

## THE FRIENDS OF FREER HOUSE

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### Annual Report, October, 2010 – September, 2011

Dear Friends of the Freer House Members and Supporters,

As we enter a new season, here is a report of some of the many accomplishments of the Friends of the Freer House since October of 2011. Thanks to your membership support we have seen great progress with expanded programs and projects including:

1. An historically appropriate new cedar shake roof, new copper gutters and downspouts and exterior masonry cleaning revealing the original hues of the Freer House stonework was supported by a \$ 750,000 commitment from the WSU Board of Governors in 2010.

(roof under construction)



(roof completed)



2. Initiation of an Interpretation Plan for the Freer House to improve the visitor experience through new exhibits highlighting the rich histories of Charles Lang Freer, the Freer House and the Merrill Palmer Institute. The design firm of Staples and Charles, Alexandria, VA. (clients include the DIA and Monticello) has been engaged to guide this project with support from the Americana Foundation.

3. Exciting and informative lecture events underwritten by the Americana Foundation attracted capacity crowds. Highlights included: "Freer and the Art of Japan" with Ann Yonemura, Curator of Japanese Art, Freer Gallery of Art; "The 1910 Exhibition of American and Oriental Art at UM," presented by three Ph.D. students from the University of Michigan; and a unique concert, theater, multi-media event on the theme of "Freer and Whistler." Upcoming FOFH 2011-2012 lectures include, "Whistler's Seriousness", with Carole McNamara of the University of Michigan Museum of Art, **(Oct. 23, 2011 2pm.)** and "Freer and the Ceramics of Asia", with Louise Cort, Curator of Ceramics, Freer Gallery of Art **(April 1, 2012, 2pm.)**

(March 2011, Scarab Club String Quartet)

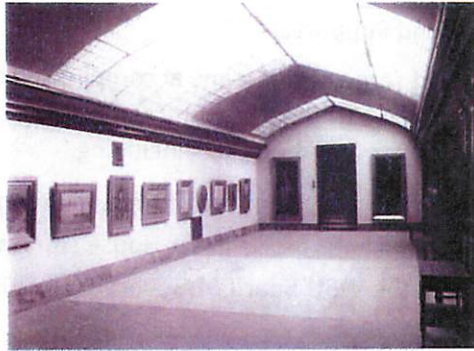


(L-R-Mr. & Mrs. Roden, Consul General, S. Korea  
Mr. and Mrs. Matsuda, Consul General, Japan)



4. Whistler Gallery Restoration Project launched. An ambitious project to restore the severely altered “Whistler Gallery” was initiated with a benefit concert in March. A major goal for 2011-12 is to raise funds for a Planning Study to guide the restoration of this historic space and serve as a catalyst for financial support.

(Whistler Gallery 1908)



(Whistler Gallery today)

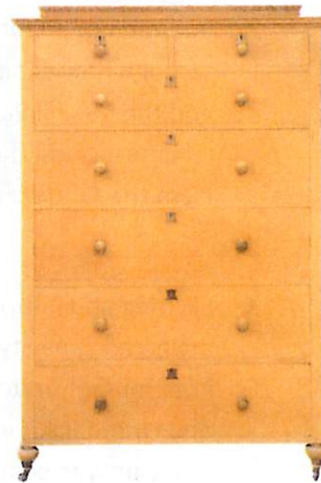


5. Freer Furniture Documentation Project. In cooperation with the WSU Interior Design Program, objects and furniture that belonged to Charles Lang Freer, presently in the collection of Dr. Thomas W. Brunk, were documented with measured drawings and photographs. Five WSU students, two faculty, FOFH volunteers and staff participated in this comprehensive effort. The documentation will create a permanent record of these historic objects and serve to guide future restoration plans. Other Freer House projects ranging from research and documentation to tours and lectures included students from WSU, the College for Creative Studies, U of M and U of D Mercy.

(WSU Freer Documentation Project Team)



(C.L. Freer Dresser, T.W. Brunk Collection)



6. Courtyard Garden Restoration. A project was launched to research Freer’s original unique landscape of Western and Asian plant varieties with a goal of recreating Freer’s garden plan in 2012. A committee has been created with planning underway to establish garden design and fundraising goals.

(Detail of Peacock Room with Freer’s Ceramics, Freer Gallery of Art)

7. The Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery opens stunning ‘Peacock Room in Detroit’ exhibit. The famous Peacock Room decorated by Whistler has been reinstalled to look as it did in the Freer House from 1906-19. The room is traditionally presented as it looked in London, before Freer purchased it, with blue and white Chinese porcelain on the shelves resembling its original owner’s intentions. Freer however used the Peacock Room to display his extraordinary collection of Asian ceramics in carefully composed arrangements. The exhibit, “The Peacock Room Comes to American”, was the idea of Freer/Sackler Director Julian Raby, inspired by his visit to the Freer House in 2008. Lee Glazer, Curator of American Art, and Louise Cort, Curator of Ceramics, installed the exhibit which will be up through 2012. (info at [www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions](http://www.asia.si.edu/exhibitions))