

# The Post Serial

Volunteer Newsletter of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens

Volume 18, Issue 1

Winter 2012

## THE STYLE THAT RULED THE EMPIRES

Dr. Scott Ruby, Associate Curator of Russian and Eastern European Art

*The Style That Ruled the Empires: Russian, Napoleon and 1812* (February 14—June 2 in the Dacha) commemorates in 2012 the two hundredth anniversary of the invasion of Russia. The exhibition has two main components. It first examines the historical story of the invasion of Russia in 1812, but it also looks at style, décor, and fashion in the period.

The first question to emerge in many peoples' minds is why did Napoleon invade in the first place? The answer is that Napoleon believed invasion would prevent Russia from being a serious future threat to the French. The idea was most succinctly expressed by Napoleon Bonaparte himself: "It is time to finish with the Northern Colossus [Russia]." He told a group of his closest aids to "push him back and to place Poland between him and civilization."

The story of the invasion is history writ large. To confront the Russians, Napoleon mustered the largest army Europe had ever seen—over 600,000 soldiers.

The exhibition begins with a selection of maps illustrating the invasion route and major battles and a selection of period Russian caricatures of the French.

From a private collection in Chicago, we secured loans of French and Russian arms and armor, a French cuirassier and helmet and other spectacular items.

The story of Russia's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars does not end in 1812. The Russians turned the tables on Napoleon and in 1813-1814 pursued him all the way to Paris and toppled him from his throne. By a stroke of luck the allied forces of Russia, Austria and Prussia captured sensitive French documents which described Paris as not well defended. Seizing the opportunity they marched full speed to take the city, which fell to allied forces in a single day. On April 6, 1814 Napoleon signed his abdication. Paris was taken!

The exhibition showcases many objects that celebrated this victory, including glassware to mark the occasion, and porcelain that extolled the Russian tsar, Alexander I.

Another major component of the exhibition and one which a decorative arts museum



Portrait of Tsar Alexander I  
Russia, early 1800's  
Stepan Semenovich Schukin (after)  
Oil

*Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973 (51.70)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hillwood Happenings.....	2
Program Updates.....	5
Mansion Rotations.....	5
Museum Shop News.....	6
Hillwood Archives.....	6
Department Profile.....	7
Perfume, Love Songs, Romantic Lighting: How Insects Communicate.....	8
New Exhibition Signed for June.....	8
Personnel Updates.....	9
Kudos and Calls for Volunteers.....	10



Vase with Scenes from Ovid's Metamorphoses  
St. Petersburg, 1810–20  
Imperial Porcelain Factory  
Hard-paste porcelain

*Bequest of Marjorie Merriweather Post, 1973  
(25.280)*

can best address is style during the period of the Napoleonic wars. Despite heated political tensions with France, the Empire style was popular in Russia too. Undoubtedly, its emphasis on opulence and antique themes were all desirable aspects for any state wishing to project an image of power and majesty. In fact the style's popularity in Europe was so pervasive that it is often difficult to tell whether an object was made in Paris, Berlin, Vienna, or St. Petersburg.

The characteristics of the Empire style included figures of *Nike* (Victory), wreaths, military helmets, eagles, trophies of weapons, oak, laurel, and olive leaves which were set against bold architectural elements. Luxurious materials were employed such as gold, gilt bronze, mahogany, and semi-precious stones and these materials imparted a richness and elegance to the pieces. The popularity of the Empire style made it a multinational vehicle for shared ideals giving a glorifying majesty to architecture, fashion, and the decorative arts.

Finally, from a private collection in Milan, we are able to temper the show's masculine overtones with two beautiful dresses of the period—one an evening dress and a French court costume, with exquisite accessories and detailing.

