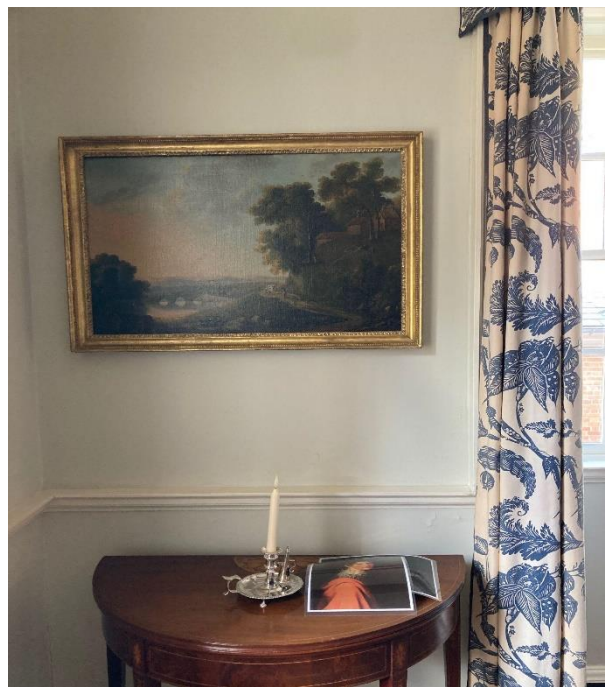


Collector's Day 2021 Scholar's Report  
By Elizabeth Fischer, M.A. Student at New York University

Many thanks to Fran Harwood, Curator Rachel Lovett, and all those involved for the opportunity to visit the Hammond Harwood House on the Fifth Annual Collectors' Day. I initially applied to the event for an opportunity to see the impressive eighteenth-century house and collection in addition to my interest in the George Washington centric lectures given by Brian Scott Miller and Catherine E. Kelly. I come from a background of eighteenth and nineteenth-century American and European art history but tend to learn more about European art history by virtue of course offerings. For this reason, I was thrilled for the chance for more exposure to such outstanding examples of American fine and decorative arts in person. In the house tour, I enjoyed observing the period-appropriate decorative elements of each room, in particular, the textiles and paint colors. Curator Rachel Lovett gave a thorough and thoughtful tour and explained that the museum was able to identify the original colors through forensic research.



Brain Scott Miller, Associate Curator at the Historic Odessa Foundation in Delaware, lectured on the pervasiveness of George Washington propaganda and imagery in the infancy of the nation up to today. While Catherine E. Kelly, Affiliate Professor of History of William & Mary, spoke to the visual power of Washington's likeness in shaping the nation. In particular, she described the way this was formed through his limited speaking, which she posits may have been a sign of reluctance or simply just thought-out deliberation. Both presentations worked together to create an image of Washington not only in the popularity of his likeness but the way that Americans (as well as Europeans) used their creativity to wield his power through their own channels of representation. It was fascinating just to the extent that early Americans relied on Washington to symbolically represent what they strove for in the new nation.

