



The Burney Society UK Newsletter Summer 2017

Dear Burney Member,

Welcome to our new style newsletter. We plan to send one out every term and to include information about a wide variety of Burney events. We particularly welcome your Burney contributions for inclusion in future newsletters. These can be sent, along with any suggestions, to our email address burneysocietyuk@gmail.com

We have chosen for our heading two details from the stained-glass panel by Harry Stammers (1902 – 1969) currently at Juniper Hall, Surrey. Permission courtesy of Juniper Hall, photos by Alban O'Brien. The first image shows Frances Burney holding a copy of *Evelina* surrounded by family and friends, including Elizabeth Montagu, congratulating her on her first publication. The second shows Monsieur d'Arblay presenting his wife with a cabbage from the garden of their new home, Camilla Cottage. This panel was originally made for the Westhumble home of Stammer's brother, whose widow, Katherine, donated it to Juniper Hall in 1993.

Society Events

We are looking forward to our **Summer visit to the Regency Town House in Brighton on 17th June 2017**. We have space for any late bookings. Please email Miriam at burneysocietyuk@gmail.com.



The next AGM is on 7th October 2017 at 2pm at University of Notre Dame, 1 Suffolk Street, London, SW1Y 4HG. Daniel Waterfield will give the talk which follows the AGM. He is working on Burney and Catholicism.

2018 Symposium. We are very excited about plans to have a one-day Symposium at the Dr Johnson's House in Gough Square, London, in collaboration with the Johnson Society of London in Summer 2018. Further details to follow. We are hoping to have our Conference in Summer 2019.

Society News

Linda Bree has sadly resigned as Chair of the Society, so Miriam Al Jamil is now taking up the reins. We have a small but very active and enthusiastic committee, and anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. Our new Burney Fellow, Jodi Wyett will be researching at Chawton House Library in July 2017. More information about Jodi is available on her site: <http://www.jodiwyett.com/> We hope that there will be an opportunity to meet her and hear about her work. More details will follow.

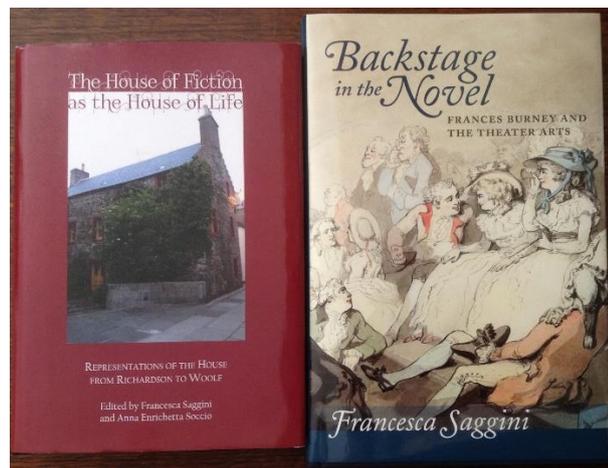
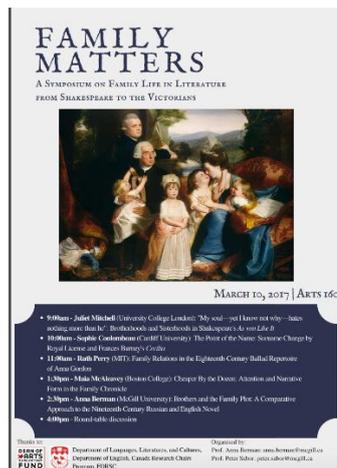
Burney Scholarship

This section will highlight recent and forthcoming events and publications related to Frances Burney.

The Bodleian Libraries invite you to a lecture by Lorna J. Clark (Carleton University, and Royal Bank of Canada Foundation Fellow at the Bodleian Libraries) **A family culture of creativity: 'Memoranda of the Burney Family'** 6 June 2017, Lecture Theatre, Weston Library, Oxford. 5.30pm — 6.30pm. Reception follows in Blackwell Hall, Weston Library. You can register for a free ticket using this link – <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2017/jun/burney-and-his-children>

'Changing names by Royal Licence and Frances Burney's *Cecilia*'

On 10th March 2017, Dr. Sophie Coulombeau (Cardiff University) delivered a talk at the symposium 'Family Matters: The Family in Literature from Shakespeare to the Victorians' at McGill University. Sophie examined how the popular practice of petitioning for a surname change by Royal Licence in late eighteenth-century Britain inflected Frances Burney's representations of kinship in her novel *Cecilia: or, Memoirs of an Heiress* (1782). The first part of the paper provided an overview of the scale and character of the controversial Royal Licence phenomenon from its inception in 1679 until 1800. Burney admitted that her whole 'End' in writing *Cecilia* was to 'point out the absurdity & short-sightedness of those Name-Compelling Wills.' The second part of the paper therefore read the novel as both a specific contribution to a topical debate about the ethics of surname change, and as a broader critique of the cultural imperative tendency to 'bind posterity' - which could be conceptualised in familial or political terms.



'From The Vaults - Frances Burney and the Tragic Muse'

On 13 March 2017, Professor Francesca Saggini (Università della Tuscia and Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge) delivered a talk at the Cardiff Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Seminar. Francesca presented her new research on Frances Burney's tragedies, drawing our attention to the contexts of their composition and production, and accounting for their poor reception in some fascinating new ways. A full report of this talk, written by a Cardiff University student, can be found here: <https://crecs.wordpress.com/2017/03/17/review-of-francesca-sagginis-crecs-talk-from-the-vaults-frances-burney-and-the-tragic-muse-13031/>

Burney Family News

The following information was sent to us from Mrs. Sheila Burney, and she is happy to share it with members, and would be even happier if anyone is able to throw any light on her branch of the Burney family history. If any of our Burney family members would like to contribute their own family anecdotes and memories in the newsletter, we would love to include them.

