Dear Special Friends,

Welcome to the Premier Issue of Inside Stan Hywet!

As a contributor to the 2nd Century Campaign for Stan Hywet, you are part of a special group of donors with whom we look forward to sharing a behind-the-scenes look at the restoration projects funded by your generosity. This periodic newsletter is designed to keep you informed as we put your investments to work over the next few years.

Within these pages, we will provide you with insights from our leadership and professional staff, including our Director of Museum Services and Curator, Julie Frey; and the Director of Historic Restoration, Mark Gilles. We will also share anecdotes from the skilled craftspeople and professionals who are involved in restoring the historic structures, furniture, furnishings and artifacts in our collection.

We are happy to report that the Breakfast Room Fountain has been restored and internally reinforced to its original beauty. While not a part of F.A.’s and the architect’s original plans, it was Gertrude who had it added after she saw it on a trip to New York. According to family lore, sometime in the 1940s, the fountain was broken by grandchildren playing too roughly nearby. The fountain was restacked minus the broken spindle, greatly shortening its height. It was restored as it originally looked in 2001. Unfortunately, it stood only a few seasons before it was broken again.

We look forward to keeping you engaged in our work and to sharing our progress on restoration projects. We thank you and are grateful for your friendship and support.

With gratitude,

Linda Conrad
President & Executive Director

Of special note: This premier issue was mailed to acquaint you with this new informational piece. To conserve resources, future issues will be sent electronically. If you prefer to continue receiving Inside Stan Hywet by mail, please call the development department at 330.836.5533. Thank you.
2nd Century Campaign Reaches Goal

Thanks to your passion and generosity, Akron’s iconic cultural landmark is being restored and preserved for the next 100 years. $6.1 million was raised for the 2nd Century Campaign, surpassing our goal. These funds will allow us to meet the critical restoration needs of many of our most prominent and beloved features of the Estate.

Inside the Manor House

The restoration of the Great Hall is nearly complete and dramatic changes are already evident. The Library and Tower Landing will also be completed in 2016, as the collections staff works tirelessly to manage the multiple and varied projects in each of these spaces.

Guests will notice the new upholstery on the two sofas. The previous fabric from the late 1960s was badly faded. A remnant of the original 1915 upholstery was used to locate a nearly identical velvet in a vibrant cranberry pink color, and a modern reproduction transformed the two sofas into mirror images of their original 1915 appearance.

The elk’s head dominating the south wall in the Great Hall received intense restoration work and was rehung in the spring. Other taxidermy pieces, including Stan Hywet’s bald eagle, also received conservation treatment.

The Intermuseum Conservation Association in Cleveland restored several pieces, including the five painted sconces that are positioned around the perimeter, the ecclesiastical chair and the match box stand.

The final project awaiting completion in the Great Hall are the window and door curtains. The collections teams worked with Scalamandre fabric house in New York City to create fabric identical to the 1915 curtains. Currently in production, the drapes will be constructed and rehung over the summer.
Restoration of the Historic Stone Perimeter Wall

One of the most dramatic transformations on the Estate is the restoration of the 2200 linear foot historic Perimeter Stone Wall, an effort that was made possible by a significant lead gift from the State of Ohio. Stan Hywet Director of Historic Restoration Mark Gilles, and stonework craftsman Zach Goebelt planned the project for more than a year.

The process of dry stone stacking — an ancient method frequently used on castle walls and bridges in England, Scotland, and other parts of Europe — has been used to ensure that the wall stands for at least another century. Goebelt, who has worked on many projects around the Estate, brings a rare talent and skill to the ancient masonry method necessary to restore the wall. The work has been accomplished in 50-100 foot increments, each section being rebuilt as the next one is dismantled.

The final challenge is the work on Garman Road at the retaining wall. The wall, also being rebuilt, is a section that is on City of Akron property. With little workspace, coupled with traffic on Garman, this section presents some logistical challenges. Nevertheless, the restoration of the Wall is nearly complete and ahead of schedule.

“"The dry stone mason must understand the basic principles of dry stone construction and mix these rules with an intuitive sense of shapes in space. The way they are chiseled and placed to create a perfect fit allows the stones to support one another, eliminating the need for concrete and filler.”

- Zach Goebelt

A Glimpse Inside the Perimeter Wall

When Zach Goebelt and his crew were working on the wall last year, they uncovered a little toy dog that had been buried within the wall. They named him Buddy and have brought him along as they have progressed. So, Buddy sits on top of the batter frame on whatever section of the wall they are working on, providing for numerous Buddy photo opportunities in various locations.

Stained and Leaded Glass Windows

The season opened with visitors seeing the first group of restored windows in the Breakfast Room, Reception Room, Great Hall right of the rear door, Museum Store and Carriage House Auditorium. Window restoration is a process lasting several weeks from the time the windows are removed through their repair, cleaning, and reinstallation.

Skilled craftsmen from Whitney Stained Glass in Cleveland remove the stops and glass panels, clean and paint the frames, bundle and identify the stops, and install a temporary panel. At the studio the lead came is carefully documented before any of the pieces are removed. Once completed, the lead is removed, glass cleaned and positioned. The came, the slender grooved lead rods used to hold the panes of glass together, are returned, soldered back into the frame, and cement packed. The window is then cleaned, patenized and cured, making it ready for re-installation.

Among the defining features of the Estate’s Tudor revival architecture are the 400 Stained and Leaded Glass Windows.
**Historic Tea Houses and Hidden Aspect**

Originally serving as picnic pavilions with a beautiful vista, — one that convinced F.A. and Gertrude to choose this site to build Stan Hywet — the Tea Houses present restoration challenges as they were built on a cliff. As Director of Historic Restoration Mark Gilles explains, before work could even begin, it was critical to ensure that the foundation for the base of the Tea Houses was solid. So, Gilles working with Mitch Weber, geological engineer referred by Kent State’s Department of Geology, first undertook an extensive cliff stabilization study. Based upon the report’s findings and recommendations, Gilles will be working with companies that specialize in stabilizing loose stone. Work is projected to begin early summer.

The Tea Houses stand as beacons on the Estate and serve as a favorite location for weddings.

**Join Us For Our 2016 Season**

This season’s theme, *Family, Sharing Our Stories*, underscores the importance of family to the Seiberlings in every facet of their lives. The family and its accomplishments are brought to life through family photo exhibits in the Manor House and with the expansion of *Picturing the Past* photo displays throughout the gardens.

“*Our life is a little hum-drum at home since we only have ‘baby’ Franklin to deal with, but except for the fact that we have an ‘infernal’ radio machine in the house that keeps me up until two o’clock in the morning at times, everything runs about in the same old way. I have to confess that the radio bug has got me and as a result my measure of sleep has been materially cut down. Last night, in less than ten minutes time, I have tuned in a half a dozen stations, extending from the Mississippi River to New York City, and we have had contact with nearly fifty stations over the country, as far south as Havana [sic] Cuba, east to Montreal, west to Dallas, Texas, Hastings, Nebraska and Minneapolis, Minnesota. I think it is the most marvelous invention of the century and it is certainly attracting tremendous interest over the country, tho it is unfortunate that to work with it well you must burn the midnight oil.*”

F.A. Seiberling to Virginia Seiberling Handy, February 29, 1924