June 2018 | A Message from Chairman Paul Whalen

Dear Friends,

There is much to report since I assumed the board chairmanship of the Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation earlier this year. Among the most important pieces of news is the selection and appointment of our new Executive Director, Elizabeth McEnaney. Liz is a perfect fit as we look to expand our membership, programs and online presence, while increasing our support for the Sir John Soane’s Museum.

Prior to her appointment to the Soane Foundation, Liz was the Executive Director of the SS Columbia Project, responsible for cultural and education programs that led to public and private funding for the restoration of a 116-year-old landmark steamer. A graduate of Wellesley College, Liz spent her junior year abroad at University College, London. While there, she frequently visited the Soane Museum and became intrigued by Sir John Soane’s organization of objects. Later, for her master’s degree in historic preservation from Columbia University, she wrote her dissertation on architectural fragments, devoting a section to Soane’s collection.

Liz succeeds Charles A. Miller III (Chas), who served the Foundation with distinction for the past 13 years. Chas was associated with the Soane Foundation since 2005, when he organized the Foundation’s first fundraising Gala, which has become an annual celebration honoring leaders in architecture, museums, and the arts. Under his leadership, the Foundation raised over $5 million in support of the Museum, with a specific emphasis on conservation; over 25 Traveling Fellowships have been granted to American graduate students to study the Museum’s collections; and a popular series of lectures and tours has been organized for architecture and design enthusiasts.

We will miss Chas, a Soane Foundation family member who has had an important role in making us who we are, and we wish him the best in his ongoing support for other arts and architecture organizations.

Looking forward, the Board continues to advance the Soanean traditions, as championed by my predecessor, Tom Kligerman. Like Soane, we are ever expanding our vision -- creating a tighter annual calendar of events, a Soane Foundation lecture series, expanding membership, rethinking our travel program and coordinating our annual events more closely to those of the Sir John Soane’s Museum, all in service of increasing our support. We have an exciting year ahead of us and we hope you will join us in making it a great success.

All best wishes,

Paul Whalen
Chairman
Sir John Soane’s Museum Foundation