

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION

SOANE TRAVELS: Ireland

Great Houses and Demesnes of Ireland: Belfast to Dublin

[Demesne – A lord's chief manor place]

October 9 to 16, 2010 – Saturday to Saturday

Sponsored by Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation | *Arranged by* Classical Excursions

Sir John Soane traveled twice to Ireland, first in July 1780 and then in May 1791, and both trips included stays in Dublin, Belfast and elsewhere. *Thus, we are pleased to again be traveling in the footsteps of Sir John Soane – as we have done several times over the years in Italy and England.*

In the north, there are direct and indirect connections with Soane regarding two great country houses on the tour. Clondeboye, 1801-04, was designed by Robert Woodgate, who was apprenticed to Soane in 1788. Soane working on plans for the remodeling of Barons Court in 1791, sent Woodgate to Ireland to oversee the project. Woodgate was to stay on to open his own practice in Dublin, a short-lived endeavor, for he was to die in 1805. One can see similarities in the designs of the two houses with the stylistic influence of Soane prevalent at Clondeboye. Also in 1809, Soane drew up plans for the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, a non-denominational grammar school for boys and completed in 1810, and which can still to be seen in College Square East – while we won't be doing a formal visit, we are hoping to drive by the school. *More will be written on Soane and Ireland in the coming months...*

During the 18th Century, Ireland was ruled as the Kingdom of Ireland by Kings of England and of Ireland. It was in 1801 that it became officially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Needless to say, architectural influences and architects traveled back and forth between the kingdoms. Originally inspired by the architecture of Inigo Jones, who was the first to establish the Palladian style in 17th century England, followed by other early 18th century architects like Lord Burlington and William Kent, Ireland at the same time developed its own dramatic Palladian movement. Starting with the new façade for the country house, Castletown, designed by Alessandro Galilei in 1719, he provided details that reflected Palladio's villas in the Veneto, such as colonnaded connections that linked the main building to end pavilions. The leading architect of Palladian country houses in Ireland was Sir Edward Lovett Pearce, who provided interior details at Castletown and the design for Bellamont Forest, c. 1730, both of which we will be visiting. Pearce, born in County Meath, developed a style that combined baroque inventiveness, movement and boldness with the somberness of the English Palladian style. These and other outstanding country houses will be viewed during the tour that Soane Foundation is pleased to offer.

One of the unique highlights of our trip, is that we will the guests of Lord and Lady Dunleath, as the tour will include a two-night stay at their ancestral home Ballywalter Park, designed by renowned architect Charles Lanion. Other accommodations on the trip include the five-star Lough Erne Resort in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and the five-star luxury hotel, The Merrion, located in the heart of Dublin

Lani Sternerup of Classical Excursions, will be in charge of the tour.

For additional information on tour specifics, please contact
Classical Excursions, PO Box 1676, Lenox, MA 01240
Telephone: 413-528-3359, Fax 413-243-4157 | www.classicalexursions.com

Or for additional information, please contact:
Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation, 1040 First Avenue, No. 311, New York NY 10022
Telephone: 212-223-2012, Fax 860-435-8019 | www.SoaneFoundation.com

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS... Great Houses and Demesnes of Ireland: Belfast to Dublin

SOANE TRAVELS: Ireland

A two- night stay* at the privately owned **Ballywalter Park**, hosted by Lord Dunleath. Built in 1846 for Andrew Mullholland (whose son became the first Lord Dunleath) and designed by the prominent Belfast architect, Sir Charles Lanyon, the house is the best-preserved example of the Italianate palazzo style in Ireland. (NOTE: with Trip 2 – we also plan to use a nearby seaside hotel, however all meals served at Ballywalter will include all travelers.)

Mountstewart, Newtownards, County Down: Originally built in 1804 and later extended, the first architect was George Dance, the teacher of Sir John Soane. Filled with magnificent antiques, the Regency-styled house contains 22 chairs used at the Congress of Vienna (1815) and given to Mt. Stewart's owner, Lord Castlereagh, British Foreign Secretary and member of the Londonderry family. The house also holds one of the finest paintings by George Stubbs of the celebrated racehorse, Hambletonian. Mt. Stewart's gardens cover 80 acres and are considered the most complete in Ireland, thriving in the area's subtropical microclimate. Overlooking Strangford Lough is the exquisite small banqueting pavilion inspired by the Temple of the Winds in Athens.

