

Burney Society UK Newsletter Summer 2021

Peter Ilsted (1861–1933)
At Havedoren (In the Garden Doorway) detail. 1913
Mezzotint on paper
Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, 3034
(The Elizabeth Burney Bequest 2018)



Dear Members,

We hope all Burney Society members are well as we rapidly approach the final days of summer. We have a newsletter full of news and reading matter once again.

The most important news is that we have our online zoom AGM and talk coming up on Saturday 4th September at 2.00 p.m. BST and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Read on for more details.

We are delighted that we have a new co-opted treasurer to introduce to you, long-time Burney member Miss Kerra Soker. You can read her message in this newsletter.

We are pleased to announce that our Bursary 2021-2022 has been awarded to Catherine Pollock.

We are working on plans for our 2022 conference which we hope will be in person in central London. There are reviews about other conferences which took place this year on zoom, and an article about Elizabeth Burney's art collection which she bequeathed to Pallant House Gallery in 2018.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, you will find the form at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes to all,

Miriam & Burney Society UK Committee

2021 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 4 September 2021 via Zoom at 14:00 BST (GMT +1)

Due to continued uncertainties and popular request, we have decided to hold the AGM online again this year.

The waiting room will open at 13:30 with the AGM commencing at 14:00. Zoom invitations will be sent out to all members immediately prior to the event. We have arranged two excellent speakers. They are Professor Maurizio Ascari and Miriam Heard.

Members will receive a Zoom invitation on Friday 3 September. If for any reason this does not arrive, please email us at ukburneysociety@gmail.com

Non – members are welcome at the AGM and the lectures however they will be unable to vote. Non-members who wish to attend should also email ukburneysociety@gmail.com to request a Zoom invitation prior to Friday 3 September.

The AGM Agenda and Minutes of the AGM 2020 and the Extraordinary General Meeting 2021 will be emailed directly to members by 24th August 2021

Any Agenda items members would like to raise should be emailed by Friday 20th August to ukburneysociety@gmail.com

A Letter from Miss Kerra Soker: Proposed Treasurer

Dear Member,

I am delighted to submit my interest in taking up the role of Treasurer of The Burney Society and hope to make a contribution to a society that's very close to my heart.

With an amateur interest in history and literature, and with a wish to explore the 18th Century, I have been a member of The Burney Society for over 15 years, joining through the connection with Dr Johnson. I am always particularly interested in female high achievers who have made a vast contribution to society as a whole, and the opportunity to help promote the work of the writer Frances Burney would be a privilege.

A Londoner, living by Regent's Park, but having grown up in Weybridge, Surrey, I attended Wimbledon High School going on to become a Secretary. I have worked in the City including ten years in corporate banking and in insurance, whilst undertaking vocational exams. Currently I am a School Secretary in an independent Prep School, and hope to transfer my finance and administrative skills for the benefit of The Burney Society.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and I sincerely look forward to hopefully working with you all to support The Burney Society as your Treasurer.

Kind regards,

Kerra Soker



Burney Society UK 2022 Conference

Saturday 11th to Monday 13th June 2022



This is planned for Saturday 11th to Monday 13th June 2022 in London, to correspond with the twentieth anniversary of the unveiling of the stained-glass window to commemorate Frances Burney at Westminster Abbey in poet's corner. To conclude the conference on Monday 13 June we will visit Westminster Abbey for a commemoration of the Frances Burney window and Evensong, for those who wish to remain. During the conference we also plan to visit the library of St Bride's Foundation, which houses the important catalogue listing which Simon Macdonald used to confirm Elizabeth Meeke as a Burney. Further details will be made available in future mailings and on our website.

We hope to arrange additional visits in the week following the conference as optional extras which may be of interest to Burney members, such as to Chawton House, and to the Weymouth area to trace Frances Burney's 1789 journey as attendant to Queen Charlotte. Details will be made available closer to the date.

