



# THE WILLIAM SHIPLEY GROUP FOR RSA HISTORY

Bulletin 52 March 2017

## **Dr David G.C.Allan (1925-2017) FRHistS, FSA, HonFRSA, RSA Historian**

Dr Allan's funeral was held at All Hallows, Twickenham, where he was a regular communicant, on 7th February 2017. Friends and colleagues, including the WSG committee, representatives from the RSA and members of Twickenham's Local History Society, joined Dr Allan's family in celebrating his long life. His brother, William Allan read *Holy Sonnet 10* by John Donne and his nephew, Stephen Lamb, gave the eulogy. (See separate sheet for obituary)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **5th – 7th May 2017 Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Reappraisals and Revisions**

The Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford is running this course to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Frank Lloyd Wright. One of the tutors, Edward Cullinan is a Royal Designer for Industry [RDI]. For further details see <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/frank-lloyd-wright-at-150-reappraisals-and-revisions>

**30 May 2017 at 6pm From Mr Pickwick to Tiny Tim – Charles Dickens and Medicine** by Nicholas Cambridge, Honorary Chairman, William Shipley Group for RSA History. Gresham College lecture at the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

Dickens expert eye for detail enabled him to describe many medical conditions in his writings. He supported hospitals, children's welfare, public health and the rehabilitation of prostitutes. Dr Cambridge will also detail the medical conditions suffered by Dickens. <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/from-mr-pickwick-to-tiny-tim-charles-dickens-and-medicine>



## **EXHIBITIONS**

### **George Hardie Fifty Odd Years**

University Gallery, 58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton BN2 0JY - ends 7th April 2017.

George Hardie taught illustration at the University of Brighton from the 1980s until his retirement in 2014, but he continues to work with doctoral students. Hardie has worked as a designer/illustrator for more than 40 years and is the artist behind some of the most iconic album covers of the 20th century." Led Zeppelin's debut album and Pink Floyd's 'Dark Side of the Moon' are two of his best known works. Appointed a Royal Designer for Industry (RDI) in 2005 Hardie is International Secretary for the Alliance Graphique Internationale.



### **Lockwood Kipling: Arts and Crafts in the Punjab**

Porter Gallery, Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, SW7 2RL - ends 2nd April 2017. Free

The RSA has lent its bust of Sir George Birdwood to this excellence exhibition on this influential figure in the Arts & Crafts movement, artist and teacher. See <https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/lockwood-kipling-arts-and-crafts-in-the-punjab-and-london#intro> for more information on the exhibition and the artist.

## Portrait of the Artist

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA – ends 17th April 2017. Tickets £10.30 (concessions £9.40)

As well as self-portraits by world renowned artists, including Rembrandt, Rubens, Artemisia Gentileschi and Lucien Freud, this exhibition also features images of artists by their friends, relatives and pupils. Drawn from the Royal Collection this display of over 300 objects includes portraits by early members of the [Royal] Society of Arts, Sir Joshua Reynolds, William Hogarth, Giovanni Cipriani and Thomas Major and one of the first prize winners and Shipley's pupil, Richard Cosway. <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection/themes/exhibitions/portrait-of-the-artist/the-queens-gallery-buckingham-palace>

## Sussex Modernism. Retreat and Rebellion

Two Temple Place, London WC2R 3BD - ends 23rd April 2017 (closed on Tuesdays) Free

In the first half of the 20th century radical artists and writers were drawn to the rolling hills, seaside resorts and villages of Sussex. This exhibition of over 120 works, drawn from nine Sussex museums and galleries, explores the connections between these artists and the modernisms they represented. Included in this show are works by Eric Gill and Duncan Grant, who were both appointed Royal Designers for Industry (RDI) in 1936. A varied programme of cultural events for both children and adults will accompany the exhibition. Further information available on Two Temple Place website <http://twotempleplace.org/>



*Garden rollers belonging to Ethel Mairet RDI*

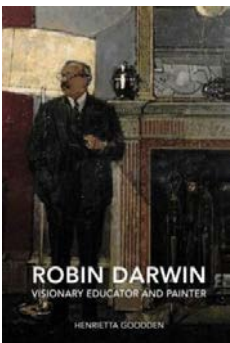
## Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta, Charlotte, and the Shaping of the Modern World.

Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, 1080 Chapel Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06510, USA. 3 February to 30 April 2017 will then transfer to Kensington Palace, Kensington Gardens, London W8 4PX. 22 June to 12 November 2017.

This exhibition will explore the instrumental roles the three German Princesses played in the promotion of the arts, sciences, medicine, education, charity, trade and industry in Britain over the long eighteenth century. Caroline and Charlotte became queen consorts to George II and George III respectively, while Princess Augusta never achieved this distinction but held the titles of Princess of Wales and Princess Dowager, and was mother to King George III. Nearly three hundred magnificent objects have been drawn together from numerous public and private collections from across Britain, Europe and the United States.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Robin Darwin. Visionary Educator and Painter** by Henrietta Goodden. London: Unicorn Press Ltd, 2015. ISBN 978-19100-65396



Robin Darwin was the recipient of the RSA's Bicentenary Medal for 1962. Although not a designer himself, Darwin had succeeded in raising standards of academic and vocational training for young designers, and encouraged them to make the fullest use of their talents. He also played an important part in persuading the various sections of British industry of the need to employ designers. Lord Nathan, as the RSA's Chairman presented the medal with the comment that in addition to his personal accomplishments, Darwin had a broad and comprehensive understanding of the educational needs at the time, a penetrating mind and a strange persistence in achieving his objects.

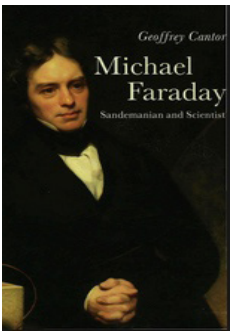
An artist by inclination, Darwin recognised the need to reform the Royal College of Art, of which he became Principal in 1948, to produce the industrial designers, architects and engineers that Britain so desperately needed. Henrietta Goodden, as a former tutor at the RCA, and whose father the silversmith, Robert Goodden RDI also taught at the RCA during Darwin's tenure, is ideally placed to write a biography of Darwin. She introduces us to a complex man with a talent for art and administration, a man whose influence reached beyond the RCA, to shape and inform art and design policy for regional art schools, for government reports and agencies, national

events and celebrations.

Elected a Fellow of the RSA shortly after his lecture on 'The Training of the Industrial Designer' in 1949 Darwin gave a further talk to the Fellows on 'The Dodo and the Phoenix. The RCA since the war' and served on the RSA Council from 1956 to 1958.

Goodden is a powerful advocate for Darwin but this admiration does not blind her to subject's faults. Although often seen as a 'a terrifying bully' by the staff and students, Darwin's 'frequent aggressive moments were often unintentional and nearly always because he wanted the best for the College'.

Beautifully illustrated with colour reproductions of Darwin's paintings and drawings, together with 100 photographs, this book provides us with a reminder of the outstanding cultural importance of the RCA in 1960s Britain.



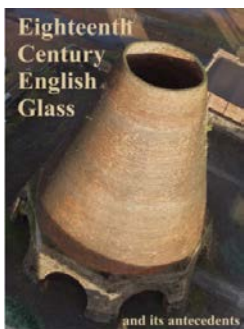
**Michael Faraday: Sandemanian and Scientist** by Geoffrey Cantor, NY: St Martin's Press, 1991

Faraday was awarded the Albert Gold Medal in 1866, and members might find a copy of this old book worth reading. His acceptance of the medal reflects well on the Society of Arts, as Michael Faraday adhered strictly to his religious principles, and disapproved of science being pursued as a profession (he often referred to his 'business') and was particularly opposed to its being used to aid social advancement or to attract honours. He desired a scientific education to be available to all, regardless of social class or prior training, and presumably the Society's involvement in such endeavours overcame any scruples he might have had – he refused many honours by other bodies. He saw the study of both science and religion as a search for the truth – potentially available to all, but needing guidance to bring to light. In the case of religion, this guidance the sect he belonged to – the Sandemanians, a breakaway from the Church of Scotland – believed came through a literal interpretation of the Bible. Scientific understanding depended on moral qualities.