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## HILLWOOD HAPPENINGS

*All Hillwood volunteers are invited to take advantage of these tours, workshops and other activities. Please register in advance on the sign-up sheets on the clipboard in the Horticulture Building hallway or contact Bill Johnson at 202.243.3927 or [bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:bjohnson@HillwoodMuseum.org). Advance registration is not necessary for continuing education events in the Visitor Center Theater.*

*Continuing education sessions held in the Visitor Center Theater will be available online through Hillwood's volunteer website (<http://volunteer.hillwoodmuseum.org>) and Vimeo. An email with instructions will be sent once a session is available online.*

### **Volunteer Business Meeting**

**January 23** (Monday) at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Kate Markert, Executive Director, will discuss Hillwood's agenda for 2012 with the "State of the 'Wood Report." Learn about important updates for Hillwood this year, receive handouts (including your 2011 hours report and 2012 volunteer passes), and much more! (Visitor Center Theater)

### **A Day of Horticulture**

**January 24 (Tuesday) 10 a.m.**

Join us for a series of training sessions. We will begin at 10 a.m. and finish by 2 p.m. Bring your lunch and join us in the horticulture building break room for a short lunch break. Below is the lineup and approximate times:

#### **Shrub Pruning 10 a.m.**

Hillwood lead gardener Jessica Bonilla will provide valuable information on dormant shrub pruning. Jessica will also provide a brief overview of other pruning techniques—from thinning to extreme size-reducing rejuvenation.

#### **British Gardens 11 a.m.**

In the winter it is always fun to think about the next season. We can get away from winter with photogra-

pher and Hillwood volunteer Ann Stevens Kelly. She will share some of her best photos of gardens she has visited in the United Kingdom. Ann is known at Hillwood for her sharp photos and wonderful compositions.

**Lunch Break noon to 12:30 p.m.**

**The Hillwood Conifer Collection 12:30 p.m.**

The conifers really stand out in the winter and provide a lot of structure in the garden. Bill Johnson will provide an introduction to the conifers at Hillwood. Because of the many similarities among conifers, it can be difficult to distinguish between them we will take a closer look at some of the conifer groups. The hope is that when you drive home you may find that not every conifer in your neighborhood is a pine tree be difficult to distinguish between them we will take a closer look at some of the conifer groups. The hope is that when you drive home you may find that not every conifer in your neighborhood is a pine tree. (Visitor Center Theater)

### **Plant ID Walk**

**February 23 (Thursday) 9 a.m.**

**February 25 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.**

This plant ID walk will highlight the conifer collection at Hillwood. We will meet in the horticulture break room and hope for good weather.

### **A Morning of Horticulture**

**February 27 (Monday) 9 a.m.**

Join us for a series of training sessions. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and finish at noon. Bring your lunch if you want to join us in the horticulture break room to continue our conversations. Below is the lineup and approximate times:

**Historical Perspectives on Hillwood's French Parterre 9 a.m.**

Jody Fetzer, garden supervisor will share images revealing the history, the horror, the destruction, disarray, dusty design documents, mechanical underpinnings and, finally, the birth of Hillwood's small, tidy French Parterre garden. Hear stories about the cast of characters—the landscape architects—responsible for decades of design intrigue that began in 1935 with Rose Greely.

**Small-Tree Pruning 9:45 a.m.**

Join Marshall Paquin, certified arborist, to learn the basics of small tree pruning. This will be a Power Point presentation and time for questions. We will have a sign up for scheduling anyone that is interested in a hands on session in the garden.

**Starting Plants from Seed 10:30 a.m.**

When we grow a plant from seed there is a special knowledge that stays with us. In the garden we begin to recognize volunteer seedlings (garden plants that germinate on their own) that we have started which makes weeding easier. There is a lot of information that is very helpful when starting seed. Melissa Danskin, cutting garden manager, will share many of the details such as which media to use, germination rates, timing and much more.

**Terrariums from Arid to Moss 11:15 a.m.**

Frances Vanderbroucke will demonstrate how to create different types of small terrarium and dish gardens for your house or apartment. She will discuss container options, plant selection, planting techniques and how to mix the best planting media. During this step-by-step terrarium assembly demonstration there will be opportunities for questions. (Visitor Center Theater)



### **A Lifelong Love Affair: Marjorie Merriweather Post and Her Orchids**

**February 27 (Monday) 1 p.m. repeated 6:30 p.m.**

Throughout her life, Hillwood's founder Marjorie Merriweather Post was enamored with unique and beautiful things. While this passion is most frequently associated with her art collection, it also holds true of her love affair with orchids,

her favorite flower of which she amassed a large collection. Head of greenhouse and design operations, Jason Gedeik, explores Mrs. Post's love of orchids with evocative archival images and fascinating stories of how she incorporated them into her luxurious lifestyle. (Visitor Center Theater)

