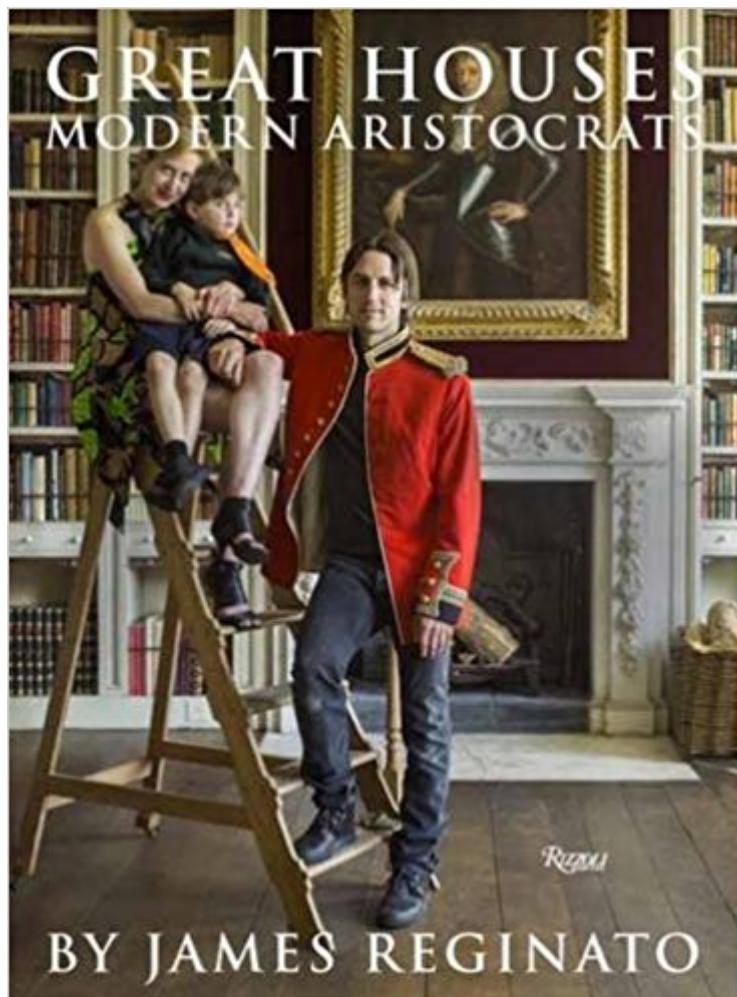


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# Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats



## Synopsis

This stunning book presents the intriguing stories and celebrated histories of some of the leading families of Great Britain and Ireland and the opulent residences that have defined their heritages. The history of England is inextricably linked with the stories of its leading aristocratic dynasties and the great seats they have occupied for centuries. As the current owners speak of the critical roles their ancestors have played in the nation, they bring history alive. All of these houses have survived great wars, economic upheavals, and, at times, scandal. Filled with stunning photography, this book is a remarkably intimate and lively look inside some of Britain's stateliest houses, with the modern-day aristocrats who live in them and keep them going in high style. This book presents a tour of some of England's finest residences, with many of the interiors shown here for the first time. It includes Blenheim Palace—seven acres under one roof, eclipsing the splendor of any of the British royal family's residences—property of the Dukes of Marlborough; the exquisite Old Vicarage in Derbyshire, last residence of the late Dowager Duchess of Devonshire (née Deborah Mitford); Haddon Hall, a vast crenellated 900-year-old manor house belonging to the Dukes of Rutland that has been called the most romantic house in England; and the island paradises on Mustique and St. Lucia of the 3rd Baron Glenconner. This book is perfect for history buffs and lovers of traditional interior design and English country life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The opulent estates of England and Ireland's royal and blue-blooded dynasties are

