

GLENSHEEN GLEANINGS



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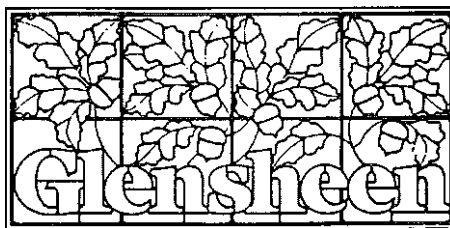
STAINED GLASS SHOWCASED AT GLENSHEEN

Glensheen's 1991 Spring Lecture Series will highlight one of the most striking decorative features used at Glensheen—its stained glass. Three lectures will explore various aspects of this fascinating topic. The dates of April 9th, 16th, and 23rd have been chosen for this series entitled, *Painting with Light – The Art of Stained Glass*. All sessions will be held in Glensheen's Recreation Room and will begin at 7:00 p.m. As a volunteer at Glensheen, you will be able to attend all three sessions at a reduced rate of \$13.00 (rather than paying the public's rate of \$15.00), making these programs a real bargain. Individual sessions may be attended at a cost of \$6.00. Reservations may be made by calling Glensheen at 724-8864.

Glass is one of the most versatile and rewarding of all art media, being both functional and decorative. The Phoenicians were the first to recognize the value of glass. Stained glass, one special type of glass, is really an architectural art which has its roots in the Church, beginning around the eleventh century A.D. By the fifteenth century, stained glass came within the reach of the middle class and began to be applied for other more worldly uses, becoming readily visible in domestic architecture.

Most people use the term "stained glass" rather loosely. Staining actually refers to a secondary process where additional color is added to already formed glass. The glass is painted with special pigments and then kiln fired to fuse the pigments with the superficial glass. Art glass is a more correct term for the types of colored glass windows which appear in most domestic architecture. Art glass refers to the traditional art of construction where many pieces of colored glass are joined together by the use of lead comes. But, to avoid confusion, we will bow to popular opinion and use the term "stained glass" in this more general sense.

A renewed interest in the traditions of stained glass occurred in the nineteenth century. Enthusiasm for the Middle Ages and the craft-



smanship done therein, was revived in England and America by the proponents of the Arts and Crafts Movement. William Morris was one of the most famous and most successful of these supporters.

Art Nouveau, an artistic trend in the late nineteenth century, provided a link between William Morris in England and Louis C. Tiffany in America. In the United States, architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Clarence Johnston, and others began to employ the use of stained glass for artistic effect in domestic architecture. Glensheen is a classic example of such use. *Painting with Light – The Art of Stained Glass* will explore several facets of this interesting topic.

Todd White is the first guest lecturer in Glensheen's 1991 Spring Lecture Series on stained glass. He will present this lecture/demonstration on Tuesday, April 9, 1991, at 7:00 p.m.

Traditionally, stained glass was held in place by a series of lead strips known as comes. At the turn of the century, another method of joining glass together was made famous by Louis Comfort Tiffany—that of copper foiling. Todd White will deal with this technique of joining glass. The copper foil method allows smaller pieces of glass to be used in the creation of a design, provides a better bond, and holds glass together longer than the traditional leaded come construction. In this lecture/demonstration, White will present an overview of the history of glass and will then piece and construct an original stained glass design of his own.

Restoration is the focus for the second lecture in this series to be held on Tuesday, April, 16, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. Glensheen is pleased to have Penny Perry, owner of Perry Framing and Stained Glass serve as our expert. At Perry Framing and Stained Glass, Perry regularly works with graphic design in the fabrication of new leaded glass windows as well as with the repair and restoration of old leaded glass. She has had twelve years of experience in working with glass plus a lifetime of appreciation for antiques. Her technique is modern but she includes elements which highlight traditional design and color combinations in her original works of art.

