



Yale University

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art

# NEWSLETTER



Henry-Russell Hitchcock in James Thrall Soby's Library in Farmington, Connecticut, c.1937

The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art is collaborating with the American Society of Architectural Historians to organise this two-day international conference. Henry-Russell Hitchcock (born 1903) and Sir John Summerson (born 1904) were two of the greatest architectural historians writing in English in the century in which the discipline itself emerged and became established. This conference will consider the contributions of the two men to the construction of chronological periods and national characters in architecture as well as the construction of architects' creative identities. The involvement of Summerson and Hitchcock in the physical conservation and museological presentation of historical architecture will also be examined, especially in relation to their roles as apologists for the Modern Movement that dominated the practice of architecture when they were first writing and which led to intriguing tensions between their roles as critics and as historians. The conference will also explore the attempts of both men to place Modernism into wider historical and cultural contexts, notably that of nineteenth-century Romanticism. In addition to the two days of papers, there will be a private reception at Sir John Soane's Museum, London, on the evening of Friday 11th June. There will also be an opportunity for those attending to make a series of visits to buildings in London that were particularly meaningful

## SIR JOHN SUMMERSON AND HENRY-RUSSELL HITCHCOCK

*Aspects of Architectural Historiography in the Twentieth Century*

Centenary Conference  
11th-12th June 2004 at the Paul Mellon Centre  
(organised by the Paul Mellon Centre and the Society of Architectural Historians, USA)



Sir John Summerson at Sir John Soane's Museum, London, June 1984  
Courtesy of Stephen Hyde Photography

to the two historians, which will take place on Sunday 13th June. Tickets for the conference (full details of which appear overleaf) cost £70 (to include lunch on both days and the reception at Soane's Museum) and may be purchased by contacting Maisoon Rehani at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, 16 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JA. A further £50 for transportation is payable for those wishing to make the buildings visits on 13th June. A limited number of places at reduced rates will be available for graduate students, who should write to Ms Rehani indicating their current status and reason for wishing to attend.

# Forthcoming Events

## SIR JOHN SUMMERSON AND HENRY-RUSSELL HITCHCOCK

### *Aspects of Architectural Historiography in the Twentieth Century*

#### Conference Programme

Friday 11th June 2004

- 10:00 Registration and coffee  
10:30 Welcome and Introduction  
Frank Salmon (Paul Mellon Centre)
- Russell Hitchcock (1903-87) and John Summerson (1904-92)*
- 10:45 John Harris (Curator Emeritus of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects) *Personal Recollections of Working with Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Sir John Summerson*
- 11:15 Gavin Stamp (Paul Mellon Centre Senior Fellow and Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge) *Summerson, Hitchcock and Glasgow: The Emergence of Two Architectural Historians*
- 11:45 Mosette Broderick (New York University) and Andrew Saint (University of Cambridge) *Hitchcock and Summerson on Tape*
- 12:30 Discussion  
12.45 Lunch
- Architecture: the Museum, the Academy and the State* (Chair: John Harris)
- 14:00 Nina Stritzler-Levine (Bard Graduate Center, New York) *From The International Style to Built in the USA: Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Architecture Exhibition Practice at the MoMA*
- 14:30 Margaret Richardson (Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum) *Summerson and (The) Soane*
- 15:00 Michela Rosso (Politecnico di Torino) *Preserving Architecture: John Summerson and the Heritage of the Victorian Age*
- 15:30 Discussion  
15:45 Tea
- Romanticism and Modernity* (Chair: Joe Crook)
- 16:15 Barry Bergdoll (Columbia University) *Romantic Modernity in the 1930s: Henry-Russell Hitchcock's Architecture: Twentieth and Nineteenth Centuries?*
- 16:45 Alan Powers (University of Greenwich) *Summerson, Hitchcock and Romanticism*
- 17:15 Marie Frank (University of Massachusetts, Lowell) *Formalism and Objectivity in American Aesthetic Thought c.1900*
- 17:45 Discussion
- 18:00 Transfer to Sir John Soane's Museum for reception

Saturday 12th June

- Constructing Historical Periods* (Chair: Barry Bergdoll)
- 09:30 Christy Anderson (Yale University) *Not Quite the Renaissance*
- 10:00 Caroline Van Eck (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam) *A Marriage of Classicism and Modernism: 'Artisan Mannerism' Revisited*
- 10:30 Frank Salmon (Paul Mellon Centre, Yale University) *The Eighteenth Century: 'Long' or Just Episodic?*
- 11:00 Discussion  
11:15 Coffee
- Constructing National Identities* (Chair: Therese O'Malley)
- 11:45 Marlene Heck (Dartmouth College) *Mind the Gap: Rewriting Sir John Summerson's American Architectural History*
- 12:15 Helen Searing (Smith College) *Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Dutch Architecture*
- 12:45 Discussion  
13:00 Lunch
- Constructing Architects* (Chair: Neil Levine)
- 14:30 Anthony Geraghty (University of York) *Summerson and Wren*
- 15:00 Ann Gilkerson (Harvard University) *Constructing the Modern Victorian: Henry-Russell Hitchcock's The Architecture of H.H. Richardson and his Times*
- 15:30 Neil Jackson (University of Leeds) *John Summerson and the View from the Outside*
- 16:00 Philip Goad (University of Melbourne) *Mischievous Analogy, Bureaucracy and Genius: John Summerson, Henry-Russell Hitchcock and Post-War Architectural Historiography*
- 16:30 Discussion  
16:45 Tea
- Critic versus Historian* (Chair: David Van Zanten)
- 17:15 Elizabeth McKellar (Birkbeck College) *The Critical Legacy: John Summerson and the Post-War Foundations of Eighteenth-Century Studies*
- 17:45 Nigel Whiteley (University of Lancaster) *Hitchcock's 'Unfortunate Classic': Reyner Banham and The International Style*
- 18:15 Discussion and closing comments:  
David Van Zanten (Northwestern University)
- 18:30 Drinks at the Paul Mellon Centre