It would be extremely helpful for our planning process if people interested in this conference would email us with a no commitment statement of possible attendance, including whether you require London accommodation, via ukburneysociety@gmail.com

This Year's Bursary Winner

We are very pleased to announce that the Burney Society UK Bursary this year has been awarded to Catherine Pocock. Catherine is currently completing her PhD at the University of Sheffield, having gained a degree in law, with French law and language, from the University of Leicester, and a Masters in Intellectual Property Law from Queen Mary, University of London. Her special area is copyright law and she is bringing this legal expertise to bear in her proposed study of Burney's publishing experience: 'Frances Burney D'Arblay: a case study of women's publishing experience in eighteenth-century Britain.' She plans to explore Burney's relationships with her publishers in detail from a feminist legal perspective, drawing on the letters and journals as well as surviving legal documentation in various archives and to compare Burney's experience with other women writers of the day such as Frances Sheridan, Hannah More and Mary Wollstonecraft. We wish Catherine every success in her research, and look forward to hearing more of her work in due course.

Gillian Skinner, Bursary Co-ordinator

The Elizabeth Burney Bequest to Pallant House Gallery

by Miriam Al Jamil

In 2018, we featured a short obituary of Elizabeth Burney, a valued member of the Society for many years, and regular attendee of our events. However, we knew nothing about her extraordinary bequest of twenty two works on paper to Pallant House Gallery in Chichester until very recently. Sadly, we missed the special display of a selection of these works which was mounted in 2019 to mark this occasion. The flyer for this, see below, notes:

'Elizabeth Burney (1934-2018) was probably too modest to regard herself as a collector, yet she amassed an impressive collection of artworks that revealed a fascination with – and compassion for – humanity'.

<https://pallant.org.uk/media/the-elizabeth-burney-bequest/>



The range of works in the bequest covers the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and includes artists from Europe and Japan. If a collection can reflect the personality of the collector, it certainly points to the quiet and thoughtful person we knew. The recent Pallant House exhibition 'Degas to Picasso: International Modern Masters' (until June, 2021) included several works from Burney's bequest which were a joy to see, and I am sure others will feature in future exhibitions there so members might like to keep an eye on the listings.



Peter Ilsted (1861-1933)

Girl Sitting at a Table, 1909. Mezzotint on paper
Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, No. 3033.
(The Elizabeth Burney Bequest 2018)

Station 9 and 28 from *Fifty-three Stations of the Tōkaidō* (1834-5) and three beautiful introspective Peter Ilsted mezzotints from between 1909 and 1920 were shown among Impressionist and early twentieth-century works. Her copy of Marc Chagall's 1957 lithograph *Le Coq Rouge: The Red Rooster* has local Chichester resonance, since his magnificent stained glass window commission was unveiled in the Cathedral in 1978.

This exhibition showed works from the Gallery collections which spanned French Impressionism to American Abstract Expressionism. Burney's 1883 drypoint etching by Camille Pissarro, *Côte Sainte Catherine, à Rouen*, her woodcuts by Utagawa Hiroshige, Burney's 1922 etching by Georges Rouault, *The Condemned is led away* and Käthe Kollwitz' 1905 *Study of a Woman with Head Bent* joined other works reacting to the social and political crises unfolding in early twentieth-century Europe.

Käthe Kollwitz, (1867 - 1945)
Gesenkter Frauenkopf/Study of a Woman with Head Bent, 1905. Soft ground etching on paper
Pallant House Gallery, Chichester, 3037
(The Elizabeth Burney Bequest 2018)



Burney clearly chose her works of art for their expressive human narratives, for the emotion best conveyed in image rather than word. Her own career and particular interest in social injustice and reform is discussed in detail in an article by the Director of Pallant House, Simon Martin, here:

