



Tate House Gazette

News from the Tate House Museum

Connecting people to Maine's colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives.

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April 2011

Mast Agents Dinner at SMCC

The Board of Directors of the Tate House Museum is excited to be introducing a new membership level entitled "Mast Agent". Mast Agent members will provide needed financial support for the growing collection, and for the need to expand the Museum's public education program.

A dinner is planned to announce this new level of membership. Colin Woodard, noted historian and lecturer will deliver a talk entitled: Maine and the Mast Trade: Strategic Resources, Geopolitics, and the Clash of Empires. All members and friends of the Tate House Museum are invited to join us for a wonderful evening.

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2011

Place: Southern Maine Community College in the Culinary Arts Dining Hall

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Price : \$100.00 per person

\$160.00 per couple

\$600.00 per table of 8

For more information, please call 207-774-6177 or email info@tatehouse.org.

Colin Woodard, an author and award-winning journalist, is a foreign correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and a contributing editor at *Down East* magazine. A native of Maine, he has reported from more than fifty foreign countries and six continents, and lived for more than four years in Eastern Europe. He is the author of *The Republic of Pirates: Being The True and Surprising Story of the Caribbean Pirates and the Man Who Brought Them Down*, the New England bestseller *The Lobster Coast: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier*, a cultural and environmental history of coastal Maine, and *Ocean's End: Travels Through Endangered Seas*, a narrative non-fiction account of the deterioration of the world's oceans. His fourth book, *American Nations: A History of The Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America* will be released by Viking on Oct. 3.



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Curator***Education Committee News**

The Tate House Museum Education Committee met recently to begin the task of welcoming and training new docents for the coming season at Tate House. The committee is made up of present docents, THM Board members and volunteers.

The Portland History Docents program is nearing the end of this year's session and soon participants will make their choices for the historic site where they will volunteer. The THM Education Committee will be hosting three sessions on April 14, 21, and 28 from 9AM to 12PM to orient our new docents. They will be introduced to experienced THM experts who will in-

struct them in the interpretation of the kitchen, the mast trade, the garden, and the architecture and history of Tate House. A representative of the Colonial Dames will present a brief history of that organization's involvement with the house. Present docents are welcome to attend, meet their new colleagues and refresh their interpretation skills.

At the March meeting, the THM Education Committee engaged in lively discussions about interpretation, future lecture series, rambles, and other programs. More volunteers are needed. We urge members and friends to join the THM Education Committee and discover where you can help. We need you!

Mast Wheels "Roll into Portland"

Two twelve foot replicas of wheels used to haul Mast Pines arrived in Portland on February 17th after their journey from Storyland in New Hampshire. A truck and crane from Hillside Lumber in Westbrook off loaded the wheels into a workshop where they are being prepared for outside display in Stroudwater. Roger Knight, who founded Hillside Lumber, is descended from Colonel Thomas Westbrook, the mast agent preceding George Tate. Many thanks to Roger, Dick Gilbane, and Tom Thomsen and the crew for their involvement in this project!



Ramble to Museum of Fine Arts A Success!

On March 2nd, the Tate House Museum sponsored a Ramble to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Bill Hubbell had some interesting observations related to these photographs.



“One never can know what surprises are waiting when taking one of Tate House Museum's famous Rambles to Colonial sites around New England. I joined a trip to Boston's Museum of Fine Arts under the leadership of our irrepressible leader, Peter Cook. While walking through a gallery of 18th Century Colonial portraits when I suddenly felt the need for a rest. I grabbed the corner of a non-antique bench to steady myself and when I refocused, there were two colonials in front of me. I was stunned. They looked so real, and where did they come from? Then I spied two empty picture

frames to my right. Could they be paintings come to life? I heard them talking. They were as confused as I. "How do we leave this strange place with no windows but so much light?" asked the one in the tricorne hat. "I think we came from over there. That frame looks familiar." "Oops, someone sees us I feel. I don't understand this place. Let's go back to our cozy canvasses." And with that remark, they vanished back into their frames. Yes, Tate House Museum Rambles are truly miraculous experiences! Bill Hubbell.



(A note from Bill : The above images were not posed. The photographer saw, after the fact, that there was a way to weave the pictures into a brief story, capitalizing on the startling reaction that he had when he entered the gallery with 3-D humans standing there in colonial garb.

After I took the shots, I spoke with them and learned they were re-enactors with Boston's Historic Trail, researching costume details, --and confusing photographers. Bill)

Upcoming THM Events

April 14, 21, 28 Docent training at Means House

April 30th Mast Agents Dinner

May 28th Annual Plant and Tag Sale

June 18th Museum Opens for the Season

Memorial Donations

Colonel Reginald Thomas Lombard Jr. passed away March 18th. He was a devoted and supportive husband to Sally Lombard, a great patriot, and an accomplished antiquarian. A service was held on March 26th. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Tate House Museum.

Tate House Museum
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www.tatehouse.org

Return Service Requested

New Tate House Logo Revealed

The Building Committee has been working to design a new THM logo to use in exterior signage. Many thanks go out to Burgess Advertising and Marketing for donating the total cost of the design work for this project. Meredith Burgess, Kathy Mockler, and Dan Routh worked with Building Committee Chair Mark Sengelmann to develop a logo to be used in improved directional signage for the Museum. THM appreciates this generous donation from Burgess Advertising and Marketing!

