ticket to the cart and the membership discount will apply at check out. We are not able to give refunds if you can no longer attend the live lecture or view the rental in the allotted time, but we can turn your ticket into a tax deductible donation if you email us at least 48 hours before the lecture at zoom@royal-oak.org. **Royal Oak is not responsible for attendees' technology issues regarding viewing live or recorded lectures.**

How To Register

Please register online at www.royal-oak.org/events. If you have questions, please email us at zoom@royal-oak.org for the fastest response.

All programs are subject to change or cancellation. Visit our website for updates.

Dear Royal Oak Members and Friends,

I want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our members and friends for your unwavering support during these challenging times.

Since the beginning of 2021, we have offered 25 digital lectures and tours on diverse topics ranging from British art and architecture; to English gardens and country houses; as well as digital walking tours in the US and the UK. While we miss live lectures and seeing our members in person, providing digital programming has afforded us the opportunity to expand our reach throughout all 50 states and internationally.

Royal Oak is delighted to continue offering these digital programs and I do hope you will join us for another season of enjoyable and informative lectures.

We will be releasing our Fall schedule soon. We will be scheduling a few in-person events in late autumn and hopefully adding more digital events as they become available.

As the safety and well-being of our members is our main priority, we are currently working out details to incorporate updated safety guidelines for in person programs. As soon as these events are confirmed, we will announce the program details and dates via email, digital newsletter and mailed postcard invitations to supporters in those geographical areas.

Thank you for your patience and we look forward to safely hosting in-person programming next Spring.

Although restrictions remain, we are excited that the UK has opened to travel from the US. Many National Trust sites have re-opened, and I hope you will soon be able to visit them again. It is through the generosity of our members that we can continue to raise awareness and support for the National Trust. Please help us further our mission by becoming a member or renewing your Royal Oak Membership.

Thank you again for your continued dedication, loyalty, and friendship. I hope to see you in person in the near future.

All my best,
Ian Murray
Executive Director

Photo: from Humphrey Repton: *Designing the Landscape Garden* by John Phibbs, Rizzoli, 2021.

Cover: Yellow rose and geranium around the steps to an old wooden door at Chasteton House, Oxfordshire. NTPL©National Trust Images/David Sellman.



Courteenhall, Northamptonshire.

AT-A-GLANCE

Please note all times listed are Eastern time.
Please check your local time zone.

SEPTEMBER

23	1:00 p.m. EDT	Dr. Tarnya Cooper	Live Stream or Rent
29	6:00 p.m. EDT	<i>Denver Online House Tour: "Unsinkable" Molly Brown House</i>	Live Stream or Rent
30	2:00 p.m. EDT	Victoria Murphy	Live Stream or Rent

OCTOBER

6	3:00 p.m. EDT	<i>Boston, Online House Tour: Lyman Estate</i>	Live Stream or Rent
12	2:00 p.m. EDT	Jeremy Musson	Live Stream or Rent
14	4:00 p.m. EDT	<i>NYC Online Walking Tour: UES Millionaire's Mile</i>	Live Stream or Rent
20	6:00 p.m. EDT	Carl Raymond	Live Stream or Rent
21	2:00 p.m. EDT	<i>London Online Walking Tour: St. Paul's to Westminster Abbey</i>	Live Stream or Rent
26	6:00 p.m. EDT	Patrick Monahan	Live Stream or Rent
27	2:00 p.m. EDT	<i>Online Tour: Around the Kent Coast</i>	Live Stream or Rent

NOVEMBER

2	2:00 p.m. EDT	Oliver Gerrish	Live Stream or Rent
9	2:00 p.m. EST	Robert O'Byrne	Live Stream or Rent
11	6:00 p.m. EST	<i>Tasting Experience: Hotel Chocolat</i>	Live Stream or Rent
16	4:00 p.m. EST	<i>Online House Tour: Gamble House, Pasadena CA</i>	Live Stream or Rent
17	2:00 p.m. EST	Ian Cox	Live Stream or Rent
18	4:00 p.m. EST	<i>NYC Online Walking Tour: SoHo—From Brick and Mortar to Cast Iron</i>	Live Stream or Rent
23	2:00 p.m. EST	John Phibbs	Live Stream or Rent

DECEMBER

1	2:00 p.m. EST	<i>Online Tour: English Shipwrecks</i>	Live Stream or Rent
8	2:00 p.m. EST	Tracy Borman	Live Stream or Rent
9	6:00 p.m. EST	<i>Online Holiday Presentation: Princes, Puddings and a Passion</i>	Live Stream or Rent
TBA		Kristen Richardson	Live Stream or Rent



Bedroom, Calke Abbey, Derbyshire.