Cantor writes in a clear style, easy to follow – he even alerts the non-scientist when to skip a page or two – but just a little repetitive at times. Clarity would have been assisted more, for this reader at least, by the provision of a chronological list of major events. The explanation of how Faraday dealt with any possible discrepancy between his religious beliefs and scientific research is explained mostly in psychological terms, without attempting too much scientific or pseudo-scientific analysis. I was left wondering, however, why, given this approach, Cantor nowhere examines the fact that in one single year, 1821, Faraday got married, made the profession of faith that committed him to a life with strict rules of behaviour, and was accused by Humphry Davy of deceit and plagiarism! But all in all, an interesting and useful read. There are not many direct references to Faraday's association with the Society of Arts, but this book deserves a place on William Shipley Group members' shelves.

Pat Francis

(Readers might also be interested in this study: 'Michael Faraday, The City Philosophical Society and the Society of Arts' by Frank A.J.L. James, *Journal of Royal Society of Arts* vol. 140 1992), pp.192-99)



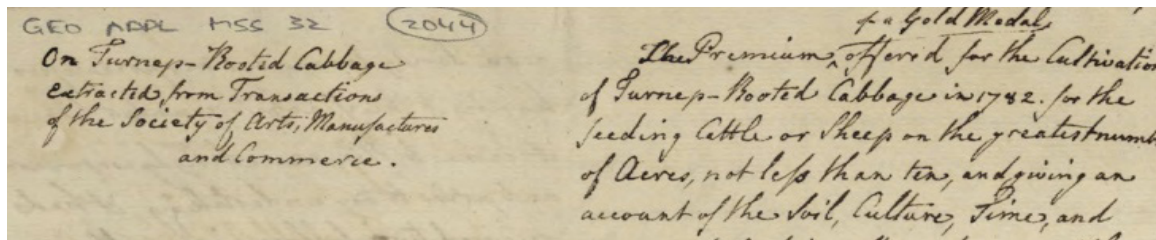
**Eighteenth century English Glass and its antecedents** by Michael Noble (Couchant, 2016). ISBN 978-1526203571

With his experience working for United Glass and his intensive research Michael Noble has produced this detailed account of English glassmaking from the Medieval period to the Industrial Revolution over 426 pages. Illustrated and with 228 maps this is a documented history of glass works from the Isle of Wight to Whitehaven, with two-thirds of the book devoted to London's glasshouses. One of the Society's early awards was for zaffre, an important and expensive ingredient derived from cobalt and used by glassmakers to create a deep blue colour, known as 'Bristol Blue'. The architects James

and William Adam, the engraver John Boydell, Christopher Pinchbeck and John Wingfield, formed the Society's committee that met on 22nd January 1778 to examine the sole submission for the £50 premium they had offered, and which they awarded to the pioneer George Ensell, for the seven sheets of plate glass he had sent in for their inspection.

## Georgian Papers Project

Material dating from the reigns of George III to William IV has been digitised as a result of a partnership project between the Royal Archives, the Royal Library at Windsor Castle and King's College London (<http://gpp.royal-collection.org.uk/>) It is interesting to note that among the George III Essays is a record a premium offer and awards for the cultivation of turnep-rooted cabbage made by the Society of Arts (ref: RA GEO/ADD/32/2044) WSG Bulletin no.51 recorded the story of John Reynolds accidental introduction of the swede in Great Britain as a result of the Society's encouragement of the cultivation of root vegetables for cattle fodder.