Bellamont Forest, Cootehill, County Cavan: Dating from the 1730s and owned by the Coote family, it is the first and remains the purest example of a Palladian villa in Ireland. Its inspiration was Palladio's Villa Pisani at Montagnana. Bellamont Forest gives an impression of solidity, having been built of red brick with a Doric limestone portico and pediments over the windows. Architectural beauty reigns throughout this house, the entrance hall consisting of black and white marble flooring and marble busts of Roman emperors set in round niches high on the walls. The highly elaborate drawing room plaster ceiling is dominated by a bold circular wreath. By contrast the library and dining room ceilings are coved and coffered in geometrical patterns.

Florence Court, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh: An important Irish Georgian mansion, it was named after Lady Florence Cole, the wife of Sir John Cole, the owner who probably had built around 1730 the finally proportioned center block of the house. A later generation in the 1760s added flanking arcaded wings with end pavilions. The vigorous treatment of the exterior is repeated in the interior. Lavish Rococo plaster decoration is featured which was painstakingly restored after a fire in 1955. The Venetian Room, staircase and dining room have the most elaborate plasterwork. The house is filled with 18th-century Irish furniture.

Castle Coole, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh: Considered the finest Neo-classical country house in Ireland, it nearly bankrupted its owner, Armar Lowry-Corry, Earl of Belmore, in his attempt in the 1790s to outdo his brother-in-law and neighbor, the Earl of Enniskillen, at Florence Court. The quality of the Portland stone masonry is exceptional, with the design on all four sides of equal perfection. It continues inside, with harmonious unity and balance in the joinery and plasterwork. The final plans were executed by the English architect, James Wyatt. The plasterer was Joseph Rose, who had been hired by Robert Adam to work at Syon House and Harewood House in England. Another glory of Castle Coole is that almost all of the Regency furniture is original and still in place.

Visit at historic and privately owned **Crom Castle**. Not far from the lough shore ruins of the plantation castle, the present castle stands on elevated parkland. Built for the Third Earl of Erne in the 1830s it was designed by the English architect Edward Blore who was responsible for sections of Buckingham Palace. With its turrets and crenellated towers stretching far into the sky above, this neo-Tudor mansion is both magnificent and enigmatic. The outward strength of the building is further softened by the beauty of its surroundings - an idyllic setting most definitely influenced by the watercolourist and garden-designer William Sawrey Gilpin who worked closely with Blore on the project. Lunch or afternoon tea with the owners Lord and Lady Erne.

A private visit and lunch at **Barons Court**, hosted by His Grace, Duke of Abercorn. The house was started in 1779 by the architect George Steuart (who also designed Attingham Hall in Shropshire 1783). Later architects involved in redesigning and completing Barons Court were John Soane and Richard and William Morrison. The result was a powerful seven-bay house with a rotunda located in the heart of the building. The main pediment contains the family coat of arms. The interiors range from the classical coffered rotunda encircled by a ring of Ionic columns to a typical Morrisonian library redecorated by the prominent English decorator, David Hicks.

Headfort House, Kells Ireland was designed in 1771-1776 by the Irish architect George Semple. The State Room interiors were later refashioned by Robert Adam in the severe, and unadorned Neo-classical style. The main building is now owned by the Headfort School, with one wing remaining in use as a private residence. Now designated as one of the World Monument Fund's most endangered sites, it is undergoing stabilization and repairs.

A visit to **Castletown** in County Kildare, Ireland's first Palladian house to be erected with proper classical proportions and designed by a professional architect- Alessandro Galilei (1691-1737). This house is said to have inspired the White House.

A tour of the incredible Palladian jewel **Russborough House**. Built in 1741 by Joseph Leeson. “No other Palladian house in Ireland equals it either for its architecture or its spectacular setting”.

