

MUSEUM NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUSEUM OF HOUNDS AND HUNTING

Vol. 10 No. 1

January 1998

1997 Report: Continued Growth!

The year 1997 was exceptionally gratifying in terms of growth and activity. **Museum** membership grew to 625 members—a 47% increase over the previous year! Major new donations of art and artifacts were acquired. Three special member activities were offered during the year. A new room, honoring outstanding huntsmen of our sport, was opened. The **Museum** was painted, new lighting was installed and new exhibits were mounted. The **Museum** received a federal grant to perform an assessment of its conservation practices. And, for the first time, people around the world are able to access the **Museum** via the Internet at our website, <http://www.cad-col.com/morvenpark>.

New Acquisitions

Norma Bowles, wife of the late John Bowles, donated to the **Museum** a superb collection of original Lionel Edwards oil paintings and sketches. Also included in the gift were preliminary drawings, books and correspondence between John Bowles and Lionel Edwards. (See story this page.)

The **Museum** was also the recipient of over 300 library items, primarily books, donated by Lynne Kindersley Dole in the memory of her parents, the late Major Charles Kindersley, MFH of the Eglinton and Caledon Hunt (ON) and Mrs. Kindersley. Ms. Dole expressed great pleasure that her father's library will join that of his old friend, the late William Brainard.

A spectacular collection of 33 silver trophies, the earliest dating back to 1922, was given to the **Museum** by the Virginia Foxhunters Association through Tom Evans. Coleman Perrin, MFH and President of the Virginia Foxhound Club, facilitated this valuable gift which provides a tangible connection back to the best of many of the old American foxhound lines.

Janet Churchill, ex-MFH of the Groton Hunt (MA) donated 5 signed Edward King prints and additional prints of works by Cecil Alden, Michael Lyne, Snaffles and Harrington Byrd. Ms. Churchill also donated a large hand-painted screen and Groton Hunt memorabilia.

Warren Pelton, who previously had donated French staghunting artifacts to the **Museum**, added a staghunting habit to this exhibit. The estate of the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis donated a bronze hound bust from her collection, sculpted by Mary Coker. And the family of the late Pamela Harriman gave one of Mrs. Harriman's hunting coats to the **Museum**.

Other gifts to the **Museum** were received from Mr. & Mrs. William Abel-Smith, Anita Baarns, Shelby Bonnie, Mrs. George Carter, Mrs. Putnam Davis, MFH, Mrs. George

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— Donna Rogers photo

Sherman Haight, ex-MFH toasts Norma Bowles at the members' dinner given in her honor, in appreciation for the magnificent collection of original Lionel Edwards paintings that she donated to the **Museum**.

Museum Acquires the John Bowles Collection of Lionel Edwards Sporting Art

The **Museum of Hounds and Hunting** has acquired a major collection of original art by Lionel Edwards, one of this century's foremost sporting artists. Included in this exceedingly generous gift are five oil paintings commissioned by sportsman-businessman John Bowles, and each depicts Mr. Bowles and his wife, Norma, hunting in the English Shires. The donation—original paintings along with the sketches, working drawings and correspondence between subject and artist—constitutes a complete and engaging exhibit, and the **Museum** is immeasurably grateful to Norma Bowles and her family for adding these most personal and magnificent works of art to our collection.

John Bowles

John Bowles possessed the rare ability to blend a dedication to age-old tradition with twentieth-century business acumen. Proof of the latter was his five-year rise from salesman to president of the Rexall Drug Company. The former found expression through his love of equestrian sport—particularly foxhunting. A devoted family man and patron of many civic and charitable organizations, Mr. Bowles embodied the essence of the consummate sporting gentleman.

A native of North Carolina, his career led

him to Los Angeles where, in 1950, he met Norma Landwehr, an accomplished horsewoman and niece of P.T. Cheff, Jr., MFH of the Battle Creek Hunt (MI). It was there, on his honeymoon, that John Bowles first experienced the thrills (and also the spills) of foxhunting.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Bowles developed a friendship with Colonel Sir John Miller who was then serving as Crown Equerry to Queen Elizabeth II. Sir John introduced his American friend to the magnificent hunting country of the English Shires. A second introduction brought the legendary sporting artist, Lionel Edwards, into John Bowles's life. Although well into his eighties and reluctant to take on yet another commission, the painter's reticence was overcome by Mr. Bowles' charm and enthusiasm, and both a partnership and a friendship were born.

