

INSIDE the COMMUNITY

Preservation Dallas Summer Preservation Institute and the Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy presented J. Gilbert Johnston

The Preservation Dallas Summer Preservation Institute and the Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy presented renowned art dealer and speaker J. Gilbert Johnston, Jr. at an evening program lecture titled "Art Treasures of Natural History: Connoisseurship and Preservation". A reception including an exhibition/sale of rare 18th and 19th century nature prints, including works by Audubon, was held at the Wilson House, home of Preservation Dallas. A portion of all sales throughout the four-day period benefited Preservation Dallas and the Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy.

Featuring birds, botanicals, animals, insects, and shells, Johnston's collection includes original Audubons printed by Havell as well as works by other noted artists from the 18th and 19th centuries such as Mark Catesby, John Gould, Prideaux John Selby, Robert John Thornton, and Alexander Wilson. Original prints are impressions made by transferring a master image on to paper by a device. The artist conceived of the picture and drew it himself. Although he may have hired someone else to do the engraving, lithography or the hand-colouring, the work was always done under his supervision.

"Gilbert Johnston is a leading authority on the subject of antique nature prints," said Katherine Seale, interim executive director, Preservation Dallas. "It is a true pleasure to host what promises to be a visual delight and an insightful look into the art of natural history. This is a rare opportunity for both Preservation Dallas and Lee Park & Arlington Hall, and we are thrilled to offer this program."

"The Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy is delighted to partner with Preservation Dallas to bring Mr. Johnston to Dallas for this unique program and exhibition," said Gale Sliger, executive director, the Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy. "Not only will he present the history behind 18th and 19th century nature prints and the colorful artists and scientists who created them, he will also talk about how to conserve such prints and how that can enhance their value. This adds a wonderful additional element to the program for collectors and art lovers at the very heart of the mission of both the Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy and Preservation Dallas."

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Gilbert Johnston is a lifelong lover of art and nature and has studied these subjects extensively. A true Renaissance man, Johnston has carved a life as interesting as the naturalists/artists he represents. A Christmas gift of Audubon's Birds of America from his parents when he was a boy began his life-long love of nature, science, adventure and art, leading to his becoming a collector and the owner and founder of ANTIQUE NATURE PRINTS.

"What truly excites me about these prints is that these artists are from a period when art was scientific and the artists were primarily naturalists, not influenced by media and modern technology," said Gilbert Johnston. "Audubon, while clearly the greatest example, is one of several 18th and 19th century naturalists and scientists who recorded their findings in extraordinarily beautiful ways, and often under great hardship. Their legacy is the treasure of prints they left behind, arguably the finest depictions of nature ever created."

Johnston holds degrees in history and law from the University of Alabama. He has gold-mined in Alaska, taught in an elite private boys' school in Switzerland, and spent several years in Washington, D. C., working as a senior aide to a Representative and as aide-de-camp to a Senator. His love of nature has led him to explore exotic realms, including the plains of the Serengeti in Africa, the Jungles of the Amazon in South America, and the icy waters of the Antarctic. He has encountered grizzly bears while trekking across the tundra of the Arctic, wolves while canoeing 2,500 miles across Alaska and Canada, and alligators while paddling 99 miles alone through the Everglades. He enjoys cycling, sea kayaking, backpacking/mountain climbing and is a life-long birder.



Gale Sliger, Lee Park & Arlington Hall Conservancy; J. Gilbert Johnston, Jr., renowned art dealer of antique nature prints; Katherine Seale, Preservation Dallas.



Linda Faulkner, Suzann Farren and Patty Dye



Karen Lancaster and LaWayne Schraeder



Matney Neatherlin and Mary Cassidy

Marie Gabrielle Barbier-Mueller presented as Duchess of Eternal Radiance in San Antonio



Marie Gabrielle Barbier-Mueller was recently presented as the Duchess of Eternal Radiance at the Court of the Splendors of Fire and Ice pageant sponsored by the Order of the Alamo in San Antonio.

Marie is a graduate of The Episcopal School of Dallas and a University of Alabama communications and public relations major. She often spends her summer with relatives in Geneva, Switzerland and the south of France.

She is the daughter of Gabriel and Ann Barbier-Mueller.



Beverly Field and Peggy Dear