Casino at Marino, the pleasure pavilion designed by Sir William Chambers and considered to be one of the most perfect buildings in Europe.

A private tour of **Desmond Guinness's** home on the outskirts of Dublin. This was one of the original Pale towers of Dublin.

A private tour and meal at **Desiree Shorts Georgian Town House** in Dublin. Ms. Short is a renowned porcelain restorer and has a lovely collection of rare porcelain. Her residence has lovely Irish furniture and ornate 18th century plaster work.

~ This is just a partial listing of places and properties to be visited. ~

* Trip includes a two-night stay in a private residence, a two-night stay in a five-star Lough Erne county hotel and a three-night stay at a five-star hotel in central Dublin, The Merrion.

* Due to our exclusive accommodations in the privately owned country house the number of participants is strictly limited. Early registration is therefore suggested. Please contact Lani Sternerup of Classical Excursions to register. 413-528-3359 or contact@classicalexursions.com

*Please visit the Soane Foundation's web site –
www.SoaneFoundation/travels/ireland.html*

*There you will find web links to some of these sites and more
that should be of interest for those traveling...*

DAY BY DAY PLAN... Great Houses and Demesnes of Ireland: Belfast to Dublin

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UPDATED – as of June 2010. Due to the private nature of many of the sights to be visited Classical Excursions reserves the right to make alterations or substitutions in the provided program should conditions or transportation schedules so require.

Oct 9 – Northern Ireland:

Depart Belfast Airport by private motor coach. We do a short driving tour of Belfast on our way out to the country.
Grey Abbey
Clandeboyne House – Co. Down
Arrive for a two-night stay at **Ballywalter** Park

Oct 10 – Northern Ireland:

Mount Stewart – Co. Down, 18th century
Temple of the Winds at Mount Stewart
Castle Ward – Co. Down
Seaford House

Oct 11 – Northern Ireland:

Today, check into the five-star **Lough Erne Resort** located near Enniskillen for a two-night stay.
Ardress House – Co. Armagh, 1770's
Private house (*not to be named in advance by request of the homeowner*)
Barons Court – Co. Tyrone. 1779-1782

Oct 12 – Northern Ireland:

Castle Coole – Co. Fermanagh, 1790-1996
Florence Court – Co. Fermanagh, mid-18th century
Crom Castle – Co. Fermanagh, 1832-1838

Oct 13 – Northern Ireland to the Republic of Ireland:

Bellamont Forest – Co. Cavan, 1729
Headfort House – Co. Meath, 1760
Stackallen House – Co. Meath
Today, check into the five star **Merrion Hotel** in Dublin for three-nights.

Oct 14 – Republic of Ireland:

Russborough House – Co. Wicklow, 1741
Castletown – Co. Kilkenny, 1767-1771
Casino at Marino, Co. Dublin, 1762
Private house (*not to be named in advance by request of the homeowner*)

Oct 15 – Republic of Ireland:

A privately owned Georgian Town House at Ormond Key – Co. Dublin
Desiree Short's Georgian Town house with a private luncheon – Co. Dublin
Leixlip Castle, home of Desmond Guinness – Co. Kildare

Oct 16 – Republic of Ireland:

Day for departures. Alternatively, you may wish to extend the stay one-night for a day in Dublin for walking, touring and shopping.

Schedule as of June 2010 and is subject to change without notice.

SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM FOUNDATION

SOANE TRAVELS: Ireland

Background on our Organizer

TOUR DIRECTOR: Lani Sternerup

Lani Sternerup is owner/co-director of Classical Excursions. She has worked within the museum and preservation field as an archaeologist, a museum educator and curator for such organizations as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Museum of the Gilded Age at Ventfort Hall and the Berkshire County Historical Society.

Ms. Sternerup has always had a strong interest in architectural history and preservation and has worked extensively with the development of educational programs aimed at promoting knowledge of classical architecture. She has organized architectural tours and guided groups in the U.S. and abroad for the past eight years. Trained also an archaeologist she has worked both in Europe and the U.S. in this field.