Photo: ©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

PUBLIC LECTURES

Please note start times vary and are all listed in Eastern time. Please check your local time zone.
For full descriptions and speaker bios, please visit www.royal-oak.org/events

SEPTEMBER



Photo: ©National Trust Images/Andreas von Einsiedel

Ring of Senicianus, 350-450 AD, Gold, NT Collections, Wyne Estate, Hampshire.

Secrets and Treasures from the National Trust

Dr. Tarnya Cooper, Curatorial & Collections Director, the National Trust of England, Wales, and N. Ireland

Thursday, September 23 | 1:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

FREE for ROF members; \$20 non-members

With more than one million objects at over 200 historic places, the National Trust looks after one of the world's most significant collections of fine art and heritage objects. There are over 200 separate collections of object types, 144 of which are accredited as museums. From ancient Greek vases to Samurai armour; carriages to porcelains and silver; from costumes to 400,000 book titles; from huge tapestries to contemporary furniture; the National Trust cares for an amazing treasure chest of history. Many of the objects were commissioned, acquired and accumulated by past owners over many centuries and they range from artistic masterpieces to precious personal possessions. Dr. Tarnya Cooper, Curatorial & Collections Director at the National Trust in the UK will share the stories behind some of these remarkable objects.

The Queen: A Life in Pictures

Victoria Murphy, Town & Country Contributing Editor

Thursday, September 30 | 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

Queen Elizabeth II once said, "I have to be seen to be believed." Since she succeeded to the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II has become respected, celebrated, and beloved around the world. Royal correspondent and reporter Victoria Murphy will give insight to the significant, historic, and intimate moments throughout the Queen's life, first as a young princess, and then as the longest-reigning British monarch. Victoria will show extraordinary photographs from her new book (on which this lecture is based) which illustrates Queen Elizabeth's reign in all its glory. She will cover her war years in service; her marriage to Prince Philip; her coronation; her extensive official travels around the world; the glittering diplomatic occasions; and the pomp and pageantry of ceremonial events. She will discuss the Queen's relationships with her parents, King George VI and the Queen Mother, and her sister, Princess Margaret. She will also illustrate Her Majesty's immediate family life which includes her four children and eight grandchildren, as well as her beloved dogs and horses. Throughout her reign, with a combination of star power and a profound sense of duty, Queen Elizabeth II has steered the British monarchy into the modern era with supreme style and grace.



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Photo: ©Chris Jackson/Getty from Town and Country. The Queen A Life in Pictures, April 2021

OCTOBER



Row of cottages in the village with roses tumbling over the windows and doorways at Snowhill, Gloucestershire

National Trust. This is a region whose buildings have long shaped the very idea of the Englishness of English architecture. Leading authority on the English country house, historian Jeremy Musson will explore their architecture as well as their remarkable interiors and gardens.

A Story in Stone: Country Houses of the Cotswolds

Jeremy Musson, Historian and Author

Tuesday, October 12 | 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

The Cotswolds is an area in south-west England (including large parts of Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire) well known for its historic country houses, iconic villages, and ancient parish churches all built in a honey-colored limestone. Architectural historian and author of *Secret Houses of the Cotswolds*, Jeremy Musson will take us on an informative and highly visual tour of twelve Cotswolds country houses, including Sudeley Castle, Stanway House, Chavenage Manor, Owlpen Manor, and Hilles, all in private family hands, as well as Snowhill and Chastleton, both cared for by the

The Rise of the Celebrity Chef: The London World of Carême, Soyer, Francatelli, and Escoffier

Carl Raymond, Food Historian, Writer, Lecturer

Wednesday, October 20

6:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

Part of modern food lovers' passion for all things culinary includes a fascination for the historical masters and mistresses of the kitchen who seem able to be able to capture our imaginations and tempt our palates. Today's celebrity chefs often have restaurants, television shows, and cookbooks along with social media followers ready to watch them create their next magical culinary feat. However, the first real celebrity chefs were practicing in London in the mid-to-late 19th century. While they did not have Instagram, all of them published popular and acclaimed cookbooks. In this illustrated talk, culinary and social historian, Carl Raymond will examine four of the most influential chefs of 19th-century London, each of whom achieved celebrity status in a different way.