Over the next two years, Sir Lionel spent hours concealed in tarpolin-covered ditches, sketch pad in hand, to record glimpses of John and Norma Bowles as they sped past with the Belvoir, Cottesmore and Quorn Hunts across the incomparable English Midlands. The results were the five magnificent paintings that the **Museum** is proud to display.

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THE PURPOSE OF THE MUSEUM is to preserve the rich North American heritage of hunting with hounds, today and for the future; acquire important artifacts before they are lost; provide a repository for valuable artifacts; and, by developing educational exhibits, promote public understanding of hunting with hounds.

John Bowles Collection... *Continued from Page 1*

There is an interesting sidelight to the John Bowles-Sir John Miller friendship. John Bowles was a friend and admirer of fellow Californian, Monty Roberts, the man often referred to as the "horse whisperer" and author of the best-selling book, The Man Who Listens to Horses. During one of Sir John's visits to the States, Mr. Bowles brought him to meet Monty Roberts and to see a demonstration of Roberts' method of starting green horses. Sir John was impressed, and, as Monty Roberts relates, he arranged for Roberts to come to England and demonstrate his astounding techniques to the Queen. This extraordinary opportunity and numerous return visits and demonstrations across England brought world-wide attention to Roberts and resulted in an intimate and enduring friendship with the Queen.

Lionel Edwards (1878-1966)

With only a sketch pad and the ability to store mental images as they flashed by him, Lionel Edwards captured the color and the excitement of foxhunting, which, when integrated with his lovely landscapes and skies, comprise a spectacular body of sporting art. A keen hunting man himself, he saw and stored these fleeting images through the eyes of the initiated, and was thus able to render authenticity to his work. He followed the hunt on horseback, on bicycle and on foot. Sketch pad in hand, he crouched in ditches or behind bushes, often hidden under a tarpolin, making quick sketches of what he intended to paint. According to Sally Mitchell in her definitive *Dictionary of British Sporting Artists*, "After Munnings he [Edwards] was probably the most important sporting artist of the hunting field of the first half of the twentieth century."

A hallmark of Edwards' work is seen in his incorporation of the human element, and even traces of whimsy, into his art. Though fully expressing the pageantry and exhilaration of the hunt, moments of frailty are honestly rendered as well: a brief imbalance at an awkward jump, a rider whose seat is less than perfect. Even John Bowles, subject and patron of Edwards' brush, did not escape the artist's commitment to portray that which he saw without compromise. In one painting, "The Quorn at Quenby Hall," Mr. Bowles is pictured, in the midst of the other riders who are gracefully galloping forward, hauling back on what must have been an exceedingly stiff-necked mount.

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Everhart, Mr. William Fendley & Mrs. Fendley, MFH, Judith Gilman, Mrs. John B. Hannum, III, MFH, Miss Mary Ellen Horner, Dr. Theo Kjellstrom, Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Matheson, Dr. & Mrs. Matthew Mackay-Smith, Nancy Manierre, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Murdock, Carl Meyer, Mr. & Mrs. I. J. Naismith, Ronald Pfister, Barclay Rives, Edwin P. Schrank, Crompton Smith, and Mrs. Richard Swanson.

Member Activities

The Annual Reception for **Museum** members was held over the Memorial Day weekend in conjunction with the 1997 Virginia Foxhound Show. This is always a high-spirited party, and the crush of people was greatly relieved this year by opening up the courtyard outside the Morven Park trophy room for improved traffic flow.

In June, **Museum** members were afforded a rare privilege to tour John W. Kluge's private collection of horse-drawn carriages at the Morven Carriage House on his estate in Charlottesville, Virginia. Members were bused to the Kluge estate from Morven Park, and, after

Over a life that spanned nearly nine decades, Lionel Edwards produced an expansive collection of artwork that encompassed not only foxhunting, but a host of other subjects as well, including stag hunting, racing, show jumping, driving, war horses, shooting and dogs of many breeds. He wrote and illustrated a number of books and illustrated many for other authors. "Edwards was a great raconteur and wit," according to Mitchell, "and a tremendous horseman who hunted with almost every pack in England."

