

Friends of the Spode Museum Update
from Marguerite Coles, Secretary.

December 1, 2007

The Friends of the Spode Museum reports that, while Spode retains a presence on its site in Stoke with its retail outlets, the factory is now closed. The English Heritage report is still awaited. Developers are hoping to submit plans early next year, at which time a viewing will be scheduled.

The Skills and Decorating demonstration area has recently been reestablished and accessible from the end of the public museum. The skills now demonstrated include slip-casting, hand-painting and gilding. These can be viewed at a cost. (For more information on the demonstration area, go to the Spode web site: www.spode.co.uk, click on "Visiting Us," followed by "Guided Tours.")

There are approximately 45,000 items of ceramic manufacture and the Paper Archive in the Spode Museum Collections. All will eventually have to be packed up, ready for removal and storage. Estimates for the construction of special crates and professional packing are in the range of 25,000 GBP.

Museum Director, Pam Woolliscroft, has negotiated with Staffordshire County and Stoke City archivists to deposit the Spode Museum Paper Archive on a long-term basis with the City Archive in Hanley. The move will take place in phases over the next six months and phase I has already been completed. The Paper Archive will not be accessible to the public until the move and its re-cataloguing is complete. Interested parties are asked NOT to contact the City Archive with enquiries at this time.

The committee of the Friends of the Spode Museum sincerely requests members' continued support by renewing memberships and making a donation. To do so, simply link to <http://www.spodefriends.org.uk/howtohelp.html>.