[file:///C:/Users/Miriam/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(MiriamPC\)/Downloads/ElizabethBurneyBequest Magazine%20Article%20No.47%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Miriam/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(MiriamPC)/Downloads/ElizabethBurneyBequest%20Magazine%20Article%20No.47%20(1).pdf)

The Press Release by the Gallery in 2019 is here:

[file:///C:/Users/Miriam/Dropbox/My%20PC%20\(MiriamPC\)/Downloads/PRESS%20RELEASE%20The%20Elizabeth%20Burney%20Bequest%20at%20Pallant%20House%20Gallery%20FINAL%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Miriam/Dropbox/My%20PC%20(MiriamPC)/Downloads/PRESS%20RELEASE%20The%20Elizabeth%20Burney%20Bequest%20at%20Pallant%20House%20Gallery%20FINAL%20(1).pdf)

We were lucky to have had Elizabeth Burney as a member. She was proud of her family connection with the Burneys and we now know more about her personal interests as expressed through her collection. I hope members will be able to see more of these works for themselves in the future.

Members News

Many of you will remember Sian Ejiwumi-Le Berre's radio play about Frances Burney and Germaine de Staël which we featured in our Spring 2020 newsletter and which she talked about at our 2020 AGM (See her script on our website).

Her new radio adaptation of 'Dangerous Liaisons' will be broadcast on Radio 4 on 29th August 2021, with the second episode on 5th September. Look out for the scheduled times on the BBC website. Definitely a date for the diary.

The Burney Society NA Conference; 5-7 July, 2021

Review by Miriam Al Jamil

The July 2021 online conference replaced that planned 'in person' for 2020 and although everyone missed the convivial aspects that characterise such Burney events, we were able to enjoy some excellent presentations and discussions.

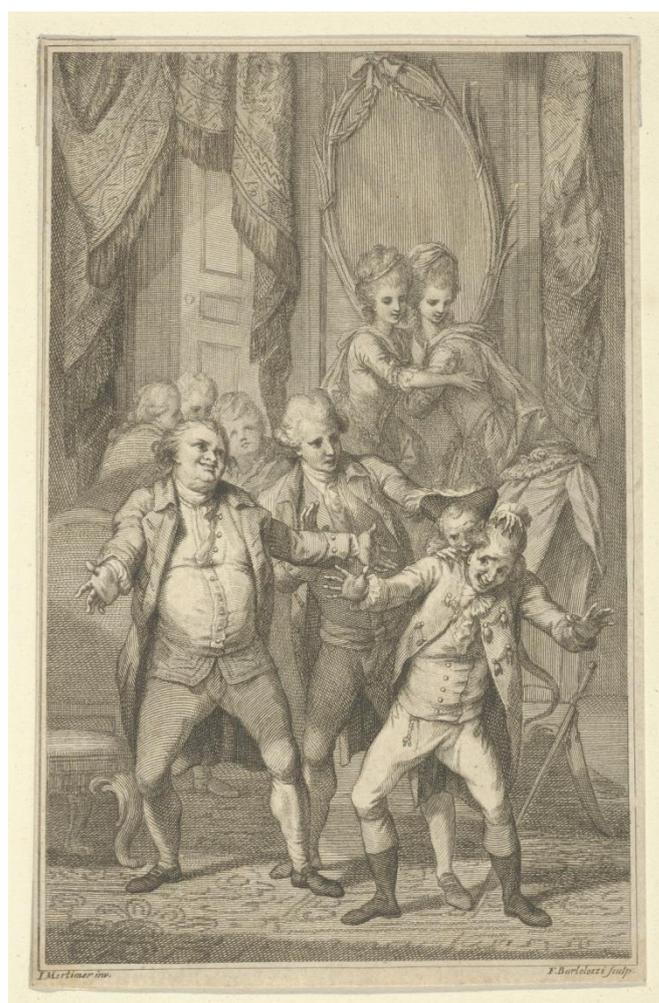
Francesca Saggini's opening plenary "'Tell all the truth but tell it slant": Reading Frances Burney Against the Grain' and the discussion that followed explored the intriguing proposition that building a house and writing fiction have much in common. Many people can live in a book, and as an unstable signifier a house has different meanings at different times. Frances never actually owned a house of her own. She claimed as her own the small Observatory which survived in the roof space of Newton's house in St Martin's Street where the family lived in London, a 'nest' where the scientific and literary imagination converged. Camilla Cottage was a place with profound personal significance for the d'Arblays, a place where writing became Frances' true profession, where the books she owned combined to indicate different strands of her emotional and practical life there, *Paradise Lost*, *Rasselas*, *The Gardener's Dictionary*.

