**POST OF TRAINEE ADAM DRAWINGS CATALOGUER**

**AT SIR JOHN SOANE’S MUSEUM**

**Background**

Sir John Soane’s Museum is the idiosyncratic house-museum of the great neo-classical architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837) and still displays his collection of antiquities, furniture, models and paintings in the same state in which they were left at the time of his death, as well as preserving over 30,000 architectural drawings, a fine library and an extensive archive. These include the 9,000-strong office drawings collection of Robert and James Adam.

As part of a wider mission to open up the collections to a worldwide audience, the Museum is gradually publishing online on its website fully-illustrated catalogues of all the architectural drawings from the Adam office. This particular project is funded by the Foyle Foundation and private donors and will focus on Adam’s mature work in Scotland, as well as a small number of projects in Wales and Ireland. An important part of this project is the training in the skills of cataloguing architectural drawings offered by this post.

**Job particulars**

**i)** The appointment will be a full-time, 2.5-year fixed-term contract at a salary of £22,641 per annum. The successful applicant will work Mondays to Fridays 9.30 am to 5.30 pm and will be entitled to 26½ days annual leave each year. You will also be required to undertake occasional evening and weekend duties. Time off is given.

**ii)** Your place of work will be No.14 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, although you will be able to work from home 1-2 days a week if the work you are doing allows for this and with the agreement of your Line Manager.

**iii)** The post-holder will work on cataloguing drawings from the later decades of Adam’s career, principally for commissions in Scotland, but also a handful of projects in Wales and Ireland. These works comprise some 118 different architectural projects, for which there are around 1,100 drawings.

Having worked principally in England until the mid-1770s, the Adam brothers then achieved increasing popularity at home in Scotland, as well as garnering a handful of commissions in Ireland and Wales. During the 1780s and early 1790s Robert Adam spent most summers in Edinburgh, within more comfortable reach of his numerous on-going works. Among the surviving drawings from this phase of the Adam office’s work there are numerous designs for both urban and rural houses, including those for Stirling Square in Glasgow, Charlotte Square in Edinburgh and Culzean Castle in South Ayrshire. In addition to numerous private and domestic commissions, Adam also won important public commissions in Scotland including the Aberdeen Record House, Ayr Bridge, the Glasgow Assembly Rooms, the Royal College of Physicians, Glasgow Trades Hall, Glasgow Infirmary and Edinburgh University. The Adam brothers’ work in Edinburgh particularly serves as a monument to their belief that a society ought to be judged by the quality and grandeur of its public buildings.

**iv)** Training and mentorship will be provided throughout the project by Frances Sands, Curator of Drawings and Books at the Museum, and the post-holder will report to Sue Palmer, Head of Library Services as Project Manager and work within the small Library Team.

**v)** The post-holder will have the opportunity of presenting their findings in talks and public tours.

Other duties:

**vi)** The post-holder will be expected to supervise in the Research Library approximately one day a week. This will allow them to develop a familiarity with the workings of a specialist art-historical library.

**vii)** There is also the potential for the post-holder to assist with the installation and de-installation of exhibitions in the Museum’s two temporary exhibition spaces. Moreover, they will be trained in exhibition loan couriering.

**viii)** The post-holder will be expected to take part in the rota to give public tours of the Museum (training will be given).

**Person specification**

* A good degree in architectural or art history, or history (essential)
* Demonstrable interest in and knowledge of the architecture of Georgian Britain (essential)
* Good architectural vocabulary (desirable)
* Ability to read architectural drawings (desirable)
* Keen eye for detail (essential)
* Ability to work accurately and methodically (essential)
* Informed working knowledge of IT (essential)
* The right to work full-time in the UK (essential)

**Application procedure**

Applications in the form of a curriculum vitae and supporting letter, together with the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to [recruitment@soane.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@soane.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 8 November 2021.

Interviews will be held at the Museum on Wednesday 24 November 2021.

If you have any queries please contact Frances Sands on [fsands@soane.org.uk](mailto:fsands@soane.org.uk)

The Museum is an Equal Opportunities Employer, committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and welcomes applicants from all backgrounds.

Website: [www.soane.org](http://www.soane.org)

Sir John Soane’s Museum is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) whose prime sponsor is the Department for Culture, Media and Sport