The Intellectual Culture of the British Country House, 1500-1700

University of Sussex 13th-15th July 2011 www.sussex.ac.uk/countryhouse

Day 1 – Wednesday 13th July

11:00 – 12:30 Plenary 1 – Maurice Howard (University of Sussex), 'The archeologies of the country house: buildings, contents and documents'
Silverstone Lecture Theatre 121

12:30 – 13:45 LUNCH B217

13:45 – 15:15 Session 1a: The country house library

Chair: tbc B274

Susie West (Open University), 'Looking back from 1700: problems in locating the country house library'

Hannah Moor (University of York), "My Laydes Bookes att Noward...": The socialization of the country house library at Castle Howard"

Richard Simpson (University of London), 'Sir Thomas Smith's printed books at Hill Hall; antiquity and innovation'

Session 1b: Imagined country houses

Chair: tbc B274

Alison Findlay (Lancaster University), 'Imagined communities in country house drama'

Paul Quinn (University of Chichester), "Write such things upon the posts of our houses and upon the gates': The house as religious cipher in *The Arminian Nunnery at Little Gidding*'

15:15 – 15:45 Tea & coffee

B217

15:45 – 17:15 Session 2: Intellectual impact

Chair: tbc B217

Marco Neumaier (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg), 'Private tutors and their pupils in Tudor country houses'

Rob Iliffe (University of Sussex), 'The country house origins of the English Enlightenment: Newton, Locke and and the value of retreat'

Alison McCann (West Sussex Record Office), "A most studious searcher after Truth" - the 9th Earl of Northumberland and science'

19:30 Conference dinner

Location tbc

Day 2 – Thursday 14th July

9:00 – 10:30 Session 3a: 'This country where now you set your foot is Arcadia': the intellectual world of Wilton House

Chair: tbc B274

Anne Myers (University of Missouri), 'Wilton House and country house literature'

Marta Straznicky, (Queen's University, Ontario), 'Performing arcadia: Wilton House and theatre in early modern England'

Louise Noble (University of New England, Australia), 'Wilton House and the art of floating meadows'

Session 3b: Architecture & design

Chair: tbc

B217

Mimi Yiu (Georgetown University), 'The open secret of English architecture'

Matthew Neely (Bodleian Library, University of Oxford), 'Rediscovering a lost Tudor mansion through archives and manuscripts: The Rycote Project at the Bodleian Library'

Edward Town (National Portrait Gallery), "To Knole, and then "To Penshurst' – The network of patronage between two country houses in the early seventeenth century'

10:30 - 11:00 Tea & coffee

B217

11:00 – 12:30 Session 4a: Gardens

Chair: tbc B274

Alexander Samson (University College London), '(Pens)hurst: Sidneys in the garden'

Nicolle Jordan (University of Southern Mississippi), 'Anne Finch and the fallen country house'

Carly Watson (University of Birmingham), "Nuneham by ev'ry muse belov'd': the Harcourts of Nuneham Park and manuscript circulation, 1765 – 1826'

Session 4b: Power, politics & influence

Chair: tbc

B217

Alden Gregory (freelance architectural historian), 'William Warham's Otford Palace: an archbishop's motivations for building (c.1514-26)'

Katrina Marchant (University of Sussex), 'Hill Hall: Sir Thomas Smith and the birth of the commonweal'

Liz Oakley-Brown (Lancaster University), "The landscape of the country house in the works of Thomas Churchyard"

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

B217

13:30 Travel to Petworth House

Assemble at location tbc

3:15 – 4:15 Plenary 2: James Raven (University of Essex), 'Country houses and the beginnings of bibliomania'

The Marble Hall, Petworth House

4:15 – 5:30 Reception

5:30 Return to Brighton

Day 3 – Friday 15th July

9:00 – 10:30 Session 5a: Progresses & print

Chair: tbc B274

Barbara Kennedy (University of Sussex), "With wings of musick raise": Thomas Campion's Relation of the late royall entertainment at Cawsome-House neere Redding"

Elizabeth Zeman Kolkovich (Ohio State University), 'The country-house entertainment in print'

Session 5b: Seventeenth century plays, entertainments & masques Chair: tbc

B217

Cathy Parsons (University of Sussex), 'Both Widow, Maid and Wife': sexualised religio-political imagery and country/court opposition in late Caroline England'

Zoe Hawkins (University College London), 'Masking the masque: the political poetics of Milton's *Comus*'

Nicola Boyle (Loughborough University), 'The country house and the touring practices of the Lady Elizabeth's Men'

10:30 - 11:00 Tea & coffee

B217

11:00 – 12:45 The intellectual culture of the country house: then & now

Round-table discussion with:

Brian Cummings (University of Sussex)

Ylva Dahnsjö (Territory Conservator South, National Trust)

Andy Loukes (House and Collections Manager at Petworth House)

Mark Purcell (Libraries Curator to the National Trust)

B274

12:45 Conference closes.