### **Hands-on Orchid Workshop: To Repot or Not?**

**February 29 (Wednesday) 1 p.m.**

Have you kept your orchid alive for a full year? Congratulations! Even with a successful monthly orchid care routine, your plant will benefit from some extra love and attention. Orchids need to be repotted every 1-2 years. Each type of plant requires different potting material and technique. Your plant will leave this workshop with a "good home" and reward you with years of gorgeous flowers. It's not as hard as you think! Bring one or two orchids from home, along with an unglazed clay pot to this hands-on workshop. Limited to 10. We will meet Jason Gedeik in the horticulture break room and then move to the work room in the greenhouse.

### **A Morning of Horticulture**

**March 12 (Monday) 9 a.m.**

Join us for a series of training sessions. We will begin at 9 a.m. and finish at noon. Bring your lunch if you want to join us in the horticulture building break room to continue our conversations. Below is the lineup and approximate times:



#### **Roses: diagnosing & managing diseases 9 a.m.**

Roses are often attacked by the same pathogens year after year. Once we know which fungi are coming, what can we do to minimize their effects? Jody Fetzer, garden supervisor, will answer these questions and more. You will be surprised to hear that milk and multi-vitamins can be weapons that help you fight this battle.

#### **Boxwood Culture and Pruning 9:45 a.m.**

Hillwood lead gardener, Jessica Bonilla will present an overview of boxwood culture including reliable cultivars and pruning tips. Find out how to protect yourself from Boxwood Blight and other pesky diseases and insects.

#### **Weed ID 10:45**

Hand's on class to examine broadleaf winter weeds (in pots), look for identifying characteristics, use books and other tools to aid with identification. Join us as we find out how to identify weeds, manage them and/or cook them.

#### **Sentinel Plant Network 11:20 a.m.**

What is it? How does it differ from the National Plant Diagnostic Network? What does this mean to those of us in public gardens? How can you play an important role? (Visitor Center Theater)

### **Plant ID Walk**

**March 21 (Wednesday), 9 a.m.**

**March 24 (Saturday), 9:30 a.m.**

This month's walk will focus on broad-leaved evergreens on the estate. Meet in the horticulture break room.

### **Field Trip**

#### **Textile Museum**

**March 28 (Wednesday) 10:30 a.m.**

Just in time for the cherry blossoms the Textile Museum will be opening an exhibition titled: *Woven Treasures of Japan's Tawaraya Workshop*. The dates are March 23 until mid August, 2012. The Tawaraya Workshop is the one that supplies the Japanese Imperial Household with all its traditional silks for their garments and furnishings. The exhibition will show some truly beautiful floral-pattern weavings. We will have a guided tour and an opportunity to view other exhibit with 12 contemporary textile artists who each have just created one-of-a-kind pieces, mostly artistic textiles, inspired by

some truly beautiful floral-pattern weavings. We will have a guided tour and an opportunity to view other exhibits with 12 contemporary textile artist who each have just created one-of-a-kind pieces, mostly artistic textiles inspired by Textile Museum historical textiles/designs/motifs. Please use the sign up sheet to receive more information.

### **Propagation by Division**

**March 31 (Saturday), 9:30 a.m.**

March is the perfect time to lift and divide garden perennials, before plants have a chance to leaf out. This class will be held in the garden, where we will dig up, divide, and replant perennials. We will also study different types of perennial plants. Meet in the horticulture break room.

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## **PUBLIC PROGRAM UPDATES**

Erin Lourie, Adult Audience Manger

The interpretation department is working hard to finalize public program details for 2012. Please visit the online calendar ([www.hillwoodmuseum.org/calendar](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/calendar)) for the most up-to-date program information, and more information about each program. Some highlights of the first quarter are included below.

On February 4, Hillwood will partner with Alliance Française to celebrate Le Chandelier, or Crêpe Day, for the second time! This program was a tremendous success last February, and we look forward to inviting families to celebrate this holiday in French fashion by eating crêpes and enjoying festive entertainment.

We will again host several partner organizations for wonderful concerts in late-February and early-March. DC's Different Drummers returns for their third concert on Saturday, February 11. On Saturday, March 3, the a cappella ensemble Not What You Think returns for their second concert. And on Saturday, March 10, Hillwood and the Friday Morning Music Club will celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that classical music ensemble and Mrs. Post's birth!