## REPORT ON WSG SYMPOSIUM

### 'The Undisputed Monarch of the English Stage': Celebrating the Tercentenary of David Garrick's birth

In spite of Storm Doris on 23rd February 2017 most of the delegates managed to get to the Medical Society of London to hear a full and interesting programme on the great 18th century actor/manager David Garrick. The day started with a talk by WSG Chairman, Dr Nicholas Cambridge, on Garrick's developing interest in theatrical performance in Lichfield and his famous walk to London in 1737 which Dr Cambridge, as Garrick, and Professor Peter Martin as Dr Samuel Johnson recreated in 2009. With Garrick now in London, theatre producer, designer and historian Iain Mackintosh looked at how the actor wooed the aristocrats, the foreigners, his banker and his public with his wit and mimicry, and with his skill as a versifier. Several of Garrick's verses were performed by the acclaimed actor Stephen Thorne. The art historian Robin Simon then expanded on the German satirist and Anglophile, Georg Christoph Lichtenberg's comment that Garrick, like Hogarth and Shakespeare, shared a similarity of genius before Professor Michael Dobson, Director of the Shakespeare Institute at Stratford looked at how Garrick convinced the public that he was indeed Shakespeare's representative on earth. Biographer and critic Professor Norma Clarke considered the interdependence of the print trade and the actor and, in particular, Garrick's relationship with aspiring playwrights, including Oliver Goldsmith and Arthur Murphy. After the lunch break the former Garrick Club Librarian and Curator, Marcus Risdell looked at the actor's relationship with the artists of the day. Professor Gill Perry considered Garrick's relationship with contemporary women performers, particularly the comic actress Peg Woffington, who lived openly with the actor before his marriage to the dancer, Eva Maria Veigel who featured in the next paper by dance historian and Garrick Club librarian Moira Goff, who spoke about the dance repertoire at Drury Lane, with particular reference to the ballet masters and leading dancers who worked there. Professor Michael Gaunt, former Chair of The Society of Theatre Research, discussed how Garrick's acting technique saw him not only become the most famous actor of his age, but also influence succeeding generations of actors before Professor Trevor Griffiths explored the question of how many new works Garrick staged during his time as manager of Drury Lane. As a coda to the day Professor John Drew looked at the play Garrick chose for his farewell performance on the English stage, *The Wonder*. The papers from this symposium will be published as a WSG Occasional Paper.



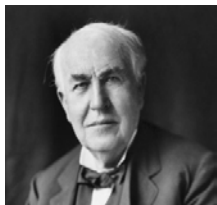
The late Dr David Allan in period costume

## ANNIVERSARIES

**2017** marks the **130th** anniversary of the death of the French born British perfumer Eugene Rimmel (1820-1887). A member of the Society of Arts for thirty years Rimmel gave a talk in 1860 'on the art of perfumery, its history and commercial development', in which he provided information on the value of exports of perfumery from the UK, the principal materials used and a classification of odours. Rimmel also acted as a Juror for the International Exhibition of 1862.



*Fountain of Rimmel  
toilet water*



**2017** marks the **125th** anniversary of the award of the RSA's Albert Medal in 1892 to Thomas Edison 'in recognition of the merits of his numerous and valuable inventions'. 2017 is also the 170th anniversary of the birth of this inventor of the phonograph, the motion picture camera and the long-lasting practical electric light bulb. He was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production and large-scale teamwork to the process of invention and is often credited with the creation of the first industrial research laboratory.

