

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM AND 18 STAFFORD TERRACE NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2012

Welcome to our 2nd quarterly newsletter keeping our supporters up to date with developments at Leighton House Museum and 18 Stafford Terrace.

The New Year has started busily. On 1st January we launched a new partnership with the National Trust under the National Trust Partner scheme. This exciting initiative brings enhanced benefits for Trust members, while raising the profile of the museum. Further details can be found in this newsletter or by visiting www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast.

January has also seen the opening of *Meetings in Marrakech: The Paintings of Hassan El Glaoui and Winston Churchill*, which runs until 31 March. The show brings together a unique collection of work by two painters from very different backgrounds who found common inspiration in Marrakech. Accompanying this exhibition is a special evening viewing and talk by Churchill's granddaughter, writer Celia Sandys. More details about this event can be found on page 2.

Finally, an exhibition of Leighton's work centred around *Clytie*, his last great painting which was bought by the museum in 2008 has opened at the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, Bournemouth. *In the Footsteps of Gods and Heroes* includes examples of Leighton's drawings, paintings and sculpture and runs until 11 June 2012. The show has been organised with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. We hope you have a chance to see it if you are in the area.

Daniel Robbins, Senior Curator

National Trust Partner

New Benefits for National Trust members in London.



National
Trust
Partner

We are delighted to be the first museum in London to enter into partnership with the National Trust under the National Trust Partner Scheme. The scheme aims to bring enhanced benefits to National Trust members living in London or those visiting the capital for a day out; helping to provide increased opportunities to explore London's rich and diverse heritage. In return, partner museums benefit from increased visitor numbers and an exchange of know-how in a community of equality with the Trust. National Trust members will be entitled to a 50% discount on entry to Leighton House on presentation of their valid membership card. However, we regret that if you have forgotten your membership card you will be asked to pay the full entry charge in order to visit the Museum.

Leighton House Museum continues to be funded, administered and maintained by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. As Leighton House Museum is not operated by National Trust staff, the team are unable to contact Supporter Services if you have a query with your membership. Further information on the National Trust Partner is available by contacting the website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast, or for membership enquiries by telephoning Supporter Services on 0844 800 1895.

Meetings in Marrakech: The Paintings of Hassan El-Glaoui and Winston Churchill

20 January - 31 March 2012

The exhibition tells the fascinating story of Sir Winston Churchill and Hassan El Glaoui. Churchill, who as well as being Britain's iconic wartime Prime Minister was also an accomplished amateur painter, first visited the Moroccan city of Marrakech in 1935. He would develop a lasting affection for what he considered to be 'one of the loveliest spots in the whole world', and was inspired to produce many paintings of its buildings and people. During these trips he befriended Thami El Glaoui, the Pasha of Marrakech – also known as the 'Black Panther'. Through Churchill's intervention, the Pasha's son, Hassan El Glaoui, was permitted to pursue his passion for painting – something that had not met with the Pasha's immediate approval.

Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Winston Churchill and one of the organisers of the exhibition said: "I hope that my grandfather is smiling down on this exhibition. He would have liked the idea of the paintings which gave him so much pleasure, in a country that he loved so much, hanging side by side with those by Hassan El Glaoui, the son of his old friend the Pasha of Marrakech."



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Churchill's influence had significant results. Hassan El Glaoui was the first Moroccan artist to establish an international reputation and today his work is among the most sought after contemporary North African art in the world. Reflecting on his career, Hassan explained: 'a love of my country has been the defining spirit of my painting.'

This exhibition demonstrates that for Churchill too Morocco provided an inspiration that was profound. His meetings with the young painter's father in Marrakech had a lasting impact and, despite such different starting points, a common sensibility and appreciation for the country is communicated in the work of both artists.

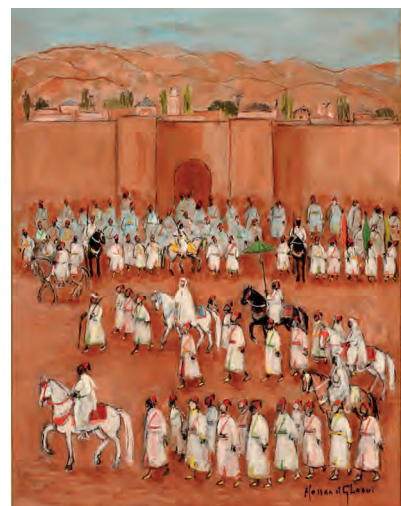
Meetings in Marrakech - An Evening with Celia Sandys

Thursday 9 February | 7pm – 9pm (doors open at 6.30pm)

Tickets: £20 includes refreshments (limited to 50 places)

Booking essential on 020 7471 9153 or visit www.wegottickets.com/leightonhousemuseum.

A special evening viewing of the exhibition *Meetings in Marrakech: The Paintings of Hassan El Glaoui and Winston Churchill*, in the company of Churchill's granddaughter, the writer Celia Sandys. Celia has travelled extensively in her grandfather's footsteps seeking out the places that meant most to him. She has visited Morocco many times and written of Churchill's love of the country and the inspiration it provided him as an artist. A short talk will be followed by questions and answers and viewing of the exhibition.



© 2011 by El Glaoui



Churchill painting on holiday in 1949, © Churchill Heritage Ltd. Reproduced with permission from the Churchill Heritage Ltd.



Colour sketch for Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna is Carried in Procession through the Streets of Florence, 1854

In our last newsletter we were able to confirm the acquisition of this important painting at auction in New York. Following cleaning and work to restore the frame, it will be going on display at the museum for the first time after the 10th of February.



Leighton Late with Sona Jobarteh, Image Credit: Mike Massaro

Nour Festival of Arts 2011

Our second Nour Festival of Arts ran through October and November 2011 and again proved a great success for the museum. The festival showcased some of the best contemporary art, film, literature, fashion and music originating in the Middle East and North Africa. Over 4,200 visitors came to the museum during the two month festival period and 2,095 people attended festival events - an increase of 33% over the previous year. The festival received extensive coverage including 28 stories and interviews - highlights were *Time Out*, *Visit London*, *The Times*, *Musical Opinion*, *London 24*, *BBC Arabic*, *BBC World Service* and *Reuters*.

New Edition of the Leighton House Guidebook available

A revised and updated edition of the guide to the museum is now available. Running to 96 pages the new edition incorporates stunning photographs of the restored interiors by the award-winning architectural photographer Will Pryce as well as information on the restoration project and the alterations made to the house at that time.

Copies can be ordered from the museum at a cost of £10 excluding postage and packing.

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