Perry will use a combination of slides, examples, and demonstration to allow her audience to obtain as much useful knowledge as possible. Chances for questions from the audience will be one valuable component of her program. Her presentation is broken down into five segments, the first of which covers period styles of glass design including pre-1800's through Victorian, Art Nouveau and Art Deco, to the present modern day. Next, she will discuss how materials can dictate design, while mentioning current tool improvements and the copper foil technique. Common repair problems such as individual pane breaks, warping, and bulging, plus lead came deterioration will also come under scrutiny. Tools and materials needed for repair work, coupled with a step-by-step method for repair and clean-up conclude this informative session.

Pattern making is another important aspect involved with the construction of stained glass. Kathleen Hedtke is the featured speaker for this session held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 23rd. She will be assisted by her husband, Reuel Hedtke. Kathleen and Reuel Hedtke are a husband and wife team who make stained glass windows for the enjoyment of others. Kathleen is the designer/pattern maker and Reuel is the glass craftsman. Their main inspiration for sub-

Director's Corner

Action on Glensheen's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is scheduled at the May 23rd meeting of the State Review Board. The University of Minnesota Board of Regents and the Duluth Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) will be given sixty days before May 23rd to comment on the proposed nomination. The Duluth HPC will probably hold a public hearing on this matter. A meeting notice will appear in the newspaper and a notice will also be posted in the Volunteer's room. It is the belief of the staff and the Glensheen Advisory Committee that Glensheen should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This summer there will be two major maintenance projects undertaken at Glensheen. The first one will involve replacement of the sewage pumps which are currently located in the northwest corner of the boat house. This system was installed in 1941 and is no longer reliable.

Because of deterioration of the existing collecting tank and because only one of the two pumps is operating, a new subterranean tank/pump system will be relocated outside the boat house. Excavation and installation will begin about the third week of May (weather permitting). The existing system will then be abandoned.

Work on the gutters of the main house, roof of the Breakfast Room and roof of the Kitchen Porch is also scheduled for this summer. These repairs should eliminate water seepage problems. Once this occurs repairs to interior walls and ceilings can be started.

No work will be done on the terrace this summer. It has been determined that not enough time exists to complete the job this summer. Consequently, water seepage will still occur in the subway this summer.

I am working with Dan McClelland (staff), Kevin Claus (UMD Plant Services) and John Stromquist (Paul Stromquist & Sons Inc.) to identify Glensheen's immediate and long term maintenance needs and to develop a program to approach the local community for donations/contributions to address these problems. More information will be shared with you as it develops.



Pat Browman is Glensheen's new Volunteer Coordinator.

DAYS GONE BY

by Betty Ketchum

Isolated by the violent night of Friday, March 22nd, the high winds, thunder, crashes of nearby trees, followed by daybreak with a chance to assess the damage, Saturday was a great time to give thought to a pleasant interlude earlier in the week. I said "isolated" and I meant just that—no telephone and still shaken by the storm. On Monday I had been to Glensheen to interview Pat Browman, now head of the volunteer service.

Thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the position, she previously had served for six months as interim coordinator after having been a volunteer there for seven years. In that time, she had developed a great love and respect for the estate. When Geva Lou Severinson retired Pat had thought, "This is one job I wouldn't touch." But, she stayed on and volunteered for Laura Davis and then acted as interim chief when Laura left due to her health. Once she had a taste of running the show, she applied and interviewed with four others for permanent coordinator. When chosen she was "simply delighted".

Pat was born in Owatonna, Minnesota, graduated from the local high school and attended the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph for a year. She met her husband, Sam Browman, marketing director for the Port Authority, at a high school dance. They have three children, now 32, 30, and 29. Pat refers to the time of diapers and wet noses as her "poor me" years. But she sees that also as a time of advantage, when the kids were so near of an age that they remain even today as each other's best friends. Daughter Jean, 32, is an accountant with three children, Sarah, 30, a beautician with two, and son David, 29, unmarried and in banking. Pat was always involved—den mother, PTA, committees, whatever was required of her.

Before coming to Duluth 12 years ago, the family lived in Burnsville for 11 years. It was when David went to kindergarten she was still fired up and started a day-care center in her home for pre-schoolers, usually five at a time. Since coming to Duluth she volunteered with the Bucket Brigade at Piedmont Elementary for three years, helping kids with learning difficulties. In playing simple games, they learned about numbers and money.