Ms. Sternerup lived in Sweden for five years, during which time she earned a degree in Classical Archaeology and Art History from The University of Lund. She has also completed language studies in both Sweden and France.

Lani completed the translation on a collaborative book project with Dr. Johan Cederlund of Uppsala, Sweden. The book entitled *Classical Swedish Architecture and Interiors 1650-1840* was published by WW Norton in the fall of 2006. She is also founder and director of *Real Gustavian*, specializing in the import and sales of Swedish 18th century Gustavian furniture and decorative arts. Most recently Ms. Sternerup took over the popular New York based company White on White.

SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

From USA: Suggested flight departing on Friday, 8 October is Continental Airlines #94 Newark nonstop to Belfast (EWR>BFS) departing 9:25pm arriving on the 9th at 9am

From UK: Suggested flight on Saturday, 9 October is BMI #82 (LHR>BHD) departing 8:50am, arriving 10:10am

To USA: Multiple carriers fly back to the USA from Dublin

Reservation Form

CLASSICAL EXCURSIONS

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Please return this form with your tour deposit of \$600.00 single / \$1,200.00 for a couple (of which \$100.00 is non-refundable) payable by check / credit card / money order to **Classical Excursions**.

Accommodations -please check one:

- We wish to have a double room
 I wish to share a room with _____
 I would like a single occupancy for a supplement of \$495.00

**YES, I have read, understand and accept the 2-page Tour Terms and Conditions of this contract
Please sign and date below:**

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name in full as on passport: _____

Spouse or Partner's full name as on passport: _____

Address: _____

Phone and email: _____

To pay by credit card please include details below:

Please charge \$ _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Name as it appears: _____

Billing Address and Zip Code: _____

Security code _____

For additional information, please contact

Classical Excursions
PO Box 1676
Lenox, MA 01240

Telephone: 413-528-3359, Fax 413-243-4157
www.classicalexursions.com

Contribution Form

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In agreeing to participate on this Soane Patron's Circle tour, each participant agrees to be a 2010 Patron's member. A \$1,000.00* per person tax-deductible contribution is required (this is part of the quoted land package price of \$7,550.00 per person). We request this be paid directly to the Soane Foundation for tax acknowledgement purposes.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TEL: _____ FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CONTACT/ASSISTANT: _____

CONTRIBUTION PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Payment enclosed or noted below by credit card

Pledge: I pledge to make a payment by _____ (we ask this be paid no later than July 28, 2010).

FORMS OF PAYMENT:

Check - Please make checks payable to: Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation

Credit Card Charge - Please charge the contribution of \$1,000.00 per person to an American Express, Visa, MasterCard**

*(** the Foundation is only permitted to accept credit card payments for non-travel related costs)*

Please charge \$ _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____

Name as it appears: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

RETURN ALL COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation
1040 First Avenue, No. 311
New York, NY 10022

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Chas Miller -

Chas@SoaneFoundation.com
T. 212-223-2012 | F. 860-435-8019

** Contributions are typically not refundable; however, every consideration will be taken if you need to cancel.*

Payment Instructions

Reservation Form

Please make a deposit check payable to **Classical Excursions**

Single traveler \$600.00 Couple \$1,200.00

And send to:

Classical Excursions
PO Box 1676
Lenox, MA 01240

Contribution Form

Please send your credit card information, pledge form or check payable to
Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation

Single traveler \$1,000.00 Couple \$2,000.00

Contributions are fully tax-deductible and will be acknowledged for tax purposes by Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization; Fed. Id. 13-3624437.

And send to:

Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation
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New York, NY 10022

Thank you!

CLASSICAL EXCURSIONS

presents

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Tour Terms and Conditions

Cost:

Land cost on this Soane Patron's Circle tour: \$7,550.00 per person, based on double occupancy. A \$1,000.00 tax deductible donation to Sir John Soane's Museum Foundation is included in the land cost.

A single supplement is available at \$495.00.

