



## Treve Rosoman FSA (1948–2017)

It is with great sadness that the Society records the death of our Newsletter Editor, Treve Rosoman, on 4 October 2017. Treve was a close friend to the RFS and to many members of the Society. His wife Jane and his son Edward and daughter Celia were his heroic supporters during the summer months when Treve knew about his illness and the expected outcome and we send them our most sincere condolences.

Treve was born in Penarth, South Wales, but moved to London when he was 17 to be apprenticed to the antiques trade. He and Peter Collins opened an antiques business together but Treve decided to continue his studies, taking a degree in humanities and spending time as a volunteer in, what was then, the Furniture and Woodwork Department at the V&A. This in turn led to a career with the GLC Historic Building Division and then English Heritage, where for many years Treve curated the Architectural Study Collection. His interests in all aspects of historic interiors, as well as in furniture history, are demonstrated by his book on historic wallpapers, *London Wallpapers: their manufacture and use*, first published in 1992 with a revised edition appearing in 2009, and in his recreation of the art deco interiors of Eltham Palace for English Heritage in 1995–99. Following his retirement from English Heritage in 2013, Treve has worked as an independent consultant on historic interiors.

Treve was a founder member of this Society and served on its first Council, from 1985–88. He served on the Editorial Committee with Bill Cotton, Christopher Gilbert, John Boram and Victor Chinnery. Jan Chinnery recalls happy memories of Edward, born in 1982, accompanying

his father to the early, and very hospitable, RFS meetings at Bill and Gerry Cotton's home at Lechlade. Treve and David Bostwick shared the position of being the first Events Organiser(s) and, looking back at early Newsletters, it is obvious Treve was encouraging us to share his interest in military, and especially naval, furniture, with a visit to HMS Victory in 1986, following his lecture on *Military Furniture* at the first RFS day conference in the Castle at St Fagans in 1985. He also arranged the first Society visit to the Geffrye Museum, little knowing what a home it was to become for us. In 2013, following his formal retirement, he returned to Council as Newsletter Editor. Treve's commitment to studying furniture in context has guaranteed that the Newsletter continues to include some items perhaps not directly on furniture, but which add considerably to our knowledge of, for example, use, interiors, social history, and trading connections.

Even when not on Council, Treve's knowledge and capacity for friendship still made him one of the first ports of call for advice and suggestions, especially when dealing with events. Treve would always have an idea and know the person to ask, and usually that person would be one of Treve's friends. I know Jeremy Bate has also found Treve's support to be invaluable. A typical illustration of Treve's networking occurred during the RFS visit to Amsterdam in 2014. Our guide to the Portuguese Synagogue was Mirjam Knotter, Curator of Cultural Heritage at the Synagogue and Curator of the Jewish Historical Museum. She had told us that she would have to leave at a certain time as she had a meeting with 'the Man from the Ministry'. She was a whirlwind of knowledge, enthusiasm and human understanding and, at the appointed time, she left for her meeting. Slightly later Treve and Jane bumped into her again, now with the Man from the Ministry, who turned out to be Treve's friend Eloy Koldeweij, probably best known in the UK for *The English Candlestick: 500 years in the Development of Base Metal Candlesticks, 1425–1925* and his article on gilt-leather hangings in the 2000 Furniture History Society journal, 'Gilt Leather Hangings in Chinoiserie and Other Styles: an English speciality'.

Treve was an Attingham Scholar, a member of the Furniture History Society, a founder member of the RFS and of the Wallpaper History Society, a trustee of the William Hogarth Trust, serving on the Advisory Panel which supports Hogarth's House, and as Vice-Chairman 2013-14, and a committee member of the Construction History Society. We will all miss him terribly.

*Polly Copperwheat*