Dear Members,

At long last I have completed the second issue of our newsletter. As I have much good news to share with you, I hope you will find the following of some interest.

REGARDING OUR NAME CHANGE

As you can see, our organization now has an official title, the 'Historians of British Art.' During the past academic year members voted overwhelmingly to call ourselves the Society of Historians of British Art rather than the proposed alternative, the British Art Club. However, many of you who voted for the former also noted that this title was too lengthy. Thus with the aim of satisfying the largest possible majority, HBA members who attended our meeting at February's Seattle CAA conference voted to shorten our society's name to its present title. I hope this meets with your approval.

CURRENT OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In addition to voting at the Seattle meeting to retain our four original officers for an additional year, we elected our first Board of Directors, consisting of Jack Brown, Julie Codell, Charles Doherty, Jody Lamb, Debra Mancoff, Duncan Robinson and John Wilson. Since that meeting this Board has approved By-Laws for our organization, and these are available to any of you upon request.

***GREAT FUN FOR ALL OF YOU***

A SPECIAL HISTORIANS OF BRITISH ART GATHERING AT THE YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART, NEW HAVEN

I am particularly pleased to announce that Duncan Robinson has very generously volunteered the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, as host of our first official gathering. Open to Historians of British Art members only, we hope you will find this meeting both socially and professionally rewarding and fun. HBA members at Seattle voted to hold this gathering on the weekend of this year's New York CAA annual conference, thus greatly cutting down on the expense of getting to New Haven.

Festivities will begin with a welcoming dinner at the Yale Center on Friday evening, February 18th. Saturday will be filled with social and professional activities, including introductions to the Yale Center's facilities and to the current exhibition, Toil and Plenty: Images of the Agricultural Landscape in England. To make certain your stay is as rewarding and interesting as possible, at Seattle we elected a committee to assist the Yale Center in planning this event, consisting of Julie Codell, Pam Curran, Jody Lamb, Duncan Robinson, and Michele Ryan. We will be sending you an official invitation and list of events in December. There may have to be a small conference fee, but if so we'll inform you in this invitation. If you have ideas concerning possible activities at our gathering, don't hesitate to contact any of us on this committee.

In the future I hope we will have yearly meetings independent of other activities, but this is a wonderful way to end a hectic week at CAA, as in New Haven you will be surrounded by British art and will be among friends who love to talk about it!

In order to help us plan for this special event, if you expect to attend the New Haven gathering (we realize your plans may be tentative), please write, call or fax me no later than November 30. Telephone: 1-800/766-8278. Fax: 614/593-0457.

URGENT!! MORE GREAT NEWS -- A CALL FOR PAPERS

OUR FIRST OFFICIAL AFFILIATE'S SESSION HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR THIS YEAR'S CAA CONFERENCE, NEW YORK

While this information is getting to you late, I hope some among you will rally to the cause of British art. While it has taken time for this to become official, I am happy to announce that this past week the CAA contacted me with the great news that in all likelihood we are about to become an official affiliate of the CAA. Among other benefits is the fact we get to hold our own
annual affiliated society group session. I have chosen as our session date that of Thursday, February 17, at 5:30–7:00 pm, as this date will allow some of you to fly in just the day before our New Haven HBA gathering.

For all of our future meetings, the choice of that given year’s conference topic can be a fair, democratic process, with any of you contacting a committee of your choosing with ideas about possible themes. However, for this 1st session time is of the essence, and a topic is currently needed. Fortunately, over the past few months while awaiting official approval from the CAA, I have imposed upon several of you for your advice as to a proper session topic. Thus the following theme has emerged, which I hope is broad enough in the right sense of the word for an initial session of a new professional organization.

SESSION TOPIC: BRITISH ART COMES OF AGE: THE STATE OF BRITISH ART TODAY

This session will address issues related to the current state of and/or attitudes towards British art and architecture today from the viewpoints of our members, which include professionals with a variety of perspectives concerning British art. For example, the following issues could be discussed:

(1) Within the walls of academia: Discuss the State of British art research in your field of study, such as ancient/medieval, Tudor/Stuart, Georgian, Victorian, Modern/Contemporary. Or, How are the attitudes of your students changing regarding the study or introduction of British art into their classes? How are attitudes of academics in other related fields changing regarding British art? (or, Are they Changing, and if not how can we change them?)

(2) From the viewpoints of conducting research or the professional librarian: How is the way we research British art changing, for example regarding computer searches and new databases, recently available archives, etc.?

(3) In the museum world: What are current attitudes within the museum world in the USA/England/ Continent (take your pick!) towards the holding or organizing of British art exhibitions, the purchase of British art, etc.? Is British art growing in popularity with the museum going public?

(4) Things Victorian and the general public: What does the current widespread interest in Victoriana tell us about current attitudes towards British art?

(5) Topic of your choice: Many of you can undoubtedly think of topics which address our discipline in far more significant ways than those listed above. By all means send in your proposed topic.