The Great Kitchen, Royal Pavilion at Brighton, showing cast iron columns with painted copper palm leaves.

Photo: From John Nash's Views of the Royal Pavilion, 1826.

OCTOBER

First, he will discuss the first true celebrity chef, the great French master Marie-Antoine Carême, who was cooking for royalty as well as wealthy upper class clients—yet never had a restaurant or cooked in one. Alexis Soyer, might have continued Carême's flamboyant style, but he turned his culinary skills to humanitarian efforts to alleviate suffering during wartime England. Soyer cooked on the front lines and donated proceeds from his books to charitable causes. Carl will talk about Charles Elmé Francatelli, chef in Queen Victoria's kitchen for only two years but who used his brief experience as his calling card throughout his career. His influence and popularity even reached American public and private kitchens. Lastly, he will present the great August Escoffier, who turned his artistic eye to the kitchen and brought Carême's style of cooking into the 20th century. While creating some of the era's most memorable dishes, Escoffier earned his fame along with his business colleague, César Ritz at London's Savoy Hotel. Carl will take us on a journey through 19th-century London—from the restaurants to private home and palaces—where each chef cooked, entertained, and created culinary history. He will talk about their popular recipes and illustrate the lasting legacies from these celebrity chefs that are still with us today.

Leighton House: London's 'Palace of Art'

Patrick Monahan, Writer and Independent Art Advisor

Tuesday, October 26 | 6:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

Leighton House, the home of Royal Academy President Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896), is the most sophisticated and idiosyncratic studio house to survive from Victorian London. Lord Leighton enlisted architect George Aitchison to design a house for him at 2 Holland Park Road in Kensington. Aitchison had never before designed a domestic building, which suited the artist very well: final design was based on Leighton's ideas, while the execution was by Aitchison. The design partnership resulted in an elegant building in the Aesthetic style, whose seductive and eccentric, but sophisticated interiors challenge our modern stereotypes about Victorian design. The house features a two-story foyer, built to house Leighton's collection of 16th century Middle Eastern tiles; an Arab style Hall with more tiles, Moorish wooden latticework and a bubbling fountain; an artist's studio, with a graceful, double-height window; and Leighton's own bedroom, with a modest, single brass bed. Built over the course of three decades, the house served as the showplace for the art and society of its day, as well as the birthplace of Lord Leighton's greatest paintings. The house opened to the public as a gallery in 1929. The museum has on permanent display works of art by John Everett Millais, Edward Burne-Jones and George Frederic Watts, as well as 81 oil paintings by Leighton himself. The house's remarkable legacy—first, as a home, then, as a museum—reached its latest milestone in 2019, when Leighton House embarked on a major renovation (scheduled for completion in early 2022). Join Country Life and Vanity Fair contributor, Patrick Monahan for an illustrated talk about Leighton's stunning home, one of London's lesser-known treasures. Patrick will also talk about the future of the house and show an exclusive preview of the renovations in advance of the house's Spring 2022 reopening.



Two story "Arab" Hall at Leighton House which contains antique tiles collected by Lord Leighton from Iznik, Damascus and Persia.

Photo: ©Leighton House

NOVEMBER



State bed and bedroom at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire.

Splendid & Divine: The Derbyshire Country House

Oliver Gerrish, Author and Historian

Tuesday, November 2 | 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

Historian and author Oliver Gerrish will explore some of the finest and historic houses in the picturesque county of Derbyshire. From opulent palace-like houses such as Chatsworth where everything is designed to impress, to a medieval manor house par excellence, Haddon Hall, Derbyshire features magnificent treasure houses. Oliver will also illustrate peculiar houses such as the extraordinary time capsule that is Calke Abbey—filled with stuffed birds and mammals, peeling wallpaper, and artifacts jumbled about as the owners left them. He will

talk about grand houses such as Kedleston, with a cool marble neoclassical front hall and sinuous gilded furniture in the drawing room, and tell stories about many lesser-known and fabulous private homes. Throughout, Oliver will bring this fascinating county to life as he talks about one of the most beautiful regions in England

A Stylish Brew: Great Irish Houses of the Guinness Family

Robert O'Byrne, Author and Lecturer

Tuesday November 9 | 2:00 p.m. (EST)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

Owners of Ireland's most successful brewery, in the 19th century the Guinness family became fabulously wealthy and ennobled: they were leading members of what became known as 'The Beerage'. Soon they began acquiring large estates throughout the country, where they entertained lavishly and with great style. Many of these still stand, places such as Luggala (recently sold) and Leixlip Castle—owned by the late Desmond Guinness and his family—although not all of them remain in the hands of the family. Iveagh House, c. 1736, is now the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin. Farmleigh House in Phoenix Park, purchased by Edward Cecil Guinness in 1873 and totally transformed, is now the official Irish state guest house. In this talk, Irish architectural historian Robert O'Byrne will look at some of the best-known Guinness properties, and the particular taste and flair successive generations brought to their splendid homes.



