

FRIENDS OF

Florham

DOWNTON ABBEY AT FLORHAM



FROM LEFT: PETER WOOLLEY, FLORHAM CAMPUS PROVOST; DAWN DUPAK, PRESIDENT OF THE FRIENDS OF FLORHAM; ELLEN MORRIS, GUEST; MARY LOU CIRELLO, GUEST; LYNN CICERO, GUEST; JUDITH ISRAEL, INSTRUCTOR IN FILL; DONNA MCNAMARA, GUEST; GINNY DONEY, GUEST; AND JOHN SERVIDIO, GENERAL MANAGER, NJTV.

“These are days of uncertainty” Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham, gravely intones during the first program of the final season of the immensely popular TV series, “Downton Abbey.” The year is 1925, the traditional way of life of the English landed gentry is collapsing, their power eroding, their estates sold — and, briefly, the various story lines of the sixth and final season of “Downton Abbey” focus on change, on the ways in which the characters discover new lives and roles in the shifting economic and social world of “Downton Abbey.”

Yet there was no uncertainty about the enthusiastic response of the audience of more than 130 people, some in period costume, who watched a preview of the first episode of “Downton Abbey” in Lenfell Hall on December 14. They were clearly visiting old friends — the Crawleys, their relatives, and their servants.

Dawn Dupak, president of the Friends of Florham, was initially approached by Debra Falk, director of communications at NJTV, about the possibility of mutually hosting a reception and preview of the first episode of the season. The Friends welcomed the opportunity to host the event, while the Provost’s Office, under the direction of Campus Provost Peter Woolley, signed on as a sponsor. Plans were set in motion, a reception and schedule of events established, and events got underway. At the outset, the original Vanderbilt-Twombly Mansion (now Hennessy Hall) with its family history and notable building, influenced by the architecture of the Christopher Wren Wing at Hampton Court Palace, was definitely the appropriate place to screen the episode. Guests could wander the long halls of the Mansion, where the reception took place, check out the magnificent marble fireplace,

and the recently mounted reproduction of Frederick Law Olmsted by John Singer Sargent. Then, they could move into Lenfell Hall (originally, the Drawing Room of the Twomblys), which until 1955, housed among other priceless furnishings and objects, Barberini Tapestries, three memorable crystal and brass chandeliers, and currently Twombly family portraits, including the reproduction of a well-known portrait of Florence Twombly painted by Sargent.

Before the upstairs-downstairs story of “Downton Abbey” (filmed at Highclere Castle in Hampshire) played on the large screen, Peter Woolley welcomed the audience, while also pointing out that nonprofit organizations such as NJTV and FDU have essential public missions that enrich our lives. He then introduced the various speakers, beginning with John Servidio, general manager of NJTV, and

(continued on page 3)

SPRING 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to spring, one of our favorite times at Florham. As the University prepares for the end of another term, the gardens come alive, and we look forward to our second annual "Return to the Tiffany Table."

Since I last wrote, we have been busy welcoming two new board members, Susan Garrubbo and Lisa MacNair and three new honorary members, former trustees Linda Carrington and Carol Knauff and Walter Cummins, co-author of *Florham: The Lives of an American Estate*, emeritus professor of English, and presently a faculty member in the MFA program in creative writing at FDU.

And the recruiting continues. It's exciting to grow and feel that we remain an interesting and viable contributor to our community.

The "Downton Abbey" Preview Party, co-hosted with NJTV, on December 14, 2015, was a wonderful event, with interesting guests and shared enjoyment of the classic show. Lenfell Hall and the Great Hall were abuzz as 130 people gathered for refreshments in anticipation of the first episode of the sixth and last season of "Downton Abbey" — a full seven weeks before it was televised.

Several of our guests came attired in period/period-inspired costumes, and everyone agreed that the Mansion (Hennessy Hall) with its historic architecture and Vanderbilt-Twombly history was the perfect venue for this event.

A special thanks to all of our Friends who remembered us during our annual appeal last winter. You are most generous, and we honor you in all our projects.

Our work with NJTV continues on their first feature, "Florham," in the new Treasures of New Jersey series. The filming is scheduled for fall 2016 with the first episode airing in the spring of 2017.

