



**Tutor** - Nicholas Merchant, your host, has had a career which has mirrored his abiding interest in antiques, embracing architecture, particularly country houses, their collections and gardens. Through his work at Sothebys and Phillips, Auctioneers in London and Leeds, he has acquired a wide general knowledge of antiques.

He is a member of the Furniture History Society, The National Trust, and the Chippendale Society. In addition to conducting travel groups, he is an accredited lecturer with the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts, and has lectured world wide, including at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. He divides his time between lecturing, valuation work, and his book business specializing in Reference Works on Decorative and Fine Arts.

**Prices**

Master Double or Twin .....	£595
Deluxe Double or Twin .....	£685
Master Double as Single .....	£730
Deluxe Double as Single .....	£790
Non - Resident .....	£50 per day for Lectures, Lunch, Visits and Theatre

The 5-night holiday runs from Sunday afternoon to Friday morning, and the price is per person and includes Full English Breakfast, 4-Course Dinner, all talks & visits including the Theatre and VAT.

Non-participating partners are welcome, at a reduction of £150 on the above prices. A limited number of places are available for non-residents.

A deposit of £150 per person, which can be made by cheque or credit card, is required. This is non-refundable unless the room is subsequently relet.

**THE HOTEL**

This Victorian Country House sits in 3 acres of gardens high on the hill above the lovely Bourne Valley just 7 miles from Andover & 10 miles from Newbury on the A343.

The house with its elegant dining room, lounge, library, bar and 19 individually decorated bedrooms provides a homely and relaxed atmosphere. A fine wine list and Rossetted kitchen ensure an enjoyable and luxurious stay.



*AA 3 Star Hotel*

*Johansens Recommended  
Best Loved Hotels Recommended*

**Esseborne Manor Hotel  
Hurstbourne Tarrant  
Andover**

**Hampshire  
SP11 0ER**

**Tel: 01264 736 444 Fax: 01264 736 725**

**www.Esseborne-Manor.co.uk**

**Info@Esseborne-Manor.co.uk**

**Next Antique Holiday - 7th - 12th March 2010**

**ANTIQUES  
HOLIDAY**

**11th - 16th October 2009**



See Whittier - Book Plate for The Queen Mother

**Esseborne Manor  
Hotel**

**Hurstbourne Tarrant  
Andover**

## Antiques Holidays

Antique Holidays are designed for people with an interest in fine art and antiques, the emphasis being on a pleasant and relaxing time in the company of fellow enthusiasts, rather than formal teaching. Groups are limited to 25, and are well suited to anyone on their own. Your host will be Mr Nicholas Merchant.

### Monday October 12th 2009

**Sandham Memorial Chapel and the Art of Stanley Spencer**



A talk on the history of the Chapel and the work of the artist Stanley Spencer, to prepare you for your visit to this unique building.

**Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere,** for a guided tour. This unique 1920's chapel was built for the artist

Stanley Spencer to fill with paintings reflecting his experiences in the First World War. This is a unique work of art.

Whilst in Burghclere you may wish to visit the Millennium Church with its engraved glass window by Laurence Whistler, brother of Rex.

*Optional visit to Watermill Theatre to see their new production of "Educating Rita". See below for details.*

### Tuesday 13th October

**Mottisfont Abbey.** A visit to Mottisfont, a former Augustinian Priory, lying on the banks of a tributary of the swift-flowing Test. It is unique not only for its contents and setting but for the remarkable collection of 20th century paintings bequeathed by Derek Hill, and also its trompe l'oeil Drawing Room, painted by the renowned artist Rex Whistler.

Lunch at **St John's House** at Romsey.

**Southampton Art Gallery** "An insiders view of Southampton Art Gallery" with Anne Anderson, the Curator and Exhibitions Manager. The gallery is one of the best regional museums with excellent collection not only of Old Masters but also early 20th century artists of the Camden Town Group and the New English Art Club



### Wednesday October 14th 2009

**The Artist who went to War.** The life and times of **Rex Whistler**, the multi-talented painter, stage-set designer and soldier with Nicholas Merchant.

**The Willow Pattern-or is it?** An introduction to Blue and White transfer-painted pottery with **Dick Henrywood**. Dick Henrywood is the authority on this subject having compiled a two-volume dictionary on the subject.

The Afternoon is free.

### Thursday October 15th 2009

**The Possession of a Gold Box with Nicholas Merchant.** No 18th century gentleman with any pretensions to style and elegance would be seen without one of these expensive gee-gaws.

We learn where they were made, and in what materials, as well as how to offer snuff to your friends "in the politest manner".



**What on Earth is Chinoiserie?** with *Nicholas Merchant*. A subject which has a relevance to the afternoon visit but also a fad which fascinated Europe from the 17th century onwards and still does today.

**Whitchurch Silk Mill** Guided tour of this 18th century silk mill, still producing this lustrous fabric after nearly two hundred years. Afternoon tea will be served after your visit.



**Watermill Theatre** Optional evening visit to Watermill Theatre to see their latest production "Educating Rita". This intimate 220 seat theatre in a converted mill situated in beautiful landscaped gardens on the bank of the River Lambourne has a reputation as one of the best producing theatres in the country. It is one of only five theatres to be awarded a National Touring remit by the Arts Council England.