Luggala, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Estate and Lodge formerly owned by the Guinness family.

Photo: ©James Fennell

NOVEMBER



Photo: ©National Trust Images/Peter Mubhy

Case containing "Boxing Squirrels" by the Victorian taxidermist Edward Hart, Castle Ward, N. Ireland.

Stuffed & Displayed: The Curious Art of Victorian Taxidermy

Ian Cox, Lecturer and Historian

Wednesday, November 17

2:00 p.m. (EST)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

The desire to preserve dead animals as they appeared in life can be traced all the way back to the Egyptian civilization, but in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the practice reached a peak of popularity in Britain and abroad. There were more than a dozen taxidermists showing at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, the year when 75,000 visitors paid to see John Gould's exhibition of stuffed hummingbirds at Regent's Park Zoo. By the late Victorian era virtually every large village in the UK had a resident 'professional' taxidermist and almost every home a stuffed bird or mammal of some description. In this illustrated lecture, popular speaker Ian Cox discusses 19th-century taxidermy in its various guises ranging from "specimen" examples of various species highlighting an interest in the natural world, to trophy pieces displayed for status and decorative effect. Also included will be the bizarre fashion for displaying animals "en tableau" showing them engaged in a variety of human-like activities.

The Unlikely Genius of Humphrey Repton

John Phibbs,

Garden Historian

Tuesday, November 23

2:00 p.m. (EST)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members;

\$20 non-members

Widely acknowledged as the last great British landscape designer of the 18th century, Humphry Repton created landscapes that survive as a bridge between Capability Brown's mission to make England perfect, and Frederick Law Olmsted's belief in landscape as a public good. His first paid commission was Catton Park, north of Norwich, in 1788. Though Repton was at first inspired by Brown, his great predecessor, he came to separate himself from Brown's designs. Repton's landscapes, for important clients such as the Dukes of Bedford and Portland, featured subtle adjustments and fine-tuning to the natural features of the countryside, as well as deliberate interventions that tested his client's desire for wilder and more picturesque scenery. He also became known for presenting his designs in 'Red Books' (so called for their binding) that contained text and watercolors elaborated with overlays to show 'before' and 'after' views. Renowned garden historian, John Phibbs will explore some of Repton's most celebrated landscapes—from the early gardens at Courteenhall and Mulgrave Castle, to his more adventurous landscapes at Stanage, Brightling, and Endsleigh. John will illustrate some of the red books and discuss the impact that Repton's work has had in Britain, and throughout the world.



Humphrey Repton's "Red Book" for Rûg, 1795.

Photo: from Humphrey Repton: Designing the Landscape Garden by John Phibbs, Rizzoli, 2021.

DECEMBER

Crown and Sceptre: A History of the British Monarchy

Tracy Borman,

Joint Chief Curator Historic Royal Palaces

Wednesday, December 8 | 2:00 p.m. (EST)

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

In February 2021, HM Queen Elizabeth II will celebrate her 70th year on the British throne—her Platinum Jubilee—by far the longest reign of any British monarch. Inspired by this momentous event, this illustrated talk by bestselling author and historian Professor Tracy Borman, based on her latest book, *Crown & Sceptre*, will explore the tumultuous history of the British monarchy. She will consider how this iconic institution has survived the storms of rebellion, revolution and war that brought most of the world's other monarchies to an abrupt and bloody end. She will also discuss how the monarchy—'This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle' (King Richard II 2.1. 40)—has spearheaded seismic changes that have shaped Britain's religious, political, and cultural identity. With 1,000 years of royal history from 1066 to the present day, Domesday Book to Magna Carta, the Field of Cloth of Gold to Prince Harry's wedding, this lecture will tell the real story of the crown. Borman will introduce a colourful cast of characters, from the all-conquering William I and Henry V, to formidable matriarchs such as Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria; those who like Henry VIII ruled supreme and others like Edward VIII, who gave up the throne for love.