The panel 'Re-assessing Frances Burney and Burney Criticism' followed. Tara Wallace outlined a critical history of Burney studies, beginning in the 1980's. Though there were few dissertations on Burney before Joyce Hemlow's 1972 edition of the *Journals and Letters*, in the last decade there have been 27, and 142 publications up to 2020. Wallace pointed out that Burney cannot be seen as a minor British novelist now. Alex Pitofsky examined the scenes of violence in *Evelina* which have provoked many different responses: the treatment of Madame Duval and the monkey's attack. He suggested that although Evelina herself and Orville were complicit in that they did not prevent or condemn the incidents, Evelina's reactions demonstrate how she had developed from a fragile and inexperienced young woman to a confident and calm observer of events.

Francesco Bartolozzi

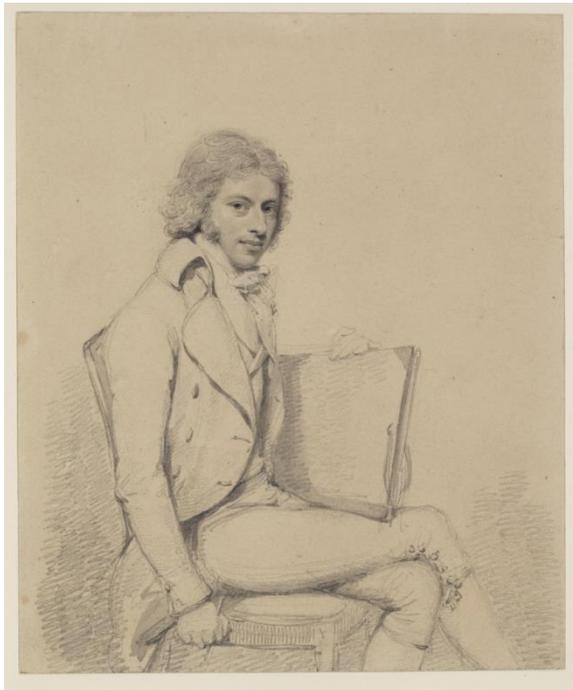
Frontispiece for Fanny Burney's "Evelina": Mr. Lovel Bitten in the Ear by Captain Mirvan's Monkey, vol. III November 24, 1779

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/37662>



Jodi Wyett, a previous Bursary winner of the Society, spoke on Frances' sympathy and devotional habits, focusing on her unpublished MS book titled *Morning Prayers*, the personal reflections and prayers which appear to have given her solace during her Court years. Paula Stepankowsky completed the first day by giving a history of her own Burney reading and a fascinating account of how the Society formed and the campaign for the Westminster Abbey Burney window developed. We hope to see Paula at our conference next year when we will be celebrating the results of that campaign.

The second day of the conference broadened the focus to 'Other Burneys'. Sophie Coulombe discussed Charles Burney Jnr. and his 'exile' to Aberdeen after his book thefts in Cambridge led to his disgrace. We learnt something of his anxieties and strategies to deal with the loss of his support network, and these centred on his use of *Evelina* to claim for himself a new circle, though he continued to be a logomaniac, book thief and defacer of texts. Geoffrey Sill outlined another Burney family 'disgrace' in his paper on James Burney's naval career. Sill proffered explanations for the mysterious shameful incident to which Frances referred in her journal.



