



THE EAST INDIA COMPANY
AT HOME, 1757–1857:

Invitation to Collaborate

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY AT HOME, 1757–1857

A 3-year collaborative research project based in Warwick University's Global History & Culture Centre, running from September 2011 to August 2014

Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, the project seeks to increase historical understanding of the forms and functions of 18th- and 19th-century country houses by assessing change over time in British domestic interiors and by locating those changes within a wider, global context.

- Explores the domestic and imperial routes by which Asian luxury goods – ceramics, textiles, metal-ware, furniture, fine art and the like – found their way into the homes of the propertied classes in England, Scotland and Wales in the Georgian and early Victorian periods.
- Builds on new developments in the study of consumer society, material culture and globalisation.
- Aims to capitalise on the recent explosion of research conducted

in archives and online by community-based family and local historians. The East India Company at Home will create a productive collaboration between family and local historians, museum curators and volunteers, the heritage sector, art dealers, independent scholars and university researchers.

The Warwick project team is led by Professor Margot Finn, an historian of 18th- and 19th-century British and imperial history. Dr Helen Clifford, an expert on British material culture and the curator of the Swaledale Museum in Yorkshire, will oversee engagement with local and family historians, together with Dr Kate Smith, an historian of Georgian material culture. Ellen Filor will be undertaking a PhD dissertation on Scottish families and their country houses.





Who can participate?

The project team welcomes collaboration with individuals and groups active in researching country house history, material culture, colonial and imperial relations, and family and local history. Prospective participants may currently be researching projects that include (but are not confined to):

specific country houses in England, Scotland and Wales (particularly those built, refurbished or furnished in the period c. 1757–1857)

specific objects found in country house collections (particularly items from China, India and Japan or associated with the East India Company)

specific persons associated with the East India Company, the British government in 18th- and 19th-century India or the construction or furnishing of country houses in Britain

No formal affiliation with a history society or educational institution is required for participants, but access to the internet and an email account will be needed to allow collaborators to participate fully in the project.

What will the project accomplish?

The East India Company at Home will combine the project team's research findings with historical material and objects identified by local and family historians, curators and others, weaving together a series of connected histories – of objects, people and places – to illuminate the ways in which colonial exploits and Asian commodities shaped British material culture and social identities in the Georgian and Victorian eras.

From autumn 2011, the project website will provide access to bibliographies and other tools for research on topics related to The East India Company at Home. As the project develops, an online database and web-based publications – produced both by academics in the Warwick History Department and by the project's collaborators – will provide a searchable public portal of information on the global context of British country houses.

Study-days, workshops and an international conference will offer opportunities for participants to showcase their research throughout the project.

For further information, see the project's website at www.warwick.ac.uk/go/eastindiacompanyathome.

If you need additional information, please email us at East.India.Company@warwick.ac.uk.



The Leverhulme Trust





How can you join the project?

The East India Company at Home, 1757–1857 will be launched in September 2011.

To register your interest, please complete the online form from the project website (www.warwick.ac.uk/go/eastindiacompanyathome) or download it and email the completed form to East.India.Company@warwick.ac.uk or post it to: Professor Margot Finn, Department of History, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL, United Kingdom.

Project associates will receive updates on research and invitations to study-days, workshops, seminars and conferences and will be invited to contribute to the database and published case studies.

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