*Miniature of Elizabeth I,
Studio of Nicholas Hilliard,
Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire.*

Photo: ©National Trust Images/John Hammond



*Debutante in Court Dress, late 19thc,
Henry Walter Barnett, London*

The Season: Social History of the Debutante

Kristen Richardson, Author and Social Historian

TBA | check website

Zoom Webinar (Live or Rent)

\$15 members; \$20 non-members

The debutant process, at the center of some American's love affair with the rich and beautiful, can be traced back to England six hundred years ago when wealthy fathers needed an efficient way to find appropriate husbands for their daughters. Elizabeth I's presentations at court expanded years later into a season of dances, dinners, and courting. Author Kristin Richardson will trace the social season of young women on both sides of the Atlantic. From Georgian England to colonial Philadelphia, from the Antebellum South and Wharton's New York back to England, where debutante daughters of Gilded Age millionaires sought to marry British aristocrats. She will examine this centuries-old, highly choreographed tribal rite: including 'Ethiopian Balls' during the American Revolution, Gilded Age Assemblies in New York, the arcane rituals of a secret society in St. Louis, bejeweled dresses more like a suit of armor, and the secret codes embedded in the movement of a fan. She will share the stories of these women through their diaries, letters, and interviews as she examines the debut's cultural influence on the lives of daughters in Britain and the U.S.

ROYAL OAK MEMBER TOURS

Online tours are presented live and our guides will give an illustrated presentation with an accompanying talk. Some tours will be recorded and available for a 3-day period. Please note start times vary and are all listed in Eastern time.

ONLINE HOUSE TOUR

The "Unsinkable" Molly Brown House, Denver, CO

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Wednesday, September 29 | 6:00 p.m. EDT

A reminder of those that made millions mining in the mountains, the railroads, or trade, **The Molly Brown House Museum** stands as an enduring symbol of Denver's changing society at the turn of the 20th century. Built for a couple who made their fortune in silver mining, architect William Lang combined Queen Anne and Richardsonian Romanesque styles for the house and included all the modern conveniences—electricity, indoor plumbing, heat, and telephone. The house sold in 1894 to James Joseph "J.J." and Margaret Brown. Margaret "Molly" Brown (nee Tobin) had been born in Missouri and moved to Colorado with her two brothers when she was 15 years old. Within a few years, she married James J. Brown (1854-1922), who would eventually strike it rich in the Colorado gold mines. Despite Molly's lavishly decorated house and magnificent parties, where she welcomed visiting royalty and international figures, the so-called



Mrs. James J. "Molly" Brown c 1890-1920.

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, George Grantham Bain Collection.

"Sacred Thirty-Six" of Denver's doyennes completely bypassed her. Known for speaking her mind, and her philanthropic endeavors, the Browns became friends with the likes of the Rockefeller's and the Astor's. Molly began to travel to the cultural capitals of the world, such as Paris, London and New York, to study art, music, design, etc. Her voyages led her to be on the **RMS Titanic** on the fateful night of April 15, 1912. During the disaster, Molly showed her courage and leadership, taking charge of the famous "lifeboat No. 6," keeping up the spirits of the survivors with her humor, and tough personality. In an interview after her rescue, she shrugged off her efforts by saying "I'm unsinkable"—leading to her famous nickname. Historic Denver, Inc. was founded to save the historic house from the wrecking ball and today the house is open as a museum. Join Royal Oak as we explore one of Denver's magnificent Victorian mansions, now restored to its original splendor, and learn about its most famous occupant, the **"Unsinkable Molly Brown."**

TICKETS: \$30 members only



*Front of Molly Brown House Museum,
Denver, now owned by Historic Denver Inc.*

Photo: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

ONLINE HOUSE TOUR

Lyman Estate, Boston, MA

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Wednesday, October 6 | 3:00 p.m. EDT

The Lyman Estate, also known as “the Vale”, is a beautiful example of US country estate, and is a National Historic Landmark. Most recently, it was the perfect backdrop and filming location for the 2019 Greta Gerwig film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women*. Following the 18th century English Naturalistic design, Theodore Lyman commissioned famed architect Samuel McIntire in 1793 to design and build a Federal-style home for his family. In 1882 it was enlarged in the Victorian style and then remodeled in the Colonial Revival style in 1917. This expansive 37 acres include the magnificent gardens and greenhouses. Join Royal Oak as we get a rare look into the estate with historic photos taken by a noted photographer in 1880, laid out to see the rooms “then and now” in matching photographs. We will tour the mansion hearing the fascinating history of the Lyman family and their architectural story.