We've made important progress as we continue to tiptoe into the digital age. Soon, the new audio guide, developed in cooperation with the Provost's Office, will be available for upload onto a smart phone or computer. This self-guided tour of the Mansion (Hennessy Hall), the Hassan Orangerie, and the surrounding gardens allows guests to tour at their own pace; or they can even listen to the tour in any setting they choose. Be sure to check it out on our website: fdu.edu/fof.

And now we are only a matter of weeks away from the hottest social event of the year here at Florham, "Return to the Tiffany

Table: A Luncheon at Florham." *I hope you have all received your invitations and are planning to attend.* Last year's event was sold out and a huge success by every measure, and this year promises to be equally or even more successful.

The "Mystery Box Raffle" returns with an offering different from last year. The silent and live auctions are also returning with the favorite items and experiences from last year plus wonderful new additions. Please join us for an exciting luncheon and afternoon.

Please mark your calendars for our 25th Anniversary Celebration, Friday, *September 23*, 6–8 p.m. Highlights of the evening include the unveiling of the first phase of our Digital Portrait Project, the premiere of a home movie filmed at Florham in the 1930s by Chef Donon, a cooking demonstration of one of Chef Donon's recipes by Chef Jeff, book signings, notecard sales and a photo gallery of past projects. So much to celebrate — and still so much to do!

In closing, I ask you to please remember to renew your membership this spring so that we can continue our vital preservation and restoration efforts at Florham.

Looking forward to seeing you at Florham.

— Dawn Dupak

RUTH HENNESSY REMEMBERED

The Friends were saddened by the passing of Honorary Trustee Ruth S. Hennessy on February 22, 2016, and extend their condolences to her husband, Ed Hennessy, alumnus, trustee, and generous benefactor at FDU; and to her daughter, Beth, a trustee of the Friends of Florham.

An "overview" of Ruth's life reveals an impressive career of community and philanthropic involvement, as well as continuous encouragement of the activities

of the Friends, including donor support of several of the Friends' annual fundraising galas.

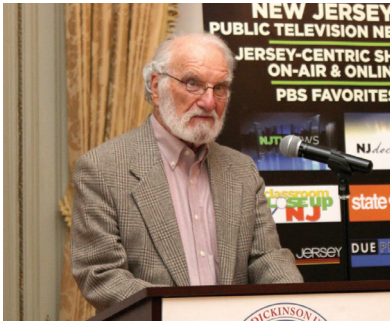
In addition, Ruth and Ed also established a major scholarship program at FDU, the Edward L. Hennessy, Jr. and Ruth S. Hennessy Foundation Endowed Scholarship, which provides aid to aspiring students.

While this brief "résumé" cannot do justice to the range of Ruth's significant volunteer and fundraising efforts, we should

mention that she was honored by the National Society of Fundraising Executives as Outstanding Volunteer in 1989.

Ruth was a graduate of New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College), where in recognition of her continued commitment and loyalty, the Ruth Schilling Hennessy Alumnae Center was dedicated in her name in 2003. Ruth was also a founder of the Friends of the Morristown Museum, where she served as a trustee for 35 years.

DOWNTON ABBEY (continued)



WALTER CUMMINS, FRIENDS HONORARY TRUSTEE



FROM LEFT: DAWN DUPAK, FRIENDS PRESIDENT, DEBRA FALK, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND SALLY GARNER, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, NJTV-IMMG

vice president of subsidiary stations at WNET, who encouraged the audience to support NJTV, which offers quality arts, sciences, and history programs.

Of particular interest, Mr. Servidio spoke about the first program in its upcoming series, “Treasures of New Jersey,” which is currently in the early stages of development under the guidance of NJTV Executive Producer Sally Garner, who was in attendance at the event. The documentary has also received generous financial support from the Friends of Florham and Opinion America. (Owned and operated by alumni, Opinion America is a data-collection company, and has been the primary source of opinion data

for the University’s successful survey research group, Public-Mind™, founded in 2001 by Peter Woolley.)