ABSTRACTS

While I realize you have little time, please mail or fax an abstract to Jody Lamb no later than MONDAY, OCTOBER 25. Because we must have vacated this room by 6:50 pm, we have just 1 hour and 20 minutes for this session. Thus we will not be able to accept more than 4–5 15 minute presentations. I will co-chair this session with Debra Mancoff. My address is Seigfried Hall, School of Art, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701. Our fax is 614/593–0457. Thank you.
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British National Health service coverage and certain other expenses are also covered by this stipend. Applications should be submitted to the Director, Yale Center for British Art, 1080 Chapel Street, Box 2120 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520 before January 15, 1994. Telephone 203/432–3822.

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART FELLOWSHIPS (one month in New Haven): The Yale Center for British Art offers a limited number of short-term resident fellowships to scholars in post-doctoral or equivalent research related to British art. The purpose of these fellowships is to allow scholars to study the Center’s holdings of paintings, drawings, prints and rare books and to make use of its research facilities. Fellowships include the cost of travel to and from New Haven and also provide accommodations and a living allowance. Recipients will be required to be in residence in New Haven during the Fellowship period. The length of stay is normally for four weeks. Information can be received by contacting the same New Haven address listed above for the Paul Mellon Centre Fellowship. The application must be submitted before January 15, 1994.

LEWIS WALPOLE LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP (one month in Farmington): The Lewis Walpole Library, a department of the Yale University Library devoted to 18th century British prints, paintings, books and manuscripts, offers a one-month fellowship to support research in its collections. The fellowship provides a stipend of $1,500, together with a modest travel allowance. A limited number of smaller research grants will also be available. Candidates for these awards may be of any nationality and must be pursuing an advanced degree or engaged in post-doctoral or equivalent research. For information write to Librarian, 154 Main Street, Farmington, CT 06032. Telephone: 203/677–2140. Fax: 203/677–6369. Application must be submitted before January 15, 1994.

III. OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

JOURNAL OF PRE-RAPHAELITE STUDIES — APRS is published semi-annually jointly by Arizona State University and Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. The subscription rate for individuals is $25 (USA) and $30 (foreign). Subscription inquiries should be addressed to Professor Judith Kennedy, English Dept., Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, PA 19530. Fax: (215)397–4633. Manuscripts should be addressed to HBA member and editor—in-chief Julie F. Codell, c/o School of Art, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287–1505. Fax: (602)785–8338. HBA member Debra N. Mancoff is Art History editor.

NEW JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART AND THE PAUL MELLON CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN BRITISH ART Both directors are pleased to announce the founding of the publication Studies in British Art. The 1st volume will be the proceedings of a session at the December 1989 conference Towards a Modern Art World “Art in Britain c.1715–1900.” This will be published in honor of Michael Kliban, who recently retired as Director of the Mellon Centre. This new publication will appear occasionally, with guest editors, and will generally focus upon specific topics.

A NOTE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS CONCERNING THE PAUL MELLON CENTRE — There are many reasons you should visit the Paul Mellon Centre when you manage to get to London. Dr. Brian Allen and his staff are not only extremely friendly but most knowledgeable concerning questions you may have about conducting research in London. The library at the Centre may also be useful, as it contains some 8000 books, periodicals and pamphlets covering the period c.1500–1900. The collection also includes nearly 4000 auction catalogues. The Centre continues to create an extensive Photographic Archive of British paintings, sculpture, drawings, and prints. This archive currently numbers over 75,000 black and white photographs arranged by artist. Some colour reproductions are included in this collection. Copies of many of these photographs are available upon request. Duplication prints from the Centre’s negatives are also deposited at the Yale Centre for British Art. More information on the Mellon Centre in the next issue.

NEW LECTURE SERIES: THE PAUL MELLON LECTURES — The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and the National Gallery, London is inaugurating a new lecture series called the Paul Mellon Lectures, which will be held biennially.
NEW DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY — Work has begun on a New Dictionary of National Biography, which is funded by a British Academy grant. The current 37,000 entries will be revised or rewritten and the number will be expanded to some 50,000 entries. It will be published by Oxford University Press. According to a recent AAH Bulletin (49) scholars are encouraged to suggest improvements which could be made upon the original DNB and can offer their services as potential contributors. (This information is courtesy of the Association of Art Historians).

THE WITT LIBRARY APPEAL — Due to recent severe University of London cuts, the Witt and Conway Libraries at the Courtauld Institute have launched a public appeal and collaborative fund-raising activities. To secure the future existence of the libraries, they are seeking an eventual endowment of 3 million pounds. For example, you can become a Friend of the Courtauld for 20 pounds or sponsor a Witt Box for 5 years (with your name on it) for 50 pounds. For details of how to contribute, write to John Sunderland. Witt and Conway Libraries. Courtauld Institute of Art. Somerset House. Strand. London. WC2R ORN.

Best Wishes,

Judy Lamb

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