



The Family in Question
THE SEYMOURS

Thursday 12 March

Originally the family name was St Maur: they married into the Beauchamps in the 14c, bringing together lands in Somerset, Devon, Suffolk and Buckinghamshire. In the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, Sir John Seymour of Wolf Hall in Savernake Forest suppressed the Cornish Rebellion of 1497 and attended Henry VIII at Field of Cloth of Gold; his son Edward Seymour became Protector Somerset while his eldest daughter Jane became the third wife of Henry VIII; Edward Seymour II married Lady Catherine Grey sister of Lady Jane Grey, for which error they were both imprisoned in the Tower; Henry Seymour, related to 8th Duke of Somerset, became the lover of Madame du Barry and a close personal attendant on the future Charles II during the Civil War; after they married into the Conway family, Francis Seymour-Conway became the 3rd Marquess of Hertford, and with his son the 4th Marquess formed the nucleus of the Wallace Collection; the two Sir Michael Seymours of Ireland both became leading figures in the navy in the 19c, the father capturing prizes from Napoleon in the English Channel and the son destroying the Chinese fleet in 1857. Much of English history of the period 1500-1900 can be told through the Seymour family.

Culture in Question lectures take place in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lectures begin at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. The event ends by 3.30 pm. £90 members, £100 non-members.