Already in his eighties when he completed these works for John Bowles, Sir Lionel Edwards passed away shortly after their completion. Now Mr. Bowles is gone as well, but these brilliant paintings by one of this century's masters of the genre, capturing personal moments of exhilaration shared by husband and wife in the hunting field, may be viewed and savored by thousands of hunting enthusiasts visiting the **Museum**.

-with contributions from John Anderson and Lauren Giannini



"Quorn at Charnwood Forest" by Lionel Edwards

John Bowles (foreground) flies a stone wall with Norma Bowles (sidesaddle) close behind. In the distance lies Sherwood Forest, where Robin Hood once hunted the King's stags. Lionel Edwards considered this one of his finest paintings. It was photographed and reproduced world-wide in reports of the artist's passing.

the tour, enjoyed lunch at the historic Michie Tavern in Charlottesville.

Surely the most glittering members' event occurred in October when the **Museum** hosted a white tie dinner to introduce the John Bowles Collection of Lionel Edwards sporting art and to honor Norma Bowles for her magnificent gift. (See story next page.)

Huntsmen's Room

A new room at the **Museum** was established as a tribute to all huntsmen in North America. Specifically honored were 15 notable huntsmen, who, in the opinion of a blue-ribbon committee named by the Museum's Advisory Board, have made outstanding contributions to the sport of hunting during their lifetime. Pictures, memorabilia and histories of the chosen huntsmen adorn the walls of the Huntsmen's Room, and it is hoped that all huntsmen will take pride in being members of the fraternity of those honored.

The Huntsmen's Room was officially opened on Saturday, May 24th with a moving ribbon-cutting ceremony during which a short history of each honoree was delivered by a family member or an old hunt-

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MUSEUM NEWS

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Members' Dinner at Morven Park

On the evening of October 2, 1997, seventy-five **Museum** members attended the formal opening of The John Bowles Collection of Lionel Edwards Sporting Art, which included a reception and dinner in the Morven Park mansion to honor Mrs. John (Norma) Bowles for her generosity to the **Museum**. Mr. and Mrs. Bowles son, John, was also present for the festivities.

After-dinner speakers included Sherman Haight, ex-MFH, Alexander Mackay-Smith, ex-MFH and Sir John Miller, former Crown Equerry to Queen Elizabeth II, each of whom knew and loved John Bowles. He was described as a man who immediately captured the focus of any gathering by his very presence, his infectious enthusiasm and his charm.

Sir John was able to relate anecdotes concerning both John Bowles and Lionel Edwards. Of the latter, he told of one particular commission that Lionel Edwards was engaged to paint. The artist hid himself near the fence that the client expected to jump. Unfortunately the horse stopped, and Lionel Edwards painted it just that way. When the man saw the completed canvas, he asked, "Did you have to paint me having a refusal?" Edwards answered, "It wasn't my fault that your horse stopped; if you had jumped the fence I would have painted it that way!"

Norma Bowles took the microphone for the last words of the evening. She graciously expressed her happiness that this exhibit will hang at the **Museum of Hounds and Hunting**, and that many others will have an opportunity to see the paintings that meant so much to her and her husband.

With the spectacular art, the mansion's ambiance, the ebullient company and the distinguished guests, it was a magical evening, the likes of which the **Museum** hopes to have many occasions to repeat.



— Donna Rogers photo

Attending the opening of The John Bowles Collection of Lionel Edwards Sporting Art were (from the left) Alexander Mackay-Smith, Sir John Miller, former Equerry to Queen Elizabeth II, Norma Bowles and Dr. Joseph Rogers, MFH.

What better way to return something to the sport you cherish than to allow your treasures to continue to be a source of joy to your fellow sportsmen and women? Have you considered the **Museum** as an ultimate home for your hunting art and memorabilia?

1997 Report... *Cont. from Page 2*

ing associate. Family and friends came from great distances to attend the ceremonies, which were conducted under the pillared portico of the Morven Park mansion.

