



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN AND FIELD SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FROM:
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National Sporting Library and Museum

**Sackler Gallery 25th Anniversary Gala Celebrants
Visit the NSLM
Thursday, November 29, 2012**

MIDDLEBURG, VA - As notable dignitaries, art lovers and philanthropists gathered this week to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, some of the event organizers and guests made a side trip to the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg, Virginia, arranged by Ann Nitze, a Gala Sponsor.

Visitors included members of the Sackler Gala International Committee: Mrs. Roderick Gow (London), who with her husband was a co-chair of that committee; Baroness Allard (London); and TSH Prince and Princess Johannes von Auersperg (London and Austria). The Sackler Gala Committee was represented by James Armstrong and Larry Connelly

(Texas); and Grace Bender (Washington, D.C.). Oriental manuscripts expert Nabil Saidi (London) and historian Travis Barton Kranz (California), a Foxcroft alum, also joined the group on Thursday, November 29th.

The visit included tours of current exhibitions and highlights from the rare book collection followed by luncheon in the Founders' Room with NSLM board members Mimi Abel Smith, Guy O. Dove and Jacqueline Ohrstrom.

Among the many enthusiastic conversations was the discovery that April Gow's husband is the great grandson of Lord Mottistone (General Jack Seely) who wrote *My Horse Warrior*, the 1934 book that is the basis for the play and film "War Horse." The book was illustrated by his friend Sir Alfred Munnings and contains a moving inscription about Munnings' drawings by Seely. Two Munnings paintings are a prominent part of the NSLM art collection.

The Sackler has two important exhibitions of interest to horse enthusiasts: *Nomads and Networks: The Ancient Art and Culture of Kazakhstan* and *Roads of Arabia: Archaeology and History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*.

The National Sporting Library and Museum congratulates the Smithsonian's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery on their 25th anniversary.

Images and captions: *All photos courtesy of the National Sporting Library and Museum*

<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/33859054/Sackler%20gala%20group.zip>

The National Sporting Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and European fine animal and sporting art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public.

Admission: *free.*

Library Hours: *Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.*

Museum Hours: *Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m.*

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