Briefly, the documentary will follow the style of the popular “Treasures of New York” series on PBS and focus on the history of the Vanderbilt-Twombly family, the development of the Florham estate, the Gilded-Age era in Morris County, the development of the FDU Florham Campus, and the University, in general.

Bruce Peabody, professor of political science, and director of the Florham Institute for Lifelong Learning (FILL), spoke about the institute and the variety of programs offered to seniors in FILL.

Of related note, Judith Israel, an instructor in FILL, and smartly attired in period maid’s attire, spoke about the successful “Downton Abbey” course offered at FDU for the past two semesters.

Friends board members Carol Bere, Sam Convissor, and honorary trustee and professor emeritus of English, Walter Cummins — all co-authors of *Florham: The Lives of An American Estate* — spoke, respectively, about Madison Avenue, the original “Millionaires Mile,” the building of Florham, the lives of the Twombly family, the auction at Florham in 1955, the transition to FDU and the similarities and the differences between Florham and Downton Abbey (See “Florham, Downton and Wroxton: The Rise and Fall of Great Estates” by Walter Cummins, on page 4.)

And then it was time to watch the film and visit with the Crawleys and their servants again; or as novelist Louis Bayard wittily wrote in *The New York Times*: “Downton Abbey,” Season 6, Episode 1, “Warts and All.”

— Carol Bere



JOHN SERVIDO, GENERAL MANAGER, NJTV



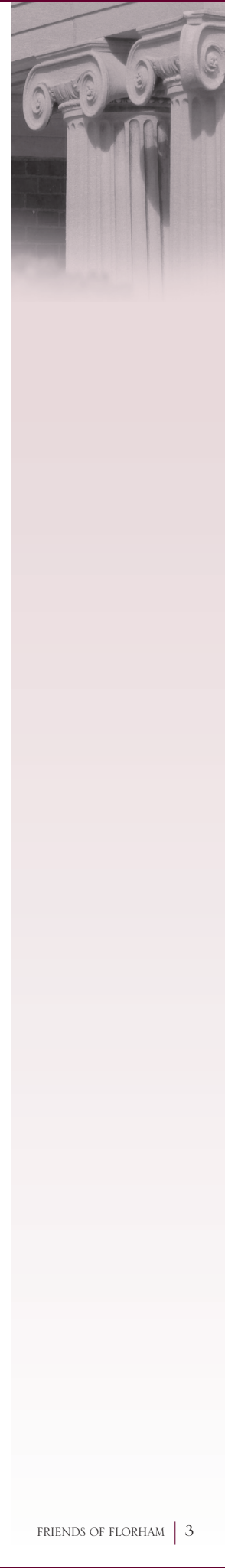
FRIENDS TRUSTEE, SAM CONVISSOR



BRUCE PEABODY, DIRECTOR, FLORHAM INSTITUTE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING



AUDIENCE



FLORHAM, DOWNTON, AND WROXTON: THE RISE AND FALL OF GREAT ESTATES



AUCTION AT FLORHAM, JUNE 1955

At first glance, a comparison of Florham and Downton Abbey may seem one of parallels. After all, Florham, along with many other American estates of its era, was created in emulation of the grand British country properties. Prominent architects designed the buildings, as equally prominent landscape planners developed the vast acreage. Important art and elegant furnishings filled the rooms. Elaborate dinners and entertainments dominated the social calendar. An entourage of servants, gardeners, horse grooms, farmers, and the like toiled behind the scenes to polish the silver, stock the larder, tend the lawns, and husband the animals.

After all, Florham, along with many other American estates of its era, was created in emulation of the grand British country properties.

Yet for all their many similarities, Florham and Downton are only cousins in relationship, and in many senses, distant cousins. A fuller contrast may be seen by examining what might be desig-

ned as four Ts — Time, Title, Treasure, and the latter's *bête noire*, Taxes. Because Downton is a fictional reality with different circumstances from its real-life setting, Highclere Castle, those of us at Fairleigh Dickinson also can refer to our own English estate, Wroxton Abbey, for more pertinent historical relationships.

Time may be the most important difference. The English estates developed and changed over centuries. Highclere dates back to the 12th, though the great house featured as Downton is a Victorian redesign by the same architect, Sir Charles Barry, who created Parliament.

