



# THE WILLIAM SHIPLEY GROUP FOR RSA HISTORY

Newsletter 30: December 2011

## Forthcoming meetings

### **Wednesday 14 December 2011** at 12.30pm ***Wreath laying ceremony at Albert Memorial***

Dr Nicholas Cambridge, Chairman WSG and Jonathan Rollason, Trustee RSA, will be laying a wreath at the foot of the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the untimely death of Prince Albert, the Society's former President (1843-61). Members are invited to attend the wreath laying. An account of the ceremony and the messages read will appear in the next newsletter.



Prince Philip,  
RSA President  
(1952-2011)

**Friday 16 December 2011. *Princes Consort in History.*** To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Prince Albert, and also the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Institute of Historical Research, in collaboration with the Society for Court Studies, is bringing together a range of international historians to look at the influential institution of the male royal consort from Ferdinand of Castile to contemporary personalities in western Europe at this all day conference.



RSA Albert medal

### **Tuesday 17 January 2012** at 11.00am ***The RSA: 278 years of encouraging Art and Design***

by Dr David G.C. Allan, Honorary President of the William Shipley Group for RSA History and RSA Historical Adviser, at Richmond upon Thames College, Egerton Road, Twickenham TW2 7SS (open to College students only)

### **Wednesday 25 January 2012** at 6.00pm. ***Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Dickens' Journalism***

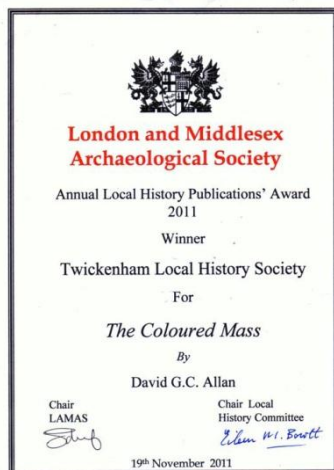
by John Drew and Tony Williams, Director and co-Director of the Dickens Journals Online Project. This talk will be held at the Bridewell Hall, St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street London, EC4Y 8EE. Contact Elinor Pritchard at [elinor@thevirtualpartnership.co.uk](mailto:elinor@thevirtualpartnership.co.uk) or phone 0208 546 2613

**Friday 3 February 2012. *Internationality Displayed: The 1862 Exhibition Revisited.*** The programme for this RCA/V&A/WSG meeting will be finalised shortly. Invited speakers will offer a variety of perspectives on the exhibition and its influence, and show how it links to the present-day Cultural Olympiad. Invited speakers include: WSG Deputy Chairman, Professor John Davis; WSG Committee member Anthony Burton, Louise Purbrick and Paul Greenhalgh. Ticket price (which does not include lunch) is £25 for an adult, £20 senior citizens, £10 for students booking online. A concessionary rate of £10 has been granted to WSG members but this can only be booked via the V&A booking office 0207 942 2211. For further information see the events section of the V&A website. <http://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/event/1401/>

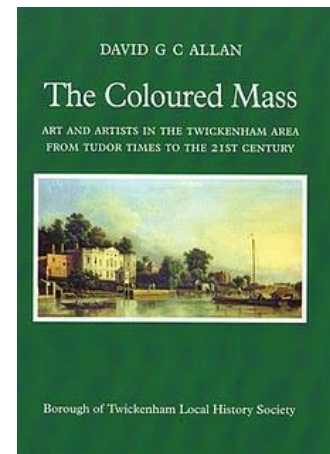
**Wednesday 21 March 2012** at 12.00pm. The WSG AGM which will be followed by the Chairman's Annual Address at 12.30pm: ***From Devonshire Colic to Bladder Stone: Benjamin Franklin and Medicine*** by Dr Nicholas Cambridge at Benjamin Franklin House, London WC2N 5NF

**Saturday 26 May 2012. *The Anniversary of American Wine.*** As part of their activities to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the Society of Arts' Gold Medal to Charles Carter, for his 'spirited attempt towards the accomplishment of their views, respecting wine in America', the Philip Carter Winery, 4366 Stillhouse Road, Hume, VA 22639, USA are holding a day of celebration and pageantry when the public will be able to enjoy falconry, fencing, wine tours and of course wine tasting. ([www.pcwinery.com](http://www.pcwinery.com) or email [info@pcwinery.com](mailto:info@pcwinery.com)).

