

# THE EAST INDIA COMPANY AT HOME, 1757-1857

## JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Detail from postcard of Yair House

### RESEARCH

At the start of this month Ellen Filor spent time at the National Library of Scotland and the National Archive of Scotland, where she was carrying out archival research on the **Pringle of Yair family**. Ellen will be returning to the archives in Edinburgh at the end of January to carry out further research. She will also attend a workshop at the University of Edinburgh led by art historian Marcia Pointon.

Kate Smith has begun researching Sir Francis Sykes and his residence at **Basildon Park** in Berkshire. Kate visited the National Trust property in early January and met with House and Collections Manager Donald Ramsay and members of his team. Kate also visited nearby **St Bartholomew's Church** where Sir Francis Sykes and his second wife Elizabeth are buried.

Kate has also been continuing her research on a collection of ivory objects, which belonged to **William Pitt, 1st Earl Amherst of Arracan** in the early nineteenth century. As part of that research, Kate and Margot met with Ainsley Cameron (Senior Curator – South Asia: Rajasthan and Pahari painting, V&A Museum) earlier this month. Ainsley guided Kate and Margot around the V&A stores, showing them various objects from the collection.



Kate & Margot at the V&A stores

### UPCOMING EVENTS

On **8 February** 'The East India Company at Home' project team will be presenting their preliminary findings from the project at the Histories of Home seminar series at the Institute of Historical Research in London. The seminar will begin at 5.30pm and will take place in the Torrington Room (Room 104, first floor South Block), all welcome. For more information see <http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/327>. For those of you unable to make the session we will record it and post it on the website as a podcast.

We hope that the new version of the project website (including the first project case study) will be online in **February**. We will be contacting project associates to gain their feedback about the site in general and the case study more particularly before it goes public in March. We now have over 135 project associates with many different interests, areas of expertise and backgrounds – so we're hoping for some varied and interesting feedback!

On **April 18** Helen Clifford will be giving the keynote lecture at 'Consuming the Country House: from Acquisition to Presentation', a conference organised by Prof. Jon Stobart at the University of Northampton. Kate Smith will also be giving a paper at the conference, entitled 'Objects and Identities in the English Hindostaan'. For more information see <http://consumptionandthecountryhouse.ning.com/>.