Jason Gedeik, now head of greenhouse and design operations, will infuse March with new energy as we once again celebrate Orchid Month for a variety of programs.

Keep your eyes peeled for exciting lectures and programs surrounding our newest exhibition, *The Style that Ruled the Empires: Russia, Napoleon and 1812*. The exhibition opens on February 14.

Save the Date: Fabergé Egg Family Festival will be held Saturday, March 31 and Sunday, April 1!

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*“Mrs. Post enjoyed highlighting her collection to Hillwood guests.  
The museum staff and volunteers continue this tradition...”*

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## **MANSION DISPLAY CHANGES IN FEBRUARY: SHARING THE COLLECTION WITH THE PUBLIC**

Estella Chung, Curator of American Material Culture & Historian

Whether showing long-time loved pieces, or something new, Mrs. Post enjoyed highlighting her collection to Hillwood guests. The museum staff and volunteers continue this tradition by changing the mansion displays to give frequent visitors an opportunity to see different objects.

Starting February 1, the Dining Room table will feature military plates on silver-gilt under plates, a seven piece Viennese table set and vermeil Gorham flatware. Likewise, in good form, the Breakfast Room table will don the Cuirassier Guards Regimental Service, double-headed eagle glassware and Gorham flatware.

The dressing closets will roar with styles from the 1920s, including black and green tulle dresses that have not been on display for 15 years. And naturally, 1920s shoes and fans will be on view to match. The nearby jewelry case will sparkle with Cartier amethysts and pearls, as well as Harry Winston's necklace and earring set in turquoise, diamonds, platinum,

and gold.

The Russian Liturgical Gallery has had an early debut of new displays, installed in early December 2011. Wheat, grape, laurel and olives in silver and gold-wrapped threads adorn the priest and deacon vestments selected by curator Scott Ruby for this rotation. Additionally, Scott Ruby chose a Good Friday shroud from the 1750-1800s as part of the new rotation.

In mid-February, the museum will be opening *The Style That Ruled the Empires: Russia, Napoleon and 1812* in the Dacha. This show commemorates the two hundredth anniversary of the invasion of Russia by Napoleon and will draw upon some of the spectacular pieces typically on view in the mansion, providing the opportunity to appreciate these objects in a special exhibition. This will mean that some new objects will be displayed in the Mansion, giving an opportunity for viewing some collections not normally on view. For instance, look forward to seeing selections from three different porcelain services in one case in the Russian Porcelain Room. More detailed information about all the displays in the Mansion will be forthcoming in late January for all volunteers.

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## MUSEUM SHOP NEWS

Lauren Salazar, Head of Merchandising

January is always a busy time in the Museum Shop. We complete our annual physical inventory. We then clean and re-work all the displays, incorporating new items as we go. When we reopen, the store will be sparkling and fresh. January is also the time when I travel to the New York Gift Fair to source products for the spring, upcoming exhibits and, as astonishing as it may seem, Christmas! This year I'll order items related to the exhibit *The Style that Ruled the Empires: Russia and France in the Age of Napoleon*, as well as many other new gifts and books.

*The Style that Ruled the Empires* exhibit will be well represented in the Shop. A shipment of reproduction Napoleon hats has arrived in the Shop ready for whatever event your style empire requires. If a smaller statement is more to your taste, we have Napoleon Bobbleheads (at right) ready to command small empires.

As we prepare for spring, many new items are arriving. For important occasions a sparkling assortment of tiaras are available. Just for children, *A Day in Paris Baker and Painter "Paper" Dolls* would make a fun gift. Two dolls, re-usable electrostatic sticker clothes and accessories come with a 2-sided stand-up scene of Paris. For crafty kids, Crepe Paper Flower kits in a variety of colors make for many hours of fun.

Upcoming events:

April 19 – 21 Kimono Trunk Show – choose from many lovely designs and an assortment of prices.

TBD Spring Boutique – jackets, jewelry and accessories for your spring wardrobe.



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## HILLWOOD ARCHIVES

Pat Lynagh, Assistant Librarian

It is the job of the Hillwood Archives to collect, preserve and organize the papers of Marjorie Merriweather Post and those of the institution so that future researchers can locate historical records easily. While the Post papers are of obvious importance, the institutional archives are a vital part of the Hillwood archival collections. They record important events in the history of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens during the transition from a private collection to a foundation, then to a public museum.