The 15 huntsmen chosen were all active in the period from 1907, the year the MFHA was established, through World War II. Nominees for future inclusion for the periods prior to 1907 and following World War II will be considered on a biennial basis. Those huntsmen named for inclusion in the exhibit this year were:

Thomas Allison, Meadowbrook Hounds (NY), Hunton E. Atwell, MFH, Piedmont Fox Hounds (VA) and Loudoun Hunt (VA), Charles Carver, Piedmont, Mr. Thomas' Foxhounds, Foxcatcher, Green Spring Valley (MD), Essex (NJ) and Vicmead hunts, Elias Chadwell, Millbrook Hunt (NY), William "Buster" Chadwell, Essex Fox Hounds, Homer B. Gray, MFH, Rombout Hunt (NY), A. Henry Higginson, MFH, Middlesex Foxhounds (MA) and the Cattistock (UK), Mason Houghland, MFH, Harpeth Hills Hounds and the Hillsboro Hounds (TN), Sterling "Duke" Leach, Orange County Hunt (VA), Dallas Leith, Elkridge-Harford (MD), Robert Maddox, Middleburg Hunt (VA), Charles Smith, Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds, Harry Worcester Smith, MFH, Grafton Hounds (MA), Piedmont Fox Hounds, Loudoun Hunt and the Westmeath (Ireland), William P. Wadsworth, MFH, Genesee Valley Hunt (NY), William Woodward, Montreal Hunt (QC).

Conservation Assessment Program

The **Museum** was the recipient of a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and

Library Services and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property. The purpose of the grant was to fund a conservation assessment program—performed by professional conservators—to evaluate the **Museum's** plant, policies and procedures as they relate to the care and preservation of the collection. The reports of the conservators will help the **Museum** to better preserve and care for our treasures to ensure that they may be enjoyed by future generations. The **Museum of Hounds and Hunting** was one

of only 155 institutions in the country to receive such a grant in 1997.

The exceptional growth, successful activities and, most importantly, the exciting new acquisitions reflect to the credit and efforts of the entire Advisory Board, but special recognition must be paid to our Board Co-Chairpersons, Marion Maggiolo and Dr. Joseph Rogers, MFH, whose incredible hard work, creativity and vision are propelling the **Museum** forward in its mission to preserve our North American heritage of hunting with hounds.

The Museum is open:
Every Weekend: April 1 – November 30
(10 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
Weekdays (except Monday): April 1 – Oct. 31
(Noon – 5 p.m.)
Special Christmas hours in December
Other Times: by Appointment



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THE MUSEUM OF HOUNDS AND HUNTING

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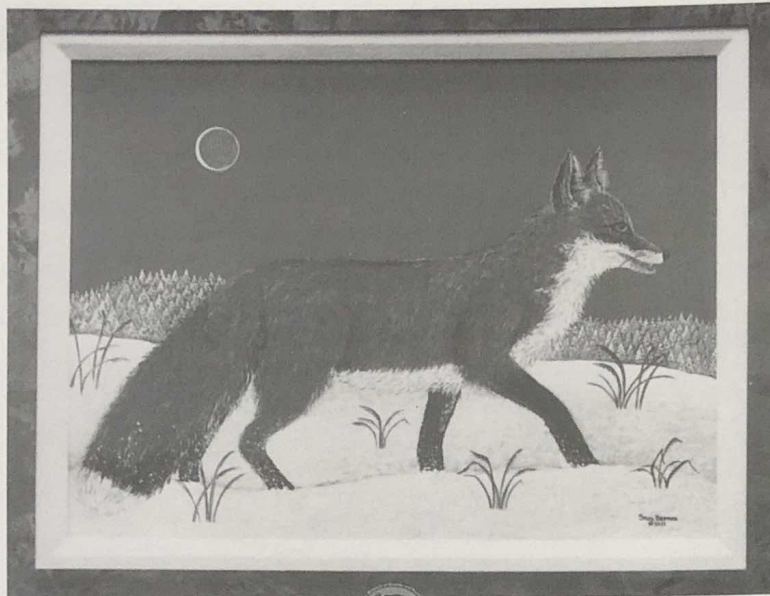
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Posters For Sale

"Winter Fox" by Sara Barnes

The **Museum** still has posters available from last year's Annual Art Exhibition. The **Museum's** Exhibitions, coinciding with the Virginia Foxhound Show held each year over the Memorial Day weekend, provide a showcase for contemporary American artists to display their works to hundreds of North American hunting enthusiasts and collectors. Each year one painting or sculpture in the Exhibition is selected for full color reproduction on a promotional poster. A quantity of the posters are signed by the artist and sold by the **Museum** as a fund raiser.

The 1997 signed posters are priced at \$20.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Virginia residents add 90 cents sales tax for each poster. To order, call the **Museum** at (703)777-2414 and have your VISA or MasterCard ready.

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