Teri Doerksen gave a close reading of one of Edward Francisco's four satirical watercolours, 'Elegant Academy', and pointed out complex visual connections which show the girls depicted as both trap and trapped, flying from their cages or lured to different snares by deception.

Portrait of Edward Francisco Burney, book-illustrator and painter; three-quarter length seated to right, eyes to front, portfolio on knee. Graphite, touched with grey wash.

Museum no: 1867,0413.528

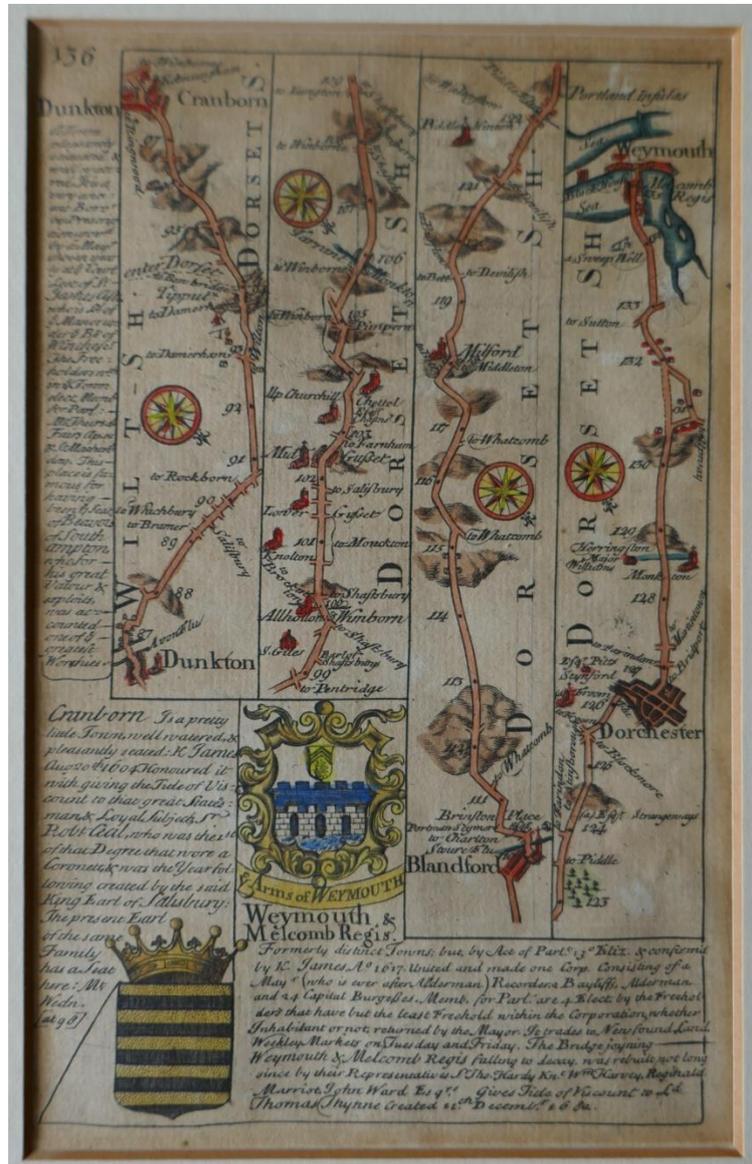
© The Trustees of the British Museum

Danielle Grover turned to Sarah Harriet's novels to identify her interest in and sympathy with other cultures and races, and the space created for black characters and musical performance which is unique among other writers of the period. The final panel centred on Charles Burney. Devon Nelson pointed out his wish to see the evidence for himself during his European tour which resulted in his monumental *General History of Music*, and Morton Wan focused on Burney's doctoral composition and efforts to found a School of Music at the Foundling Hospital.