We have recently collected the papers of Roy Betteley and Fred Fisher, former directors of Hillwood, and Sandra Tucker, Fred Fisher's administrative assistant. Roy Betteley was director of Hillwood in the late 1970's and 1980's. Both Fred and Sandra were at Hillwood during the 1990's and 2000's. The job of organizing these papers has been a daunt-

-ing task. These documents include Post Foundation records, Board Minutes, the acquisition of Hillwood by the Smithsonian Institution, construction records, reopening events, zoning, neighborhood relations, exhibition history and general correspondence. It has been our job to determine which material to collect and which to discard, keeping only material that is relevant to Hillwood's past history as an institution and, in turn, to help to put the pieces of the puzzle together in order to create a documentary history of Hillwood as a cultural institution over the last sixty years.

As part of the 2012 Strategic Plan, we will create a new Records Management Policy for the Hillwood Archives so that we are systematically documenting, collecting and preserving the records of the institution on a regular basis.

Eventually there will be finding aids for all of the archival collections. These will be available on the Hillwood website so that they will be accessible to researchers here and worldwide. The archives collection is located on the third floor of the Mansion and is available by appointment (202-243-3953; 202-243-2934; [plynagh@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:plynagh@hillwoodmuseum.org); [kregina@hillwoodmuseum.org](mailto:kregina@hillwoodmuseum.org)). If you have questions regarding the Hillwood Archives, you may contact us by email or phone.

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## DEPARTMENT PROFILE: DEVELOPMENT

Betty Cochran, Newsletter Volunteer

In today's economy, one of the biggest challenges for institutions like Hillwood is raising the funds needed to maintain and expand the estate and gardens, the programs, and the collection. A major part of that responsibility falls to the three-person staff of the development department, located in the Butler's House.

Heading the department is Joan Wetmore, who arrived in February 2007 to become Hillwood's first director of development and to set up the development program. For ten years before that, Hillwood had only a one-person membership office, ably headed by Carol Owens Roberts.

Joan brought her talents to Hillwood from the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries, where she had been the manager of corporate and foundation relations. Joining her at Hillwood later in 2007 was Alison Cassels, who had been special events manager for the Freer and Sackler, she became Hillwood's first manager of corporate relations and major donor stewardship.

The third staff member, Rachael Horsman, also brings Smithsonian experience, from the membership office of the National Air and Space Museum; Rachael was hired in July 2011 as Hillwood's membership manager. The jobs of all three clearly intertwine, and they work together closely—"with lots of balls in the air at all times," Rachael says.

### **Breaking new ground**

The department can lay claim to a number of "firsts." Soon after her arrival, Joan expanded the existing membership program in several ways. A Corporate Membership was added, which offered recognition benefits to vendors that gave them valuable visibility in the community. She worked with the former deputy director of collections/chief curator, David Johnson, to establish the Collectors Circle, a special membership that raises money for acquisitions while offering its members exclusive programs. She added a reciprocal admissions benefit, which gives upper-level members complementary admission to hundreds of museums and public gardens throughout the U.S.

Working closely with the board, Joan also established the Advisory Council, whose members promote Hillwood to the community and build support for the museum. The first Annual Appeal was started at the end of 2007. From a modest beginning, gifts have tripled through generous donations from board members, managers, general members, and volunteers.

With Alison's arrival, the department began holding special events. "This is where Alison really shines," Joan says. "For example, she coordinated the first black-tie party at Hillwood since Mrs. Post was in residence." It drew terrific publicity for Hillwood and set a high standard for subsequent social gatherings here, Joan adds. The opening celebration for the *Wedding Belles* exhibition, which took place last June, was sold out, and tickets are selling quickly to Guns and Roses, a vodka tasting, that will mark the opening of *The Style That Ruled the Empires: Russia, Napoleon and 1812* on February 14.

Alison coordinates smaller gatherings as well. Last year she debuted a series of behind-the-scenes programs designed to foster closer relationships with the Museum by highlighting particular facets of Hillwood for groups of a dozen or so members. A curator might show some of the lace accessories in Hillwood's collection, for example, or closely examine a selection of porcelain objects that may not ordinarily be on view. Garden programs are offered as well, featuring the orchid collection, floral arrangements, or a special garden element.