## Congratulations



**To:** WSG Honorary President **Dr David G.C. Allan**. His recent work on *'The Coloured Mass'*. *Art and Artists in the Twickenham Area from Tudor times to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* for Twickenham Local History Society which has won the 2011 **Annual Local History Publications' Award** by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society



**To:** WSG Chairman, **Dr Nicholas Cambridge** has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London by the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries.



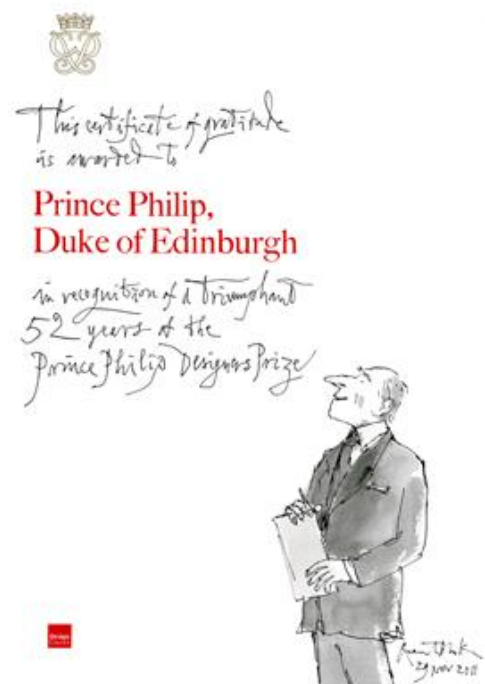
**To:** WSG member **June Stubbs** was made an MBE for her services to conservation through the work of the Thorney Island Society. She has been described as a pioneer in campaigning for building preservation of noteworthy properties in areas of Westminster, including the historic streets around the abbey and the houses of parliament, as well as the Royal Parks

## Quentin Blake CBE, RDI

On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his election to the Faculty of the Royal Designers for Industry the illustrator Quentin Blake has been awarded the 2011 Prince Philip Designers Prize.

Now in his 90<sup>th</sup> year the Prince has stepped down from the prize after 52 years of extraordinary dedication to promoting and celebrating design, with his expert and insightful leadership. Quentin Blake has produced illustrations for over 300 books, including works by Roald Dahl (for which he is perhaps best known), Michael Rosen, Joan Aitken as well as his own books. He has also illustrated the work of Dickens, Carroll and Lear.

Included in the short list for this award were fellow RDIs Sir David Chipperfield, Stephen Jones, Sir Paul Smith and Dinah Casson who has just been elected Master of the Faculty.



Sir David Chipperfield, elected to the Faculty of RDIs in 2006, has won the first Critics' Circle Visual Arts and Architecture award for his designs for Turner Contemporary in Margate and Hepworth Wakefield, both of which opened earlier this year. He is currently working with the Geffrye Museum on plans for the *Museum of the Home* due for completion in 2015.



Turner Contemporary, Margate

## Exhibitions

### ***Albertopolis: the Development of South Kensington and the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter***



Architecture Gallery, 128A, V& A Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL. 11 December 2011 to 4 March 2012. Free admission. Drawing on previously unseen objects from the V&A and RIBA collection, this display charts the development of South Kensington and the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter from 1851 up to the present day. It examines how the site became the architectural embodiment of Prince Albert's ambitious cultural aspirations.

