

Fenwick Lecture Series

Each November, the Louisville Historical League is proud to host the Fenwick Lecture Series. This series has been presented since 2003. Provided below is information on Jason Fenwick and this Lecture Series.

Jason McCool Fenwick, in whose memory this annual lecture is held, died in March of 2000, at the age of 53. Jason was a native of Kosciusko Mississippi. The Commonwealth of Kentucky was his adopted state.

After receiving a BA in Anthropology from the University of Mississippi in 1970, he attended the University of Kentucky where he was awarded his MA in Anthropology. Early professional pursuits included fieldwork in archaeology in both Mississippi and in England. While employed by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works in Great Britain, he worked on archaeological restoration projects as diverse as Iron Age hill forts, Roman Villages, and Medieval buildings.

In 1977, Jason returned to the United States and joined the staff of the KY Heritage Commission, now known as the KY Heritage Council, as staff archeologist.

As the years progressed, Jason became increasingly interested in the restoration of historic structures.

From 1981 to 1983, Jason served as state curator and coordinated the restoration and rehabilitation of the KY Executive Mansion for Governor John Y. Brown and First Lady Phyllis George Brown. He was so proud of his work on the Governor's Mansion and relished all of the detailed work it took to restore a Kentucky landmark.



When Jason died in 2000, after a short but valiant battle with liver disease, he was working for the National Parks Service in Washington DC where he worked with the historic tax credit program as an architectural historian.

Jason was a remarkable individual, known as much for his impeccable taste, love of champagne, his great Christmas parties and for his wonderful collection of Kentucky art. He was also known to be opinionated, cantankerous and a bit cranky, especially when someone dared to violate the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

He certainly had an uncanny ability to reinvent himself: after all, Jason started his professional career as a pre-historic archeologist but went on to become a self taught architectural historian. Jason's memory is honored every year through the Jason M. Fenwick Lecture in Historic Preservation.



Previous Lecture Speakers and Topics are as follows:

2007: Winfrey Blackburn and R. Scott Gill: "The Kentucky Houses of Stratton Hammon" at Gardencourt on the campus of Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road

2006: Rex Lyons on "Historic Interiors" at the Henry Clay

2005: Ken Von Roenn, Architect and Stained Glass Sculptor at Calvary Episcopal Church

2004: Prof. Patrick Snadon on "Kentucky's Contribution to Neoclassical Interiors in America" at the Scottish Rite Temple

2003: Historic Interior panel discussion at Farmington

