



## RAIDING THE PAST: FURNITURE FOR THE ANGLO-GALLIC INTERIOR, 1800-1865

DR DIANA DAVIS

Dr Diana Davis specializes in the interface between collectors, dealers and the art market in the nineteenth century. She co-edits the *French Porcelain Society Journal* and has lectured for Christie's Education, the Furniture History Society, the French Porcelain Society, the Wallace Collection, the National Trust, at the Jewish Country House Conference, and at Masterpiece.

In December 1836, the dealer George Gunn advertised his 'BUHL and MARQUETERIE FURNITURE, clocks, bronzes, carved salons, consoles, ancient chimnies, tapestry, and every description of property connected with the time and taste of Louis XIV'. It reflected a radical change in collecting practice, an opulent Anglo-Gallic decorative style that combined the contrasting taste of two rival nations. This talk investigates the role of dealer cabinetmakers such as Edward Holmes Baldock and Robert Hume, who transformed *ancien régime* furniture into cherished heirlooms for a new century and then created their own new and modified furniture inspired by it. By examining this furniture from the patron's perspective and in the context of the interiors for which it was made, the dealer emerges centre stage as trader, maker and tastemaker.

This lecture is to accompany Diana's exciting new major publication, *The Tastemakers: British Dealers and the Anglo Gallic Interior, 1785-1865* and we will be disclosing some discount codes, for 20% off the RRP, on the evening.

### **Zoom lecture details:**

Topic: FHS Events lecture 2: Diana Davis 'Raiding the Past'

Time: Jun 28, 2020 07:00 PM (BST) London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92489818630?pwd=SWlGdE5EZ0pnb3AzLzJ2TndlamY1dz09>

Meeting ID: 924 8981 8630

Password: 119856

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/adR8w0b1xy>

Attendees will be admitted from the waiting room from 18.45. Please make sure you are muted and your cameras are turned off. Please note that for security reasons we will lock the meeting at 19.20, so please make sure you have joined us by then.

The lecture will be followed by a round of Q & A. Please use the chat message box at the bottom of your zoom window.

If you are using Zoom software, Zoom have increased their security and you may be required to install an update.

The FHS has decided to invite the members of other like-minded societies around the world. If you are not yet a member but would like to join the society, please check out our website <https://www.furniturehistorysociety.org> for more information.

We hope to see many of you on Sunday, 28 June.

## SAVE THE DATE

12 July 2020, 19.00 BST

### **AN ENLIGHTENMENT KALEIDOSCOPE UNVEILED: JOSEPH FRIEDRICH ZU RACKNITZ'S *PRESENTATION AND HISTORY OF THE TASTE OF THE LEADING NATIONS***

SIMON SWYNFEN JERVIS

Joseph Friedrich zu Racknitz's *Presentation and History of the Taste of the Leading Nations*, published in the 1790s, was an unprecedented attempt to encapsulate the history and progress of interior decoration and architecture, not only from their origins in Ancient Egypt to their latest manifestations in modern England, but also on a universal stage, from Mexico to Tahiti. Remarkably Sir John Soane owned two of the 23 surviving copies of this extraordinarily rare and surprisingly unknown book. Soane was doubtless attracted by its 48 spectacular colour plates, representing 24 different tastes.

Racknitz's book was translated from the German and edited for publication in 2019 for the Getty Research Institute by the FHS's former Chairman, Simon Swynfen Jervis FSA, who was Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, before serving as the National Trust's Director of Historic

Buildings. He will give an illustrated lecture on this visually exciting book and its remarkable author.



*Racknitz's plate on the Mexican Taste*