Wroxton still has remnants of its pre-Henry VIII existence as an Augustinian priory in the early 1200s. When he demolished the monastery, King Henry gave the site with vast land holdings to Sir Thomas Pope in 1537. His nephew, William Pope, began work on the present building at the start of the 17th century. When the last of the Pope male line died in 1681, the property passed to the Norths through marriage. The south wing, the final section of the house, wasn't added until the mid-19th century.

Florham, in light of the Highclere-Wroxton timelines, might be

considered an instant estate, created as a complete project in less than a decade. While some structures were added to the property, the mansion and other originals were not altered during the Twomblys' residence.

*A fuller contrast may be seen by examining what might be designated as four Ts — Time, Title, Treasure, and the latter's *bête noire*, Taxes.*

Another aspect of the Time contrast segues into Title. Florham, like many of its American counterparts, was a one-generation phenomenon for people of wealth and fame but without formal designations. Although Ruth Twombly died after her mother, she had only two more years. Essentially, Florence Twombly's half-century plus at Florham embodies the life of the estate.

The fictional Lord Granthams and the actual Lord Norths passed on their titles from generation to generation, the estates they occupied at the core

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of their aristocratic lineage and responsibility. Each successive lord felt an obligation to maintain and advance the residences that symbolized their standing in society. As much as they enjoyed luxuries, they also had duties to their communities and roles in the governance of their country. The American estate owners could dedicate themselves to investments and show.

Families like the Vanderbilts and Twomblys were newcomers to wealth and prominence. Although the Twomblys go back to the Boston Brahmins, that going back is still brief in light of the Granthams, Popes, and Norths. The significant Vanderbilt generations can be counted on one hand, three fingers to be precise.

The matter of wealth leads to another T, Treasure. The English estate owners were running out of it, in good part because of the revocation of Corn Laws in 1846 that ended protective tariffs for imported grain, and with it the land owners' domination over the profits of farming. The wealthy Americans possessed more than enough treasure to indulge ostentation, resulting in the creation of estates such as Florham. The Americans sought prominence and prestige. The English sought funding. The result was the marriages between titled Englishmen and American heiresses. Cora in *Downton* is a fictional example, Consuelo Vanderbilt, the niece of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly, who became Duchess of Marlborough, an actual one.

Such financial arrangements turned out to be stopgap. By the mid-20th century, the fourth T, Taxation, diminished the treasure that sustained both the English and American estates. In Britain high death duties and tax bills led to the demolition of approximately 1,200 properties during the 20th century because they became too expensive to maintain. Highclere Castle had a death duty of one-third of its value when the fifth Earl of Carnarvon died in

1923. His widow auctioned off art and jewelry to save the estate.

When William, the 11th Baron North died at age 96 in 1932, all the historic furnishings were auctioned off a year later. Wroxton Abbey for a time served as a warehouse for a department store, and later, under a lease to a Lady Pearson, was divided into apartments and a tearoom. Both ventures failed, and the property became too costly to manage and maintain. Perhaps if Fairleigh Dickinson had not purchased it for an English campus 30 years after the auction, Wroxton would have been added to the demolition list.

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Like Wroxton, Florham had its own auction of furnishings and effects in 1955. Florence's grandsons, William and Shirley Burden, did not want the expense of maintaining Florham. Such was the fate of many one-generation American estates that were torn down and replaced by corporate headquarters, commercial buildings and housing developments.

Florham itself was considered as a site for homes that would have expanded Florham Park's population by 8,000, much to the anxiety of the town. As it did a decade later with Wroxton, Fairleigh Dickinson stepped in and saved the day.

In both the United Kingdom and the United States, a few surviving estates have become university campuses. But more often they have been converted into museums, memories of a lost lifestyle. Exhibiting the furnishings of their glorious pasts, they endure by selling tickets of admission to visitors and reproductions in their gift shops. They hire themselves out as sites for weddings and locations for films and TV series. A few — like England's Woburn Abbey or Longleat — find profit in populating the grounds with exotic animals that roam while people drive through in cars with tightly sealed windows.

