

WINTERTHUR ANNOUNCES RECORD 200,000th VISITOR

Costumes of Downton Abbey Exhibition Attracts Unprecedented Number to Former Estate of Henry Francis du Pont

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library welcomed its 200,000th visitor this year on Friday, December 12, 2014, a record in a single year. The unprecedented number of guests visiting the former country estate of Henry Francis du Pont is approximately double Winterthur's annual average and is largely attributable to the blockbuster exhibition, *Costumes of Downton Abbey*.

"When we decided to curate an exhibition on *Downton Abbey*, the hit PBS series embodying the British counterpart to H.F. du Pont's American country estate, we knew it would be popular and we are delighted that has proved to be the case," said Dr. David P. Roselle, Director of Winterthur. "We are planning additional exhibits and programs that we believe will appeal to lots of Winterthur's members and friends."

Costumes of Downton Abbey compares and contrasts the fictional British world of *Downton Abbey* with the real-life American counterpart Winterthur in the first half of the 20th century. Arranged by time of day, the exhibition features 40 costumes plus jewelry from the smash PBS show along with clothing, silver, travel trunks, and other items of H.F. and Ruth Wales du Pont. It has attracted visitors from nearly every corner of the United States and travelers from China, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, Scotland, Australia, Germany, France, England, Ireland, Canada, Nova Scotia, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and more.

Organized chronologically, *Costumes of Downton Abbey* enables visitors to experience a typical day and evening in the life of the Crawley and du Pont families. Visitors enter past a working recreation of the bell system of *Downton Abbey*. Throughout the exhibition, iconic costumes from the show, including Lady Mary's engagement dress, Lady Edith's wedding dress, Lady Sybil's harem pants, and others, are on display with photos and vignettes. Servants' uniforms and livery are contrasted with elegant tweeds, sumptuous tea gowns, and elaborate evening clothes.

Yuletide at Winterthur, the annual exhibition celebrating the holiday traditions of H.F. du Pont and his family, opened with a *Downton Abbey* twist on November 22, 2014. Both *Yuletide* and *Costumes of Downton Abbey* run through January 4, 2015, when Winterthur will close to the public for the winter season. Winterthur will reopen on March 1, 2015. Members are free to visit the Winterthur garden and estate during the winter break.

Winterthur is hosting lectures, workshops, and events in association with both exhibitions, including holiday decorating classes, jazz and wine evenings, fashion presentations, and more.

For more information, please visit winterthur.org.

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Courtesy of Winterthur, by Laszlo Bodo

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic gardens, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children's garden. \$20 adults; \$18 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11.

Museum hours

10:00 am- 5:00 pm, Tuesday- Sunday.

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed on Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.



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