Arrivals to Belfast, Northern Ireland / Departures from Dublin, Republic of Ireland:

It is requested that you arrive in Belfast on or before October 9th to commence the tour. For your reference, the airport code for Belfast International = BFS / Belfast City (UK flights) = BHD, and Dublin = DUB.

Land Rate Includes:

A deluxe private motor coach is included for all sightseeing, visits, transfers and drives as outlined in the itinerary. The trip will be fully escorted by Lani Sternerup of Classical Excursions and guided by local. Admission fees are included for sightseeing as described in the itinerary.

Hotel Accommodations: Tour members are accommodated in 1st class and Superior 1st class hotels for 7-nights in Ireland with basic twin bedded rooms with private bath, as outlined in the itinerary. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional single supplement. Double beds may be requested but cannot be guaranteed.

Meals: Breakfast, lunches, dinners are included daily. See detailed itinerary for specific information.

Tips and Taxes: Included are service charges on hotels and restaurants as well as taxes levied by local governments and authorities. Tips to drivers and guides are not included.

Tour Rate Does Not Include:

Transportation / flights to and from your home to Ireland (unless it is purchased at an additional cost from Classical Excursions); pre- or post-trip hotel accommodations at your request – those must be booked independently, or at additional cost from Classical Excursions; supplemental charges for single occupancy, extra meals not outlined in the itinerary, additional wines / liquors / or other alcoholic beverages beyond those provided at meals, are not included in the price. Any related passport fee(s) are not included. Trip cancellation insurance is not included in the price; however, we can help you with this purchase and strongly advise you to purchase it.

Reservations:

Reservations are taken on a first-come basis. A deposit of \$600.00 per person is required to hold confirmed reservations. Final payment is due on or before July 28th, 2010. Upon receipt of your deposit, you will be supplied with helpful hints to assist you in preparing for the trip, and we will forward to you, a list of suggested reading materials and additional information on each of the hotels where you will stay.

Payment of the Soane Patron's Circle contribution of \$1,000.00 per person is fully tax-deductible and thus needs to be made directly to the Soane Foundation. This contribution may be paid now or pledged for payment by no later than July 28th, 2010.

Cancellation and Refund of Travel Arrangements:

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation/interruption insurance, which we will gladly help you with. A deposit of \$600.00 per person is requested to book your space. You may cancel your space penalty free until June 1, 2010. After June 1 refunds are only available if we are able to fill your space.

Eligibility:

The trip requires participants to be capable of walking some distances and of climbing stairs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your ability to participate in this tour, please contact Lani at Classical Excursions before reserving your space for this tour. She can be contacted at 413-528-3359 or contact@classicalexcursions.com

Responsibility:

Classical Excursions of Stockbridge, MA and your tour escorts act only in the capacity of agents for the participant in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing excursions, all means of transportation and all other features of the tour, and as such, are free of responsibility for any damages from any cause whatsoever. Classical Excursions will not be held responsible for any damage, expense or inconvenience caused by late arrivals/departures or by any other schedule changes and / or other adverse conditions. Nor will Classical Excursions be held responsible for the loss of or damage of baggage or any other article belonging to the tour participant. No refunds will be made for absences from any portion of the land tour. The right is reserved to decline, accept or remand any person as a member of this group at any time before or during the tour. If you must make an insurance claim, you must contact the insurance company directly with your insurance confirmation number.

The right is reserved, by Classical Excursions to make alterations or substitutions in the provided program should local conditions or transportation schedules so require. **Land rates are based upon those in effect at time of brochure publication (March 2010), and are subject to change without notice if currency exchange rates should fluctuate drastically. If any changes in price are made the tour participants will be notified immediately.**

GUESTS – Note Concerning Guests Joining Us*

If you wish to invite a friend to join us for a day or activity, the day rate is \$750 or higher which includes meals and tours. Individual meals will be charged at a contribution rate of \$200 or higher, individual tours are charged at a contribution of \$200 or higher. Higher contribution amounts may be necessary depending on the activity or restaurant.

** Dependent on approval of tour director. Please place any requests well in advance.*

For additional information on tour specifics, please contact

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