Rachael, as the new membership manager, coordinates popular programs that have made Hillwood's membership program so unique. "Rachael dove right in the minute she arrived," says Joan. "She conveys the warmth and friendliness our members' value." The spring garden tour, seasonal parties, lectures, and receptions are educational, certainly, but also serve as meeting grounds where longtime friendships have been forged, she continues. As one enthusiastic member noted, "When I come to an opening or event at Hillwood, I feel noticed, I'm not just a face in a crowd."

### Close connections

A vital part of the department's functioning is how closely they work with every other part of Hillwood, from the Collections Division to the Communications Office, Interpretation and Visitor Services, Horticulture, and the Facilities Department and Security. Of course Executive Director Kate Markert, board members, and the Advisory Council are deeply involved. Volunteers are also a big part of the picture, providing help with events and programs. The department has a regular volunteer as well. Joan notes, "We couldn't manage without Marilyn Uveges, who helps us every week."

While the recession has affected funding—some of the government programs have been cut, and thus their contributions have been impacted—Hillwood's contributed income has grown, and the department continues to explore new routes of funding. "The Development Department is not even five years old," says Joan. "It's been wonderful to put this program together, and we're really grateful for the positive responses we've gotten."

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## PERFUME, LOVE SONGS, ROMANTIC LIGHTING HOW INSECTS COMMUNICATE

Jody Fetzer, Garden Supervisor

Insects communicate to woo a mate, warn a friend, lure their prey, or inform coworkers of a good place to eat—in short, for about the same reasons *we* communicate with each other. Insects may screech, scrape, dance, sing, beat a drum, become a guiding beacon of light, or just smell good in order to get their message out to their intended audience. And this audience utilizes some very innovative techniques to "listen." You might even say they listen with their whole bodies.

Insects have special hairs (trichoid sensilla) that respond to sounds or scents. Special chordotonal organs, located along the peripheral regions of the body of the insect or on antennae, are also used to detect vibrations and sounds. Tympanal organs of insects are perhaps most similar in structure and function to the human ear. They consist of a thin membrane over an air sac. The insect "hears" when the membrane vibrates. With the aid of tympanal organs, an insect can hear a wide range of sound frequencies, know the location where the sound originated and whether it comes from a friend or a foe.

Many insects are nocturnal and have developed special ways to communicate in the

## NEW EXHIBITION SIGNED FOR JUNE

Lisa Leyh,  
Interpretation Volunteer  
Manager

Painter and designer Isabelle de Borchgrave has been signed to exhibit a collection of historically inspired paper costumes at Hillwood. Isabelle de Borchgrave's unique work was shown at The Legion of Honor Museum in San Francisco last year. De Borchgrave's collection of paper costumes of Marie-Antoinette, Madame Campan, and their lady's maid, is currently on view at The Palace of Versailles. This is a permanent exhibition at the Palace of Versailles which opened in November.

Isabelle de Borchgrave's exhibition for Hillwood is slated to be on view in the Adirondack Building from June 16 through December 30, 2012 and will extend into the Mansion. In addition to loaning existing pieces from her collection, de Borchgrave will create six new paper costumes for Hillwood, including a recreation of Countess Samoilova's attire. More information on Isabelle de Borchgrave and the upcoming exhibition will be available to volunteers. In the meantime, please visit her website at [http://www.isabelledeborchgrave.com/en\\_home.php](http://www.isabelledeborchgrave.com/en_home.php) for a sense of her work.



Paper dress called "à la française" inspired by a dress from the *Collection Kyoto Costume Institute*  
Created in June 1998

Photo: René Stoeltie



the dark. Wearing that special pheromone perfume works well day or night. But to really impress a mate, bring on the flashing lights! At dusk, fireflies come out and the males begin cruising for a mate. Each particular species of these beetles has its own special flight pattern and signal of flashing lights. The flashes differ in length, in number of pulses per flash, and even in color and intensity of light. This light show resembles the Fourth of July fireworks: While males flash away above, females sit comfortably on the ground, watching. When a female feels sufficiently dazzled by a particular display, she will flash a friendly beacon so the male knows just where to find her and, usually, they live happily ever after.