The final day gave us a panel 'Re-viewing Burneys Through New Lenses'. Alicia Kerfoot treated us to a fascinating investigation of needlework in Burney's novels and journals, though she confirmed that although Burney did not hate sewing, she preferred reading and writing.

Trudie Messent presented a visual feast of prints and maps to accompany her paper on the trip to the Weymouth area by the Court in 1789, during which Frances' exclusion from events impacted heavily on her emotional well-being.

The final paper by Svetlana Kochkina investigated the Court years through Network Analysis which indicated the differences between Frances' actual interactions with people and her thoughts and writing about them. In 1788 she felt very isolated but Kochkina has identified 800 'interactions' or thoughts about 99 individuals during that year. Her paper brought us up to date with current research tools which can sharpen our understanding of Burney Studies in new and exciting ways.



Eighteenth-century Linear Route map from Chichester to Weymouth
Reproduced by courtesy Trudie Messent

The conference was replete with a variety of insights and approaches and our thanks go to all participants and organisers for such an enjoyable three days.

Adventurous Wives in the Long Eighteenth Century 14th-15th May, 2021

Conference report by Miriam Al Jamil

This event, postponed from 2020, was impeccably organised, congenial and thought-provoking. The pre-recorded papers for fourteen panels, as well as keynote, roundtable and zoom performance were available for a short while afterwards to watch on Youtube. There was certainly a wider range of topics than might at first come to mind from a consideration of the theme. The wives we met were global and travelling, working and litigious, radical and scandalous. Their agency in the public sphere and their conformity or otherwise to moral expectations, both as real and literary characters, were addressed in different forms throughout the conference. The discussions resonated, directly or indirectly, for Burney scholars and suggested many angles from which to reassess and contextualise Frances' life and work.

I offer here a few thoughts from a selection of papers. Joanne Begiato's keynote on the first day, 'Virtuous, Vicious, or Victimized? Wives in the eighteenth century and why they matter' set the scene with a wide-ranging overview of women's status as agents of knowledge and intellectual debate, and as political and economic actors in both the public and private sphere. Women were not just subordinate or submissive, but acted creatively within the bounds of patriarchy.

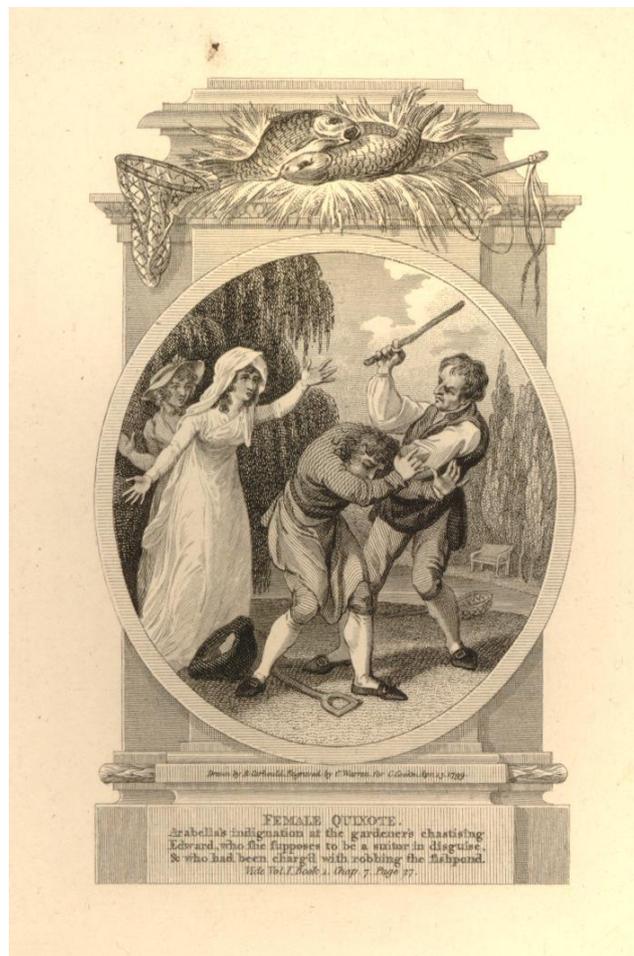
Miriam Borham-Puyal, in 'Educating the Quixotic heroine: Wives as Models and Warnings in Eighteenth-Century Narratives' examined the interesting transition that was expected when a woman became a wife. The 'brief moment of quixotic madness' which the character Arabella displays in Charlotte Lennox's *The Female Quixote* is assumed to disappear when she marries. Marriage is an antidote to the young quixote's liminal journey but the domestic space occupied by the ideal wife, far from completing her narrative, is itself a new opportunity for disseminating moral authority gained by experience.