John Charles Douglas Ernest Burney, DOB 16.06 1922

'My late husband was John Charles Douglas Ernest Burney, DOB 16.06 1922, son of Douglas Burney, E, N and T surgeon, and his wife Elizabeth, nee MacDonald, who prior to her marriage had been Sir Winston Churchill's secretary for a short period, and the family lived until WWII in Eaton Terrace, Belgravia, London. He attended Rugby School as had his father, and was there at the same time as his two cousins, one of whom, Christopher, was later involved in SOE in WWII and after capture was held prisoner in Buchenwald which experience became the subject of his two books, the *Dungeon Democracy* and *Solitary Confinement*. My late husband was a Lancaster pilot during WWII and after being shot down in 1943 over Northern Germany was held prisoner in Stalag Luft III, Sagan in Poland. He often spoke of his family connections, mentioning among others Denistoun Burney, inventor of items including the Burney Car, and a naval ancestor, great grandfather perhaps, who was head of the naval college at Greenwich in London, also a Burney grandfather who played a significant role in the Battle of Jutland in WWI. I have recently moved to King's Lynn and discovered that there are Burney connections here with Dr Charles Burney and his family. For many years I had on my drawing room wall a print of a painting of Dr Charles with among others Oliver Goldsmith, Dr Johnson et al., this picture being, since my husband's death in 2005, in the possession of my stepson Jonathan who now lives in Stamford. I am not sure of the line of descent from that Burney family to my husband and would be very interested in any information with which you could furnish me.'

Burney Society Remembrances

Jean Kathleen Bowden (1930-2017)

The following are remembrances of Jean, a significant contributor to the Burney Society, who sadly died this year.

David and Janet Tregear, former Secretaries of the Society write:

'We first met Jean at the Westminster Conference of the Burney Society in 2001, having joined the Society a few years earlier at the suggestion of our friend Paula Stepankowsky. Although we knew Jean was wanting to retire from the office of Secretary/Treasurer to the Society, we had not entirely foreseen succeeding her in this capacity. However, in going to her cottage in Selborne to collect papers and records (all in completely good order) to start official tasks, we quickly realised hers would be a hard act to follow. Jean had established personal contact with nearly every one of the Society's members, and this we tried to continue through the 8 years we undertook those duties, during which Jean was always of help where needed and, when her health allowed, ready to join the Society's activities.

At her funeral in January 2017, the 900year old church at Selborne was crowded with a host of Jean's friends from the village, and the two other main interests in her life: Kew and Jane Austen's house. Before she retired from an important secretarial role at Kew Gardens (during which Jean made significant contribution to taxonomic cataloguing) she also researched and wrote *John Lightfoot, his Work and Travels, with a biographical introduction and a catalogue of the Lightfoot Herbarium* published in 1989, and authoritative and original study of the author of the first *Flora Scotiæ*.

After Kew, Jean retired to a lovely old cottage in Selborne, but mostly lived at Jane Austen's house in nearby Chawton, where she had become curator, and keen advocate for all associated literary connection, and everyone involved, including Fanny Burney. Back at Selborne, Jean joined village life with energy and enthusiasm, often finding the right person for local tasks, where others had given up. When her eyes eventually failed, Jean was, in her turn, greatly helped by friends in the village.'

Paula Stepankowsky writes:

'Jean was essential to the founding and growth of The Burney Society in North America and in the United Kingdom. As curator of Jane Austen's House in Chawton, Jean became more involved in the activities of the Jane Austen Society of North America in 1990, when Paula Stepankowsky, then the new of JASNA News, asked Jean to write a semi-annual "Letter from Chawton" for the newsletter. Jean began attending more JASNA meetings and, as a result, she was present at a dinner in New Orleans in 1994 when the Burney Society was formed. The dinner took place before the beginning of the JASNA meeting that year, and the 22 attendees were there because they believed that there should be more support for the study and appreciation of Frances Burney, whom Jane Austen herself greatly admired.

Since the society was small to start, those in attendance agreed that there should be joint leadership and publications between the UK and North America until such time as membership grew to support two separate societies. Jean agreed to take on the key role of secretary-treasurer for the UK branch, in effect managing organizational and financial details for the UK. She was instrumental in the early years of the society, setting up meetings, recruiting volunteers, writing articles for The Burney Letter and helping to organize major campaigns for the society.

One of the largest projects she undertook was to organize the conference associated with dedicating the window to Frances Burney in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey. After five years of work, the conference and dedication were held on June 13 and 14, 2002, 250 years to the day of Frances Burney's 250th birthday. As was usual with Jean, the conference was meticulously organized and very successful. Other projects she worked on included the restoration of the d'Arblay family monument at St. Swithin's Church, Walcot, in Bath. Jean continued to participate enthusiastically in the activities of the society after she had retired from her position and turned it over to David and Janet Tregear. Without Jean the UK Burney Society would not exist. She will be greatly missed.'

Finally

We want to encourage mutual contact with other literary societies, especially The Johnson Society with which we have always had strong links, so can include information from them in the future if members wish.

The Burney Society UK have re-joined *The Alliance of Literary Societies*. We feel it is important to represent ourselves there to keep Frances Burney's name among the literary greats. We will add Society events to their lists in the future. We hope to see Burney members at an event soon. Meanwhile, enjoy Summer!



Juniper Hall Panel Detail: Fanny Burney handing a fan to Queen Charlotte.