In the sixth and final "*Downton Abbey*" season Lord Grantham does open his home to paying visitors, as he and the Crawley family confront economic realities. The staff shrinks, but the final episodes emphasize the joys of love, marriage, and babies rather than the looming hard times. It's a fictional escape that avoids the fact that the imaginary *Downton* will face the future of the real Highclere, an elegant building supported by visitor fees. At least it will avoid the public auctions of Wroxton and Florham.

— Walter Cummins



WROXTON ABBEY



RETURN TO THE TIFFANY TABLE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



FROM LEFT: JACK SHARESIAN, HADJ DANAN, LINDA BOPP, AND MICHAEL PLANTE FROM TIFFANY & CO., AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS DANIELE LINDNER AND JENNIFER JOHNSON.



JENNIFER JOHNSON AND THE OPENING OF THE BOXES

Save the date! On Friday, May 20, at 11:30 a.m., plan to join the Friends for a “Return to the Tiffany Table: A Luncheon at Florham” in Lenfell Hall, Hennessy Hall. The Friends of Florham are thrilled to partner again with one of the most notable jewelers of the Gilded Age and today’s best dressed to celebrate history, impressive design and classic good taste.

There will be a “Mystery Box” raffle, a different offering from last year, table favors, and silent and live auctions in which favorites from last year will be joined by many new fabulous items. The Friends are excited about the opportunity to offer an exciting historical perspective on the Vanderbilt-Twombly lifestyle with this luncheon. Based on the amazing success of the 2015 event, we promise another stimulating afternoon with great food, interesting insights and good friends!

Please join us for what will be an unforgettable event. All proceeds from the luncheon will support the Friends continuing work to preserve Florham.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Michele Bottcher at 201-692-7011 or at mbottch@fdu.edu.

RETURN TO THE TIFFANY TABLE: A LUNCHEON AT FLORHAM

Friday, May 20, 2016, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Florham Campus, Fairleigh Dickinson University
Ticket price is \$150 prior to May 1; \$175 after May 1.



TIFFANY & Co.

FRIENDS BOARD ADDS NEW TRUSTEES

The Friends are pleased to welcome Susan Garrubbo and Lisa MacNair to the Board of Trustees. Both Susan and Lisa have exceptional backgrounds and experience, and the Friends look forward to working with them on their various projects.

Susan Garrubbo recently retired after 33 years with Barnabas Health, where she was president and CEO of the outpatient division and senior vice president for the corporation. Over the course of her career, she was involved in a variety of activities including community outreach, human resources, customer service, and program and business development.

Susan has a BA in psychology, with a minor in history, from Seton Hall University, and has an MA in industrial/organizational psychology from FDU. She is currently a mentor at the Graduate Program for Organizational Behavior at FDU, and an adjunct professor in the Graduate School

of Health Administration at Seton Hall.

Volunteer work also has been an integral part of Susan's résumé, and among other groups, she has been actively involved at Morristown Medical Center and the Morris County Food Pantry. She lives in Mendham, with her husband, Joseph, and their two children, Nicholas and Jenna.

Lisa MacNair recently moved to New Jersey from the Chicago area, where she had lived for more than 20 years, when her husband was offered a new job opportunity in Elizabeth. Of course, this move provided a gain for the Friends as Lisa also brings years of her own professional experience to the Board.

More specifically, Lisa worked primarily in the health care industry for more than 30 years, the last 16 years at Lake Forest Pediatric Associates, Lake Bluff, Ill., where she was director of managed care, director, and executive director for the last 16 years,

responsible for all aspects of the business, which included clinical, contracting, facility management, and strategic planning, among other activities.

Lisa earned a BS in biology, with a minor in history, at Washington State University, and has an MBA from the Lake Forest School of Management, with emphasis on health care. She has also been a panel speaker at the national level for the health care industry, and is currently on the board of the New Jersey Medical Group Management Association.

Lisa was also an active volunteer while living in Illinois, including working with Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Forest, which provides book ownership to at-risk children in Chicago, and the United Way of Lake County, Ill. Lisa and her husband, Dave, live in Madison, and have two daughters: Meg, an attorney, and Elizabeth, who works in digital marketing, who continue to reside in the Midwest.

