



THE PEERAGE IN QUESTION
THE BERKELEYS
TUESDAY 24 JANUARY

The Berkeley family is unique in English history in that it has to this day an unbroken male line of descent from a noble Saxon ancestor, a high official under Edward the Confessor. The family also retains possession of much of the lands it held from the 11th and 12th centuries, centred on Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, which still belongs to the family. Sir Maurice Berkeley served in the household of Thomas Cromwell, the Barons Berkeley of Stratton were notable politicians in the turbulent 17c, the 3rd Baron Berkeley was Admiral of the Blue engaged in a series of adventures in the Franco-Dutch Wars, Bishop Berkeley of Cloyne was one of the most notable philosophers of the 18c Enlightenment, after whom Berkeley in California is named, and William Berkeley had £1000 damages awarded against him in 1821 due to his "criminal conversation" with a Mrs Waterhouse. The Berkeleys accrued considerable wealth from their holdings in Mayfair (Berkeley Square), and preserved and developed Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, one of the greatest houses in England.

Unless otherwise stated, lecture study days start and end at the Art Workers Guild, Bloomsbury. Please join us for coffee at 10.30 (optional), the first lecture at 11, a light lunch with wine at 1pm, and a concluding lecture and discussion ending at 3.30 pm.

£85 INSCAPE members, £95 non-members. First time participants are welcome at no cost.