TICKETS: \$30 members; \$35 non-members

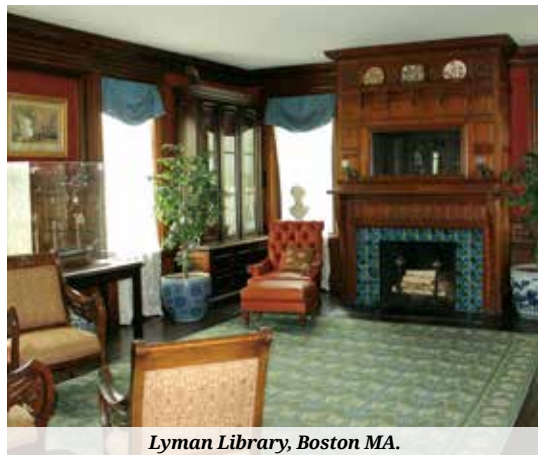


Photo: ©Historic New England

Lyman Library, Boston MA.

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

Millionaire's Mile, New York, NY

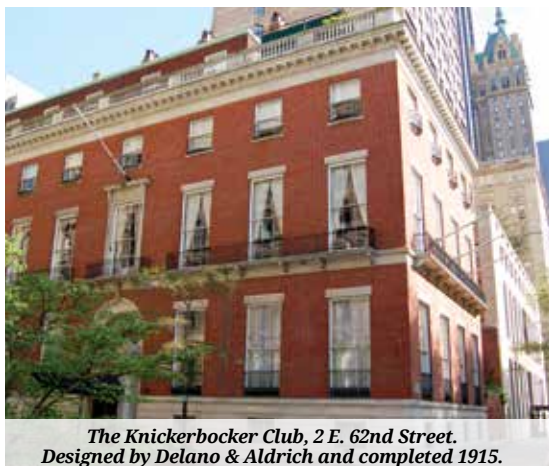
Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, October 14 | 4:00 p.m. EDT

Social status in New York City at the turn of the 20th century was determined by pedigree as well as wealth, and the private residences built on the Upper East Side reflected both. By 1900, the ‘Old Money’ of New York began to settle along the less developed eastern side of Central Park, where numerous mansions would rise. This mansion rush—with families using intimidatingly lavish architecture as a status symbol—marked the beginning of the neighborhood’s elite reputation. The neighborhood featured some of New

York’s grandest homes—so grand that the stretch of Fifth Avenue, beginning around 50th Street, became known as “Millionaire’s Row.” Join Royal Oak as we explore some of the more memorable and exclusive blocks of the south section of the Upper East Side Historic District with an online walking tour. **Architectural historian Matt Postal** will illustrate his talk with images of some of the neighborhood’s most magnificent mansions—some now consulates, private clubs, offices galleries etc. We will look at Beaux-Arts style houses that were commissioned as wedding gifts for Ernesto and Edith Fabbri (daughter of Maria Louise Vanderbilt) and the William and Maria Schieffelin (daughter of Margaret Vanderbilt Shepherd), now the Lotos Club. He will examine a group of distinguished neo-Georgian clubhouses such as the Knickerbocker and Colony Clubs – both designed by the prominent architects Delano & Aldrich—and the Links, where golfers and chief executives have mingled for more than a century.

TICKETS: \$30 members; \$35 non-members



The Knickerbocker Club, 2 E. 62nd Street.
Designed by Delano & Aldrich and completed 1915.

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

London, U.K.: St. Paul's to Westminster Abbey: A Stroll Between London's Two Greatest Churches

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, October 21 | 2:00 p.m. EDT

St Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are two of London’s most iconic landmarks. For nearly a thousand years, people have beaten the same path from one to another, making the route between them as rich in history as the buildings themselves. Our modern-day route will take us along Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, Strand, Whitehall and Parliament Street, and while the names may have changed, the route is the same as when it was first traversed all those years ago. Join Royal Oak and **London guide Mark Rowland** for a virtual stroll along one of London’s most ancient thoroughfares to hear stories of politics and palaces, rebellion and retributions, justice and the law, grand architectural schemes, and the first steps towards standardising the English language and communicating it to the masses.