***Radindranath Tagore: Poet and Painter.*** Room 38A, V& A Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL. 11 December 2011 to 4 March 2012. Free admission

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941), the V&A will hold a display of about 50 of his paintings from the period 1928 to 1939, never before displayed outside India. (See WSG newsletter no.29 on Tagore and the RSA)



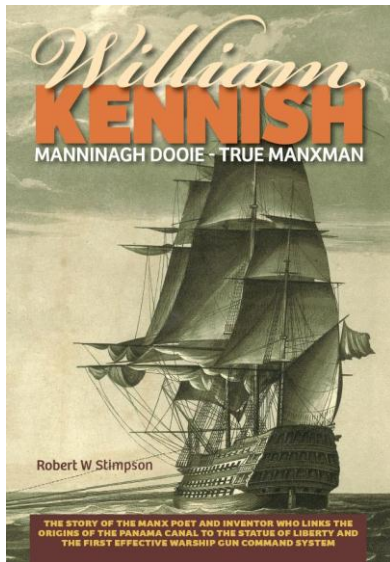
***Images of Surrey: Watercolours by John and Edward Hassell.*** The Lightbox, Chobham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4AA. 17 December 2011 to 19 February 2012. Free admission.

Both John and Edward were Society of Arts prize winners. John was awarded a Silver Medal in 1810 for improvements in aquatint, and Edward won silver medals in 1828 for an oil painting of the altar-piece of St Margaret's, and 1829 for a painting of the interior of Edward the Confessor's Chapel.



On the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral by HM the Queen a blue plaque was unveiled on the former home and office of the cathedral's architect at 1 Canonbury Place, Islington, on 23 March 2011. In 1960 the RSA appointed Sir Basil Spence member of the Faculty of RDIs for his outstanding work in the fields of interior design and exhibitions, such as 'Britain Can Make It' and the 'Festival of Britain'. As an architect he is best known for his modern design for Coventry Cathedral, for which he received his knighthood. He is recorded as saying that 'his life's wish' was to design a cathedral, and that he 'felt certain that architecture could rise to greatness if its goal was Faith'. The Royal

Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland undertook a major project to catalogue and conserve nearly 40,000 drawings and other material which his family presented to the Commission in 2003. An online catalogue to this collection is now available at *Sir Basil Spence. Celebration of a Modern Architect 1907-1976* (<http://www.basilspence.org.uk/>).



**Robert W. Stimpson, *William Kennish RN 1799-1862*.** Isle of Man: Manx Heritage Foundation, 2011. ISBN 978-1-907945-08-3. £25

This book considers the life, naval career and inventions of William Kennish who died in Brooklyn 150 years ago. The content includes technical writings, poetry and 180 drawings, figures, photographs and paintings of ships he served on, the areas he explored and the inventions he developed including an artificial horizon he submitted to the Society of Arts. Also included in the biographical section is a photograph of Kennish's grandsons working on the plinth of the Statue of Liberty.

The author is offering a £2 discount to WSG members and RSA Fellows who wish to purchase a copy of this book. He is also writing up the story of the prize winning artificial horizon and its examination by the Society's Committee of Mechanics for a future issue of the newsletter.

### **Anniversaries**

2011 marks the **200<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the award of the Society's Gold Medal to H. Andrews of Wakefield for his plantations of Oaks. Sadly death snatched the honour of accepting this award, which he had been so anxious to obtain, from him, but the Society directed that the medal should be presented to his daughters.

2011 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Prince Albert, Prince Consort of Great Britain – see page 1 of newsletter.

2011 marks the **100<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of the death of Maung On Ghine, a member of the Society of Arts from 1900. He was an active and public-spirited member of the Rangoon Municipal Council and represented the Province of Burma at the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.

*Honorary Patron:* Lord Asa Briggs of Lewes FRSA. *Honorary President:* Dr David Allan, FRSA; *Honorary Vice-Presidents:* Gerry Acher, CBE, LVO, FRSA; Sir Paul Judge, FRSA; Professor Franz Bosbach, Director, University of Duisburg-Essen. *Honorary Benefactor:* Ronald Gerard OBE, KStJ, FRSA. *Honorary Member:* Hermione Hobhouse MBE; *Committee:* Dr Nicholas Cambridge FRSA (Chair); Dr David Allan FRSA (Director of Studies); Prof John Davis FRSA (Deputy Chair); Anthony Burton, FRSA; Jonathan Rollason, FRSA; Mrs Susan Bennett, MA, FRSA (Honorary Secretary and Treasurer)



Christmas Greetings from the  
William Shipley Group for RSA History



*Fingal in the Cave*  
Copy in chalk by Miss Rhoda Field,  
Awarded Silver Isis Medal, 1839