

Ann Hewitt
Report

I had a wonderful time at this year's collection day at the Hammond-Harwood House Museum. I arrived the day of, on Saturday, November 13th, from a lovely drive through the countryside of Maryland. I arrived at the house that morning, where I met a few of the other scholarship recipients! We made our way into the gallery space, and chatted amongst ourselves while waiting. Soon, Rachel Lovett took us through the house, explaining the family history, the architecture, and the curatorial choices for each room. The upstairs ballroom in particular stunned our group. There, we stopped for a while by a beautiful sideboard, where this golden clock of George Washington sat.



Rachel Lovett led a discussion about the history of the clock, and the significance of the image of George Washington in early American history, which was a perfect segue into our first lecture. "Buy George! Collecting Washington Memorabilia" by Brian Scott Miller, an exciting tour of artifacts with the first Presidents' likeness. It was an entertaining and informative start to our evening, which was only continued into the second presentation, by Catherine Kelly, "Face Value: George Washington and the Material Culture of Nationalism", a closer look at the portraits and objects sold, using them to explore both the myth and the reality of the man.

We wrapped up our evening with a hearty applause for both speakers, and went down to enjoy some historically inspired food, graciously provided by Joyce White. While enjoying some turkey pies, I was honored to meet the wonderful woman behind our scholarships, Fran Harwood. The other scholarship recipients and I stood around the space heaters with Mrs. Harwood, and talked about how vital it is to get young people involved in history, and especially the conservation of historic homes like the Hammond-Harwood house. Not only for the continuation of the field, but to increase overall interest in history, and allow more people to become involved in learning and teaching it.

I am so grateful that I was able to attend this year's Collector's Day, and that I was able to meet other students like me through it. Isla, Libby, Ali, and Lexie, are wonderfully talented people, and I am so glad that we got to spend our day together at the Hammond-Harwood house, and I hope to be able to return as a visitor soon!