After Richard Corbould, illustration to the 'Female Quixote', from 'Cooke's Pocket Edition of Select Novels'. 1799

Etching and engraving

Museum number: 1863,0214.388

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Wives gain social and political significance as models for young readers. Sijie Wang's paper 'Matrimony, Mobility: Moll Flanders' Adventurous Reconstructions of Power Relations' looked further at the use of the term 'adventures' in the quixotic life of Moll Flanders and her five marriages, though the decorum traditionally expected of a wife ironically implied no adventures at all.

New research revealed hitherto unexplored aspects of the status of wives on a global stage, such as David Worrall's detailed work on 'Wives as Slave Owners: Elite Women in Drury Lane Theatre Audiences, 1814'. Using the important resource of Legacies of British Slavery at UCL, he has identified the wealthy owners of box seats at the theatre who applied for compensation after slavery was abolished. <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/> Anna Fitzler's paper "'We none of us expect to be in smooth water all our days": Wives at sea in the Age of Austen' presented interesting facts about the wives of officers who the Admiralty allowed to accompany their husbands, but whose names were not registered and so they didn't officially exist. The practical difficulties of such a life would have been known by Jane Austen (and Frances Burney) and informed her novel *Persuasion* in particular. Trudie Messent's paper "'I expect soon to take my leave of my friends, my kindred and country and to spend my days among strangers in a strange land": The adventures of Missionary Wives in the long eighteenth century' broadened the travels of wives to Pacific islands where they bravely endured the hardship and uncertainties of missionary life.

We learned about the adventures of many individual wives, both celebrities and less well-known in the archive. Elaine Chalus outlined in her keynote the resilience and adaptability shown through the diaries of four women: Charlotte, Lady Lovelace (d.1749); Frederika, Baroness de Riedesel (1746-1808); Winnifred, Lady Nithsdale (1672-1749); and Priscilla, Lady Burghesh (1793-1879) and suggested that they were all changed by their experiences. They saw their role as a dutiful wife and subject with unerring confidence that God was on their side. The determination to win their legal cases and have justice prevail formed the subjects of Blaithe Hurley's paper 'For Valour or Victory? The exceptional Case of Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork and the Widow Blacknall' and of Sarah Ailwood's 'The Impartiality and Wisdom of my Judges; The Legal adventures of Mary Bowes, Countess of Strathmore', the much-abused wife who might be more familiar through Wendy Moore's book *Wedlock*. What emerged from many papers was that women learnt how to negotiate and overcome systems designed to keep them passive and powerless. The ideal role of the virtuous wife did not preclude her from circumventing the rules and asserting her rights.

A roundtable concluded the conference, during which Sophie Coulombeau challenged the recent campaign to 'Reclaimhername', which was formed to reinstate the given names of many women writers who published under pseudonyms. She suggested that the assumption that anonymity did not represent the wishes of the author is a false one and that authors' choice of name should be respected. Frances Burney, for example, only published as 'Madame D'Arblay'. Charlotte Smith only once used 'Mrs.' when she wished to emphasise dutiful and maligned wifedom. The complexities of names and titles remained in our thoughts as the conference came to a close. It has only been possible to give a snapshot here of the extraordinary wealth of scholarship shared during the two days. Thanks must go to organisers Alison Daniell and to Kim Simpson and the digital host venue Chawton House for a truly rewarding event.

FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE: CELEBRATING HESTER THRALE PIOZZI 1741-1821

In late September 2021, the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles is holding the first international conference to address the life and works of Hester Thrale Piozzi, a one-time close friend of Frances Burney and Dr. Burney. The conference is co-organised by Professor Felicity Nussbaum (UCLA) and Dr Sophie Coulombeau (University of York), and will feature academic papers and a performance of a new play about the Streatham Set and Hester Thrale's scandalous re-marriage. This was originally designed as an in-person conference, but due to the continued risks around the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisers have now taken the decision to move the conference to an online format. It will now take place from 23-25 September 2021, and registration will be free and open to all. Please keep an eye on the event webpage at <http://www.1718.ucla.edu/events/thrale-day-1/>, or follow the Burney Society on social media for updates.

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO CHARLES BURNEY JR.

Sophie Coulombeau, a member of the Committee of the UK Burney Society, is currently working on a project relating to Charles Burney Jr (1757-1817), the son of Dr Burney and younger brother of Frances Burney. Charles Burney Jr was a clergyman, classicist, collector and critic - and, of course, a bibliomaniac, who was expelled from Cambridge University as a teenager for stealing books from the University Library. Sophie is currently trying to track down manuscript correspondence written to and from Charles Burney Jr during his lifetime, as well as any other archival material related to him. About 1800 items are listed in Joyce Hemlow's Catalogue of Burney Family Correspondence, but it is clear that this list is not comprehensive, and that there are many other, often un-catalogued, Charles Jr letters in circulation. If any readers should be in possession of original letters to or from Charles Burney Jr., or should know where some are held that might not be easily located online, Sophie would be delighted if you could let her know on sophie.coulombeau@york.ac.uk

Burney Society UK Membership

Many thanks to all members who have already paid their 2021 – 2022 membership fee, which became due on 13 June. We have attached a membership form below for your convenience. Even if renewing, please email this year's form to ukburneysociety@gmail.com

Burney Society UK Social media sites

- our website <https://burneysociety.uk>
- our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/474331835923929>
- our Twitter account <https://twitter.com/burneysocietyuk?lang=en>

We are just about to post the latest *Burney Journal* so please contact us urgently if you have moved (or have any comments/ newsletter items) at ukburneysociety@gmail.com

Miriam Al Jamil & Trudie Messent, Newsletter co-editors

Burney Society UK Membership 13 June 2021 – 12 June 2022

Title(s) Name(s)

Address.....
.....

Postcode Telephone

Email.....

MEMBERSHIP TYPE Please highlight selected option:

- Individual membership of £20 yes
- Joint membership of £25 (for couples at the same address) yes
- Student membership of £10 yes
- 5 year post graduate membership of £15 yes

Please email ukburneysociety@gmail.com if you wish to pay for multiple years by PayPal

METHOD OF PAYMENT

- By PayPal (Business account) ukburneysociety@gmail.com yes
- Bank transfer to NatWest a/c 83156410, sort code 60-01-13 yes
- Cheque made payable to the **Burney Society UK** yes

I understand that by my membership I agree to receiving correspondence and materials in relation to the Society and accept that my data is kept in password controlled, safe keeping and is not made available to any other organisation.

SIGNATURE DATE

Please email this form, even if you are renewing (with any change of details) to ukburneysociety@gmail.com

Postal address if you wish to pay by cheque:

Burney Society UK, Trudie Messent, 11 Beaconsfield Road, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, KT10 0PN

Acknowledgement will be by email unless you state you would like posted confirmation.
Please let us know your personal/academic interest in the Burney family and their circle.

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Thank you and welcome to the Burney Society (UK)