Then in 1981, Pat started with May Kay as a beauty consultant, which probably accounts for attractiveness and poise. This connection stresses time and money management, setting priorities and by speaking before groups, develops great self-possession. She can still handle both, as her position at Glensheen is four hours daily. She has helped with the training of volunteers and will be doing so again in readying for the summer and the surge of tourists. It is a real plus to have been a volunteer as she knows how docents feel and react. She makes all ages comfortable.

She goes to Welcome Wagon programs for volunteers, contact churches where notices for new training sessions will appear in their bulletins. When similar fliers have been sent to schools and where interest is shown, she will be available for interviews. Pat feels the proper docent training approach is to take three guided tours before embarking on as a head tour guide. Seconds or backup docents are still used whenever possible. Since "only one personality can shine", when a second is questioned it is proper to refer the question to the tour leader, suggesting other visitors might be interested also.

Any strange visitors? Well, yes. Recently a couple in their late 60's appeared. Beatnik in appearance, he wore a shirt unbuttoned to the waist, the wife equally eccentric in too youthful attire. He kept wanting a cigarette, she wanted to continue the tour, so he finally ducked out and came back only after attending to his habit.

On another tack, people have been getting better after having been clearly reminded of what touching does to the walls and fabrics. Damage is especially noticeable in the Reception Room, where the champagne-hued, silk-covered walls now have plastic covering the frayed cloth beneath. On one such occasion, Pat had just emphasized the problem when she espied a young woman in the doorway reaching out to stroke the silk portieres. Pat caught her eye and shook her head. It worked.

One day a group awaited one of her docents. Soft-spoken and ladylike, "I thought we might lose her." The visitors wore leather jackets and chains and the tour took off. When the girl returned she was beaming, said they had been polite, interested and asked intelligent questions.



Michael Lane, director, and Carol Chamberlain, curator of education, lead tours of the third floor and attic. These are regular, Monday-Friday at 9:00 a.m. Carol recently was gracious enough to take only one on a very private look-about. Normally there are 20 in each trip. During Christmas, brunches in the Dining Room were the draw for 50 each time. There was great enthusiasm for these events. Pat said Michael is very sensitive to the presence of the volunteers, and that when weather is tricky he insists they not come in when driving is hazardous, preferring rather to cancel the tours.

Now in charge of the program, Pat is not adverse to coming in Saturday or Sunday and taking over for a docent who couldn't make it. Recently she had a group of 20 which included a family with three youngsters who were, to put it kindly, lively. Since the parents chose not to notice, Pat took it upon herself to shepherd them along knowing that all the kids wanted was attention, she kept them ahead of her so as not to lose them along the way. At the end one of the visitors complimented her on her adroit handling of a potentially bad situation. Happy ending!

Fran Kartes came into the office while I was there. I knew she had been working on the lower level, as the halls shone and the air was sweet and clean. I sensed there was a comfortable exchange between the two with neighboring offices. Asking both, I learned that there has been surprisingly little lifted from the house. Once a doily disappeared from a small table in the Master Bedroom (Pat's favorite room), and another time a book came back in the mail (naturally no return address). And both Pat and Fran eagerly await the return of full force security (students from UMD), as both look forward to the tours of summer.

Glensheen gets under your skin. You feel such respect for the entire property—the mansion, carriage house, the gardens, the gardener's cottage. You can't fight a healthy tradition, nor would you want to. But as a docent, what you can do is share it!

Following the storm, Pat arrived to see if her services were needed. This help she volunteered. It is not added to the 20 hours she is paid to work at Glensheen. Pat truly exemplifies the generosity of a volunteer.

STAINED GLASS (Continued)

ject themes is fantasy and folklore along with floral and plant life. They will be presenting the topic of pattern making from the perspective of someone who is fascinated with creating designs for stained glass but who is not trained as a commercial artist—making pattern making achievable by anyone. Some areas of interest to be discussed are design choice, design layout, use of glass patterning and color, drawing strategies, and materials.