Tickets: \$30 members; \$35 non-members



Photo: ©Westminster Abbey

West Front of Westminster Abbey

ONLINE TOUR

Around the Kent Coast

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Wednesday, October 27 | 2:00 p.m. EST

The county of Kent has a stunning coastline, from the lonely shingle beaches of Dungeness to the epic White Cliffs of Dover—whose five-mile stretch of coastline between Dover and South Foreland Lighthouse is owned by the UK’s National Trust. The Kent coast is also full of history. With some of the Kent coast closer to France than London, the county has always been Britain’s connection with Europe. Sometimes in trading links like the famous Cinque Ports, sometimes facing the threat of invasion as in World War II. In this virtual trip, guide **Rob Smith** will take us on a journey around the Kent coast using painting, maps and pictures. Our journey starts at Dungeness, looking at an unusual house built in a water tower, Martello towers and art on the beach



Photo: ©National Trust Images/Jemma Finch

White Cliffs of Dover, Kent

at Folkestone. We’ll see the remains of World War II defenses on the way to the great port of Dover, looked over by its Norman castle. Stopping off to admire Noel Coward’s home and the garden of a randy Earl, we’ll call at the charming town of Deal, before visiting the traditional landing site of both the first Saxons and St Augustine. We will visit beautiful Broadstairs and see T S Eliot’s favourite spot in Margate before heading to Roman Reculver. We’ll find out why Marcel Duchamp was inspired by Herne Bay, learn about Whitstable oysters, and end our journey in historic Blue Town in Sheerness.

TICKETS: \$30 members only



VIRTUAL TASTING EVENT

Discover British Chocolatier
Hotel Chocolat

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, November 11 | 6:00 p.m. EST

It is finally happening!! Take your love of chocolate to the next level, and join Royal Oak for a virtual chocolate tasting experience with Hotel Chocolat, Britain's only chocolatier who grows its own cacao. During this interactive chocolate tasting hosted by live chocolate experts, you will learn all about the world of chocolate—growing cacao, how it is made, how to taste it, how Hotel Chocolat develops its treats—while deliciously savoring our way from dark to milk and white chocolate samples. We will see video from Hotel Chocolat's 140-acre cacao farm in St. Lucia and learn about Hotel Chocolat from **Brendan Drake, CEO Hotel Chocolat USA**. This tour includes Hotel Chocolat's irresistible Everything H-Box filled with 14 best-sellers, which will be shipped to you before the event. The event will be recorded and available for those who are unable to join us for the live event, and would like to try the tasting afterwards.

TICKETS: \$30 members and non-members (includes Everything H-Box of 14 chocolates and shipping). You will be sent a link to the event on Tuesday, November 9 (two days before). **To order check link** www.royal-oak.org/events/fall-2021-online/.

ONLINE HOUSE TOUR

Gamble House, Pasadena CA

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Tuesday, November 16 | 4:00 p.m. EST

The Gamble House in Pasadena, California is an internationally renowned example of American Arts & Crafts architecture and design. Architects and brothers Charles and Henry Greene (of the firm Greene & Greene) designed the house and its furnishings in 1908 as a winter residence for David and Mary Gamble of Cincinnati, Ohio. The architects worked closely with the couple in the design of the house, even incorporating a family crest among the motifs. The design demonstrated the Gambles' love of nature and the Southern California landscape, depictions of which in wood, metal, art glass and semi-precious stones are woven throughout the interiors. Other artistic themes of the house are drawn from Japanese art and focus on the use of natural materials, attention to detail, and fine craftsmanship. The critical relationship between indoor and outdoor living spaces is another hallmark. Join Royal Oak for a virtual tour to this National Historic Landmark by **Jennifer Trotoux, Director of Collections, Gamble House**. We will explore the residence with its open and spacious rooms, filled with furnishings designed by the architects just for this commission and woodwork of extraordinary detail and finish quality. The program will include an illustrated talk about the house's story followed by a live look at some of the significant spaces and features of the interior.

TICKETS: \$30 members only



Three entrance doors to the Gamble House, Pasadena, CA.