A FAREWELL TO LINDA AND CAROL

Linda Carrington and Carol Knauff, two long-term, extremely productive members of the Friends board, have retired from active involvement, and were unanimously voted Honorary Trustees. Although the overview (below) of their work as board members is necessarily brief, we cannot stress enough that both Linda and Carol have contributed much to the realization of the operations and mission of the Friends.

Linda, an alumna of FDU, joined the Friends board in 2001. A relatively brief list indicates the range of Linda's significant contributions. She maintained and developed the membership list to over 1,700 names, and kept the record of financial contributions. A researcher *extraordinaire*, Lin-

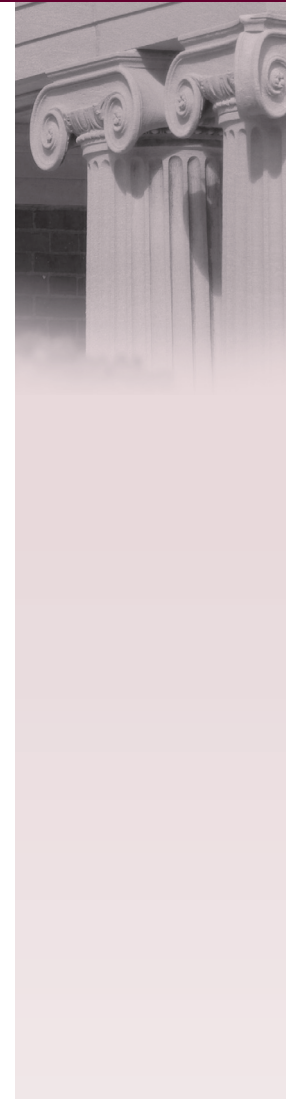
da wrote or co-wrote articles for the newsletter about Wheatsheaf, the Kissel house; and about the "mystery" of the travel diary of a Vanderbilt relative discovered in a third-floor closet in the Mansion (Hennessy Hall); researched and created family trees of the Burden and Twombly families; and brought us up-to-date on the history and whereabouts of Mrs. Twombly's Aeolian organ. Not least, Linda also gave tours of the Mansion, and served as liaison for the Friends webpage.

Carol joined the Friends board in 2007, holds an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson, and has been involved in several critical areas of the Friends' activities: she served in the vital position of secretary of the Friends board; was active in the production of the Friends' lecture series; worked on several

projects under the direction of former president Linda Meister; and was one of the first contributors to the J. Michael Adams Room at Wroxton College.

Carol has also been involved in many areas of University life, and received, among other significant awards, the Elia G. Stratis CASTLE Award, the highest award the Alumni Association presents annually to a graduate who has demonstrated a lifetime of outstanding loyalty and service to the University. Carol and her husband, Jeffrey, established the Knauff Family Endowed Scholarship in honor of the Alumni Association Board of Governors.

We thank Linda and Carol for their valuable contributions to the board, and look forward to seeing them at future Friends events.



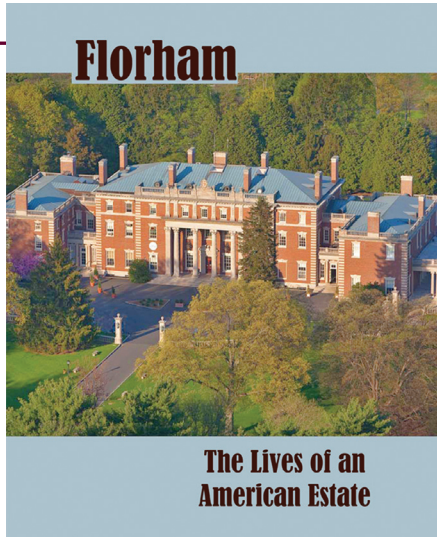


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Copies may be purchased at the Florham Campus bookstore and online through Amazon.com. the Friends' website fd�.edu/fof or through the Fairleigh Dickinson University Alumni Association website at www.myfd�.net/fofbook. For questions concerning your order, please contact Karin Hamilton at (201) 692-7035 or hamilton@fd�.edu.

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Join the Friends of Florham. Participate directly in our efforts to preserve the architectural history of Florham, and support our informative program series. Your support will make a difference.

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