SPRING FLING ANNOUNCED

by Pat Browman

Hear ye!! Hear ye!! Set aside Saturday, May 4th for the 1991 Glensheen Volunteers' Spring Fling. Our first stop will be the historic Wilson Place in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

The original Wilson Place was built in 1859 for Captain William Wilson, founder of the city of Menomonie and the Knapp, Stout & Co. Company, once the largest white pine lumber company in the world. The carved mahogany staircase has been retained from the original homestead, a large, colonial style home built for the Captain.

In 1892, the house passed into the hands of Captain Wilson's daughter, Angelina, and her husband, James Huff Stout, founder of the Stout Manual Training School (the forerunner of the University of Wisconsin-Stout). They turned the home into a Queen Anne style mansion. The third generation took over the home in 1920. This was Captain Wilson's grandson, George W. La-Pointe, Jr. George showed that he was a man of good taste when he married a Duluthian, Irene Walker in 1916. They again did some remodeling. The home you will be touring is the result of that remodeling.



One of four raised lead glass windows dedicated to Mabel Tainter, namesake of the building.

We will be seeing furnishings and accessories from all three generations—items which have been retained at this site since 1846 and which reflect the rich luxury of lifestyles of the past. Touring is only the beginning. We will also be served lunch under tents at Wilson Place. Then, it's off to the Mabel Tainter Memorial, constructed in 1889. Hand stenciled walls, rich woodwork, gleaming brass fixtures, leaded glass windows, and an exquisite Steer and Turner pipe organ are the types of decorative details that we will be able to view. (Sounds like home—Glensheen, of course.) Designed as a center for recreation, education, and entertainment, the Mabel Tainter is a classic example of the opulent decor of the gay nineties.

The cost of buses, as well as other costs, have gone up and, for the first time, we will have to ask you to help defray some of the cost.

Glensheen will pay 2/3, if you will pay the other 1/3 which would be \$10.00 per person. We will be taking two buses, if we can fill them. This would accommodate 84 people. Seating has to be on a first come, first served basis. So, make your reservations and pay your \$10.00 (by check) early. Reservations will be taken no later than April 29th.

Set those alarm clocks and put on walking shoes. We will be leaving the Glensheen parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and returning by 6:30 p.m. I am really looking forward to making this trip with all of you. Bring your singing voices, too. If I start the rounds, we will all be singing bass.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DATES SET

The spring training sessions for volunteers have been arranged to fall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, depending upon the types of training desired. Beginning Thursday, April 4th, and continuing on April 10th, 18th, 25th, and May 2nd, all those volunteers who are interested in learning to be a house docent, second, room docent, day captain, or museum shop person, should come on these dates for training. Each session provides different information, all of which is critical to the understanding of the site, home, and furnishings. These sessions start at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Background information will be given, concepts explained, and skills developed so that one will eventually be able to successfully guide a visitor through the house.

Gardens and Grounds tour guide training will start on Wednesday, April 10th. (Please note that this is a combined session for both house tours and grounds tours people.) The other dates for this specialized training are April 17th, 24th, and May 1st. All sessions will run from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

1991 is the first year that Glensheen has offered both types of training together. This should make it easy for people to obtain a complete picture of Glensheen. Detailed formats of topics covered on the different days may be obtained from Pat Browman, Glensheen's Volunteer Coordinator. Experienced docents may want to attend a particular session as a refresher course. Everyone is welcome.

Volunteer Updates have been scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., and Thursday, May 9th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. All volunteers are expected to attend one of the two sessions. Important information concerning any changes in procedure, additions of new information, introductions of new staff, etc., will be handled at these meetings. By attending, you will learn what is happening at Glensheen. We look forward to seeing you in the Recreation Room at Glensheen in the merry month of May!

MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

by Susan Pearson

Next time you stop out in the Glensheen Museum Shop, you may notice some new items. We have developed a different Glensheen mug. This one shows the house from the terrace view and is done in brown shades on a medium beige background. These mugs sell for \$6.00 each. In addition, we also have a Glensheen lapel button. This shows the terrace view, too, and sells for \$1.25.

For those of you with a sweet tooth, we have added old fashioned caramels with a homemade look. If you prefer to stir up your own sweets, we now stock the Junior League of Duluth cookbook, Thyme For All Seasons. This group of ladies was originally called the King's Daughters Society, but in 1920, when Elisabeth Congdon was president, they became the Junior League of Duluth.

Over the winter, we added just a few new book titles. Porch, Lawn, & Cottage Furniture from 1904 - 1926, is an interesting presentation of popular casual furniture pieces — some of which you may still own. The American Country Home is informative reading material for all who are interested in the history of the more opulent American estates. We have several titles in the shop of books dealing with Victorian/Edwardian fashions. The latest one is entitled Men's Illustrated Fashions from the Turn of the Century.

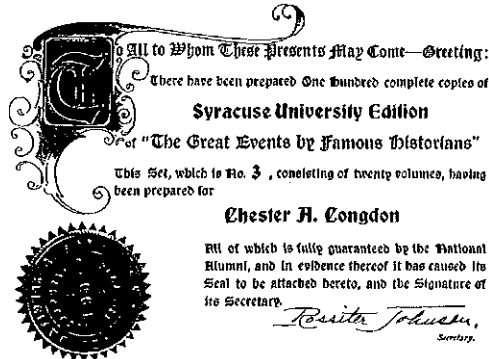
Be sure to visit the Shop during the summer months. This is where you might find many new books and other items that you may have missed seeing in the past, for which you now can find a use.

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 Glensheen
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HIDDEN TREASURES FOUND

How many of you know what it is like to open a book and discover hidden treasure? Several volunteers at Glensheen do. Volunteers who have participated in the book inventory are finding out many interesting things about the books contained in the Congdon's library. Several books are limited editions and some of them are true collector's editions with uncut pages. Some of these volumes contain notes and remarks written by a Congdon family member on their pages which provides another piece of information about the personality of that particular family member. A few of the books have signed, hand colored lithographs which have been used for illustrations. Even the Glensheen staff doesn't know what might be uncovered in these books.

It is still not too late to become involved in helping to register books at Glensheen. In fact, more people are needed so that Glensheen can get this registration completed in 1991. Individuals can work on registering books any day that staff is present at Glensheen. (This even includes Wednesdays.) Our thanks go to Marion Ario, Anita Soland, Holly Palvere, Ev Frazier, Mary Raymond, Cynthia Tonge, and Rose Kenisberg for being Glensheen registrars.



Docent's Corner

Docent Council is pleased to announce that the following persons have been elected to serve as Council officers for 1991. They are:

- Dorothy Andre President
- Joyce Fon Secretary
- Suzanne Hargis Sunshine

Congratulations go to each of these three persons!

Docent Council still has openings for membership. Docent Council is the group which serves as a liaison between the volunteers and Glensheen's administrative staff. The Council represents the volunteers' perspective. All Day Captains are automatically entitled to membership on the Council. However, each year, Members-at-Large are nominated and elected for office, to serve for one year. Members-at-Large are selected from the total volunteer corps. If you would like to serve Glensheen in this capacity or if you know someone whom you feel would make a good representative, give the name to Pat Browman. We can always use some good people — male or female.

The Sunshine Person, Suzanne Hargis, would like to ask your help. She will be sending card remembrances on behalf of Glensheen to those volunteers who get married, have babies, have a major sickness, have a death in their immediate family, and celebrate wedding anniversaries (25th, 50th, etc.). If you know of a volunteer who fits any one of these categories, please call the office at 724-8864 to notify us. Also, if you read in a newspaper or magazine about a Glensheen volunteer that has done something noteworthy and is mentioned in an article, please clip it out and bring it to the Volunteer Office. Docent Council is going to have a "News Box" in the Volunteer Office. Glensheen would like to keep track of all our special people.