Photo by Jim Heaphy, 2016



561 Broadway, Singer Building

ONLINE WALKING TOUR

SoHo, NYC:
From Brick and Mortar to Cast Iron

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, November 18 | 4:00 p.m. EST

Manhattan's SoHo district has undergone many transformations throughout its history, and was not always the hub of trendy boutiques and chains that it is today. What began as farmland in the 17th and 18th centuries, evolved into an elegant residential neighborhood in the early 19th century, with rows of Federal-style houses. This small enclave was developed from one large country estate, Richmond Hill, owned by Aaron Burr, which was purchased by John Jacob Astor. Many of these houses retain their original steps, entrances, pitched roofs, dormers and ironwork. By the end of the Civil War, the city's residential center moved further uptown and these structures were encroached upon by commercial and industrial buildings, often made of cast-iron. SoHo boasts the largest collection of cast iron structures, approximately 150, in the world. An American architectural innovation, cast iron was cheaper to use than stone or brick and could be molded into intricately designed patterns. Classical French and Italian architectural designs were often used as models for these facades and the strength of the metal allowed for larger windows. Join Royal Oak as **architectural historian Matthew Postal** discusses the evolution of this fascinating neighborhood. On our virtual walking tour, we will view 1820s brick row houses along Canal Street, including the former home of artist-inventor Samuel B. Morse. We will also look at important early commercial emporiums, such as the Haughwout Building (1857)—literally based on a 16th century Venetian design—where Mary Todd Lincoln shopped and rode the city's first passenger elevator. Other highlights include the Gunther Fur Building, designed by Griffin Thomas (1871) to be a warehouse for the New York furrier William Gunther; and Richard Morris Hunt's Roosevelt Building (1874). We will finish by discussing the contemporary works inspired by the SoHo's rich architectural legacy, such as Aldo Rossi's bold red and white Scholastic Building (2001).

TICKETS: \$30 members; \$35 non-members

ONLINE TOUR

English Shipwrecks

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Wednesday, December 1 | 2:00 p.m. EST

Britain's history is not just evident from archeology on land, but also underwater! With so many ships docking near London since the medieval period and traveling across the channel, it is hardly surprising that there have been thousands of shipwrecks off the UK coast—more than 90 identified—and in the Thames river. Popular guide **Rob Smith** will talk about some of these shipwrecks. He will talk about a Roman cargo shipwreck in the Thames as well as a 17th-century ship whose explosion and sinking in 1665 shocked Samuel Pepys. He also will discuss the Tudor ship *Mary Rose*, which sunk close to the Isle of Wight, as well as explain about a ship full of explosives that today still sits at the bottom of the Thames Estuary. He will illustrate his exciting stories with pictures and maps and provide suggestions of places to visit to find out more about the history of Britain's maritime past.

TICKETS: \$30 members only



Drawing of the Mary Rose, warship of the English Navy of King Henry VIII, launched 1511, sank 1545.

Photo: From The Anthony Roll of Henry VIII's Navy c. 1540s. Pepys Library 2991

ONLINE HOLIDAY EVENT

Princes, Puddings and a Passion

Zoom Meeting (Live or Rent)

Thursday, December 9 | 6:00 p.m. EST

Join Royal Oak for a special online holiday presentation with Royal Oak member, interior designer, and Netflix's **Mr. Christmas himself, Benjamin Bradley**. Starting in early November, Mr. Bradley and his partner fill their home with a holiday display that would impress Ebenezer Scrooge. His collection of antique ornaments and handcrafted decorations is beyond impressive and one of his trees typically features over 2,000 ornaments that he has collected since high school! Other trees feature themes—from patriotic designs to Dickens inspired decorations and even his love for Britain. We are thrilled that Ben will talk to Royal Oak about the history of Christmas decorations and ornaments and illustrate items from his collection including rare survivals. His holiday designs feature garlands draped over bookcases while nooks and crannies in his home display vignettes presenting framed antique Christmas cards, a collection of Tartanware, vintage German Santa shaped candy tins, and more. Ben revealed, "Christmas collectibles are fascinating and represent not only my personal likes and interests, but that of the country and the world." In his talk, he will explain how growing up he became enthralled with the magic of the holiday season and also show how Britain was instrumental in solidifying so many of the traditions we carry on today. His passion is contagious and hopefully he will share some tips for our own seasonal decorating.

TICKETS: \$30 members; \$35 non-members



British themed christmas tree



Holiday tree showcases 2,000+ ornaments.



SAVE THE DATE!

2022 ANNUAL BENEFIT

Thursday, April 21, 2022

The Royal Oak Foundation will present the Timeless Award to

Karen Pierce DCMG

British Ambassador to the United States

at its annual dinner, honoring her for her contribution to British foreign policy and Anglo-American relations.



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