

JOHNSTON COLLECTION

31 August 2023

Commentary and Photos courtesy Julie Matthews



After an early train, tram & courtesy bus ride from outside the Pullman Hotel, 17 of us arrived in East Melbourne for the 10am tour of The Johnston Collection's "Best of Britain: His Residence & Collection" exhibition at the historic townhouse of Fairhall, Johnston's former residence. This award-winning museum was bequeathed by William Robert Johnston (1911-1986) to the people of Victoria & opened in 1990. He was a prominent 20th century antiques dealer, collector & property investor based in Melbourne & had a lifelong passion for collecting beautiful objects. So... after a brief introduction over a cuppa in their Wedgwood fine bone china cups, we were split into 3 smaller groups. Our knowledgeable volunteer guides took us through each room, giving us background stories & a greater appreciation of the many pieces of Georgian & Regency fine & decorative arts of 18th century Britain. As Johnston had stipulated that there were to be no ropes or barriers, we were able to move freely, but carefully, around the furniture & view many beautiful pieces up close. After almost 2 hours of enjoying this superb collection at Fairhall, as well as their lovely gift shop, it was time to return to Flinders Street for lunch at "Clocks at Flinders." With its amazing furniture, paintings, ceramics, etc, TJC is a real treasure trove! It's close to Melbourne's CBD & has a regularly changing program of new displays of the vast permanent collection – what a wonderful gift for Victorians & visitors to enjoy!!!



Barbara, John & Rita, Jenny, Lorraine & Julie.

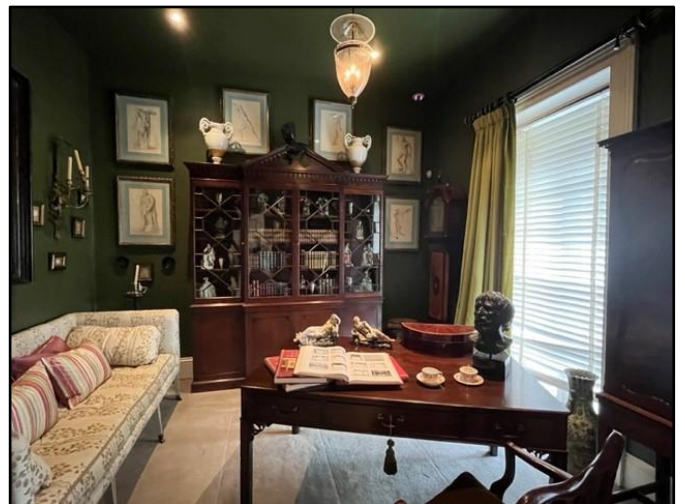


Gary

The photos above were taken outside the Pullman Hotel while we in the second group awaited our ride in the courtesy bus. We're standing at the art installation of 2 iconic hybrid characters, "Dogman & Rabbitgirl" by Sydney artists Gillie & Marc whose work can also be found overseas, including New York & Shanghai. The public is encouraged to interact & take photos with these characters!

The following photos were taken at the exhibition and at Lunch.







Lunch - Jennifer & Eva (visitors) with Jenny.



Lunch - Gary, Barbara W, Dianne & Phillip, Beryl, Ann, Lorraine &, Martin, Christine, Barbara & John.