**2017** marks the **80th** anniversary of the death of Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937). Marconi was a Fellow of the RSA for nearly forty years. He served as Vice-President of the Society from 1922 and then Chairman of the RSA Council in 1924. On several occasions, when Marconi had an important achievement to make public, he chose to deliver his message at the RSA. For instance, the principles upon which his most famous patent was based were fully described in his 1901 lecture 'Syntonic Wireless Telegraphy', for which he received the RSA's Silver Medal. The electrical engineer A.A. Campbell-Swinton said that the Society 'could congratulate itself on the fact that Marconi had chosen their platform' in 1924, from which to read his paper on the history of radio communications, which he thought 'time might show to be a landmark in the history of wireless telegraphy'. Campbell-Swinton's statement turned out to be true. Shortly afterwards the system described in Marconi's talk was so successfully applied to world-wide communications that not only did it become possible by its means to link up all the countries of the world in direct wireless telegraph communications, but by its aid the voices of kings and councillors of state have been conveyed to all the corners of the world. In 1914 the RSA awarded Marconi its Albert Medal 'for his services in the development and practical application of wireless telegraphy'. Ill health prevented Life Fellow Prince Ginori Conti acting as the Society's representative although the Society did send a wreath to the funeral at Rome and the RSA Chairman of Council and the Assistant Secretary attended the Memorial Service held in London. (For the RSA's interest in telecommunications see *Semaphores to Short-waves. Proceedings of a Conference on the Technology and Impact of Early Telecommunications*, edited by Frank A.J.L. James. London: RSA, 1998)



**2017** marks the **65th** anniversary of the coronation of HM The Queen, the first British monarch to celebrate a Sapphire Jubilee. It also marks the 70th anniversary of her association with the RSA. In 1947 HRH Princess Elizabeth accepted the position of President of the Society. Her first visit to John Adam Street was to re-open the Great Room, which had been restored after it had suffered severe damage from a German bomb in 1941. She sat in the President's chair, designed by William Chambers for the Society and used by her great-great-grandfather, Prince Albert. 'The objects to which the Royal Society of Arts addresses itself are worthy of all the support we can give', she said. On her last visit as President, Princess Elizabeth announced the award of the Albert Medal to her father, King George VI 'in respectful recognition of His Majesty's life-long concern for the progress of industry and for industrial welfare'. Following her coronation HM The Queen agreed to become the RSA's Patron, and Prince Philip took on the role as the Society's President. In 1958 the Albert Medal was awarded to Queen Elizabeth II 'to mark Her Majesty's personal service to arts, manufactures and commerce at home and abroad'

**2017** marks the **60th** anniversary of the death of the electrical engineer Dame Caroline Haslett DBE (1895-1957). In 1919 Haslett became the first secretary of the Women's Engineering Society and the first editor of *The Woman Engineer* magazine. The following year she helped to found Atalanta, an engineering firm for women and in 1923 co-founded and became first Director of the Electrical Association for Women. She was elected a Fellow of the RSA in 1934 and gave two lectures to the Society: 'Women in Industry' (1941) and 'Electricity in the Home' (1947). In recognition of her position as the first female to serve on Society's Council (1941-55) the RSA awarded her an Honorary Life Fellowship. The British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association presented the RSA in 1948 with a portrait of Dame Caroline Haslett by Sir Gerald Kelly

Among her many public activities were the Presidency of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the Vice-Presidency of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the chairmanship of the British Electrical Development Association and membership of many committees. She was also the first woman to be made a Companion of the Institution of Electrical Engineers.



*The portrait of Dame Caroline Haslett, by Sir Gerald Kelly, R.A., presented to the Society in 1948*

***Members are reminded that their £5 annual subscriptions are now due.***

***Donations always welcome***

Honorary President: [vacant]; Honorary Vice-Presidents: Gerry Acher, CBE, LVO, FRSA; Sir Paul Judge, FRSA; Professor Franz Bosbach, Director, University of Duisburg-Essen. Committee: Dr Nicholas Cambridge FRSA (Chair); Prof John Davis FRSA (Deputy Chair); Anthony Burton; Paul Leonard, FLS; Jonathan Rollason, FRSA; Philip Emery FRSA, Susan Bennett, MA, FRSA (Honorary Secretary, Editor and Treasurer)