A new case study is now available online. Written by Rachael Barnwell (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales), ‘Partly After the Chinese Manner: “Chinese” Staircases in North-East Wales’ examines a group of ‘Chinese’ staircases built within the fabric of three different house interiors in north-east Wales in the 1750s and 1760s. It locates these ‘Chinese’ staircases within both the wider, global context of “Asian-inspired” material culture design, and within more local, contemporary networks of design exchange to assess the degree to which the East India Company’s trade network impacted on interior design in north-Wales in the eighteenth century. http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/eicah/chinese-staircases-in-north-east-wales/.

Objects, Families, Homes: British Material Cultures in Global Contexts
Having read through the proposals for ‘Objects, Families, Homes’, we hope to contact speakers within the next month. We will also circulate information about registering for the event before March. The conference will be held at UCL on 11-12 July, 2014.

Out and About
On 4 January Helen and Marion Moverley (who sits on our Advisory Board) ventured out in the Reeth Community Bus to Blackburn Museum. The Museum is a hidden gem, built in 1874 and houses the only permanent gallery of Indian and Pakistani culture in the North West. They were particularly interested in the range of textiles and the evocative display methods. For more information visit see https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/Pages/Museum-and-art-gallery.aspx.

On 11 January Kate and Rosie Dias (Art History, Warwick) co-convened the Visualising and Materialising Colonial Spaces: Female Responses to Empire conference at the University of Warwick. Funded by The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the Humanities Research Centre, University of Warwick and the Royal Historical Society, the conference attracted a range of speakers, including EICAH’s Ellen Filor, as well as keynotes from David Arnold and Caroline Jordan. The conference sought to demonstrate the significance of women's cultural productions upon ideas of empire at home and abroad by exploring the rich visual and archival sources created by British women in imperial spaces. Rosie and Kate are now working on developing an edited collection from the conference papers.

On 14 January Ellen gave a seminar paper entitled ‘An unmanageable Commodity to have imported into this white Country: Growing up Mixed-Race in India and Scotland, 1780-1830’ as part of the Lifecycles series at the Institute of Historical Research.

On 16 January the Family & Colonialism Research Network published a short blog post written by Kate, which updated FCRN readers on the progress of the project. To read the post and learn more about FCRN visit: http://colonialfamilies.wordpress.com/.

On 19 January Kate, Margot and Claire Reed (Osterley Park and House, National Trust) attended and spoke at the opening of the ‘Global Stories in Domestic Spaces’ exhibition at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Hounslow. The exhibition contained the photographic portraits and oral histories produced in collaboration with members of the Gurdwara for ‘The Trappings of Trade’ display at Osterley.

On 21 January Margot and Kate attended the launch of the Collecting: Knowledge in Motion exhibition that they have
been involved with curating at UCL. Curated by an interdisciplinary team of UCL scholars including Claire Dwyer (Geography), Ulrich Tiedau (Dutch) and Stefanie van Gemert (Dutch), as well as Margot and Kate, this exhibition explores how and why collections move. The exhibition, which closes on 12 June 2014, is free and open to the public. For more information visit: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/visit/highlights/octagon.

On 23 January Kate presented a paper about the project to members of the Thames Valley Country House Partnership. To learn more about the Partnership, which is based at the University of Oxford, visit:  http://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/oliver-cox.

On 24 January Kate presented some of her research on imperial women, homes and letter writing to a group of A-level students at Sir George Monoux College in Walthamstow. The group are currently deciding on topics and sources for their A level course work and asked Kate various questions about this after the session.

On 28 January Helen assisted with the Chinese Wallpaper Study Day held at the National Trust Office at Grosvenor Gardens, London. This event was organised as a means of drawing together those who are active in the Chinese Wallpaper Study Group, begun by Emile de Bruijin, to exchange information and help plan for a major international conference on the subject which we hope will be held this summer. Over 25 attendants included academics, students, curators, conservators, entrepreneurs and property managers.

**Upcoming Events**

At 6.30pm on 11 February Margot will be giving her inaugural lecture in the Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, Wilkins Building, UCL. The lecture entitled ‘The East India Company at Home: Private Fortunes, Public Histories’ is free and open to the public. For further details visit: http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inaugural-lecture-professor-margot-finn-ucl-history-tickets-9162151241.