Virtual habitat of fireflies

[https://www.mos.org/fireflywatch/images/virtual\\_habitat.swf](https://www.mos.org/fireflywatch/images/virtual_habitat.swf)

Conservation Kid's Page about fireflies

<http://whiteriverwatchers.org/FireFlies.htm>

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## PERSONNEL UPDATES

Nancy Brown, Director of Human Resources

### Communications

Molly Mathews, digital communications associate, is excited to join the Hillwood staff during this dynamic time. With an MA in Art History and Arts Administration, she is hoping that her strong museum background can help expand Hillwood's social media presence and contribute to the development of the new website.

### Collections Management

Lawrence (Ren) Waung joined Hillwood in mid-December as the head of exhibitions and collections services. Prior to Hillwood, Ren served as director of exhibitions operations at Savannah College of Art and Design. Waung formerly held management positions at Pace Wildenstein Gallery and Paula Cooper Gallery in New York City; the Mason Gross Galleries at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, among others. While pursuing a gallery/museum career, Waung also maintained active arts consulting practice with significant design projects in the United States and abroad.

### Visitor Services

Arthur Kim has been promoted to visitor services manager and will supervise the visitor services associate positions held by Brianna Wright and Suzanne Hollingsworth. He will continue with his Monday through Friday schedule.

This month, we say farewell to one of our Visitor Services Associates, Samantha Howell. While we hate to see Sam leave Hillwood, we are very happy to announce that she will be working full time at the American University library. We wish Sam luck in her next career step, and are currently working to fill this position.

### Finance

Douglas Rose has been named director of finance and began working on January 18. Doug has a great deal of non-profit experience and he worked previously at The Walters. We are excited to have him aboard.

### Security

We are pleased to announce that Adam Reza has been promoted to associate head of security and will be 2<sup>nd</sup> in command over the security staff under Jim Sellevaag. Adam will continue to work in the evenings and on the weekends, allowing continuity of a senior security manager throughout all times the campus is open to the public.

David Patterson will be moving to day shift and will lead the daytime operations as shift supervisor. The evening shift supervisor position vacated by David will be posted soon. The titles for David Patterson, Anthony Blakney and the supervisor taking the evening shift position will remain as assistant head of security. Please join me in congratulating Adam and David on their new roles.

## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS: FIRST FLOOR LIBRARY

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

Recent research has shed new light on Hillwood's floral displays. Though popular belief stated that Mrs. Post required red flowers to be on view in the First Floor Library to compliment the red sash in the Frank Salisbury portrait of herself, staff has confirmed that there is no such stipulation in Mrs. Post's will. With this new discovery we look forward to the array of beautiful floral arrangements that will now be on view in this space.

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## KUDOS AND CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Lisa Leyh, Interpretation Volunteer Manager

### Russian Winter Festival

Hillwood set an attendance record for Russian Winter Festival with over 1,400 visitors on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11. Making the festival come to life were 27 volunteers who graciously offered to spend their weekend assisting with the program. We truly appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedules to support Hillwood.

Thank you for helping make this festival a highlight of the season!

Reshma Ballie McGowan

Kristine Bender

Janice Brambilla

Mollie Ann Church

Kris Clark

Rosemary Coskey

Ana Filonov

Ken Garrison

Nina Gradia

Shirley Hart

Essie Horton

Natasha Jadan

Oksana Klebs

Kathy Lacey

Irene Malbin

Rosemary Rees

Isabella Riishojgaard

Delia Riso

Chris Ritthaler

Ann Scott

Kay Smith

Erica Stern

Lois Stratton

Kathryn Thoreson

Kevin Tomaine

Lois Topping

Kiska Williams

### Fabergé Egg Family Festival

This year's Fabergé Egg Family Festival will be held on Saturday, March 31 (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) and Sunday, April 1 (1 – 5 p.m.). Volunteer assistance will be needed in the Visitor Center, Mansion, and with special programming and activities. Please contact Lisa Leyh at 202.243.3938 or [LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org](mailto:LLeyh@HillwoodMuseum.org) if you're available.

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## NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to welcome two new volunteers to Hillwood. Joining interpretation is Carol McCoy and Elke Matthaeus in horticulture.

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