perennial catnip to those craving inspiration on the grandest scale. "Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats," by James Reginato and photographer Jonathan Becker, longtime chroniclers of the rich and famous, does not disappoint, providing an insiders' portrait of 16 extraordinarily maintained residences belonging to such tenacious tenants as the Prince of Wales and the fourth Baron Rothschild." •New York Times T Magazine" The book chronicles the fascinating lineage and examines the amazing architecture of the houses belonging to some of the leading families of Great Britain, in a lush and very weighty tome. If you're starting your holiday shopping early, it's the perfect gift for the PBS-obsessed and lovers of traditional interior design and English country life." •Adweek Fishbowl NY" ...features noble homes from grand palaces to modest cottages. A book that took years to complete which included convincing extremely private individuals who have never before opened up their homes." •Forbes.com" This stunning book presents the intriguing stories and celebrated histories of some of the UK's leading families and their occasional scandal." •The Society Diaries" In this book, "Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats," Reginato has compiled these [aristocratic] profiles in one volume, focusing on the splendid homes of the English and Irish aristocracy. And what a volume it is, with featured homes that include Blenheim, Haddon Hall, Lismore Castle, and Goodwood House. With photography by the esteemed Jonathan Becker, "Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats" will likely join the league of those coveted books about high-society by Horst and Slim Aarons."

•PeakOfChic.com" ...stands out as an absolute treasure in the release of new books being published this Fall." •LittleAugury.com" This is a...book of beautiful photographs, bookended with fascinating stories. It's a great present for people who love Olde England and luxury retreats and the titled rich. It's history. It's dish."

•HeadButler.com" Any great interior design loving Anglophile is keenly aware of the history of manor homes in England....In Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats, almost as if on a docent led tour, James Reginato peels back these remarkable stories, layer by layer." •Color Outside the Lines" Rizzoli International will release "Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats" in October, filled with opulent photos by Jonathan Becker and a fine introduction by Reginato's friend of twenty years, Viscount Linley. The book focuses on leading aristocratic dynasties and includes marvelous profiles on the gentry. . . . Although Reginato considers himself a journalist rather than a historian, he weaves in the great wars, economic upheavals, and the scandals and tragedies that these great houses witnessed." •Classic Chicago Magazine" Here, Reginato brings us stories of creativity and entrepreneurial spirit applied to preserving family homes

for future generations — stories that are as intriguing as the houses themselves! Rich photographs combined with Reginato's gift for story-telling make this a delicious read. This is of course a must-have addition to your library and would make a gorgeous gift!" • [WhatisJamesWearing.com](#) "Fall must haves." • [La Dolce Vita](#) "Vanity Fair contributor James Reginato's intimate look at the fabled aristocratic houses of Great Britain and Ireland is the perfect cure for any reader still lamenting PBS's Downton Abbey ending." • [San Francisco Chronicle](#) "While the photographs are richly detailed and gorgeous, this is one of those few coffee table books that also deserves to be read." • [New York Social Diary](#)

James Reginato is writer-at-large for Vanity Fair and a contributing editor of Sotheby's Magazine. Jonathan Becker is a photographer who has contributed to Vogue, The New Yorker, and Vanity Fair. Viscount Linley is Hon. Chairman for Christie's in Europe, the Middle East, Russia, and India.

Very interesting. Loved it.

Perfect condition, good price and fast shipping. Exactly what I needed

Great book

Fun,fun,fun ! And some nice houses too.

The only decent photograph is the one on the cover. The other photos were not in focus, colors were too intense and looked like they had been badly photoshopped, and photos were taken from weird angles (like they had been taken at the height of a child rather than from a more appropriate perspective). In addition, who writes the entire text in 4-point type? I am rarely disappointed in Rizzoli publications, but this one was a major letdown. I am sending it back.

This is a gorgeous book, full of great photos. I really enjoy looking at the houses and reading the stories.

When we tell our family stories, most of us can't go back more than three or four

generations before we're talking about an ancestor who crossed an ocean. Not so the owners of England's legendary piles. Just consider the cover of "Great Houses Modern Aristocrats" the young couple on the cover are Nicholas and Dinah Ashley-Cooper (and son Anthony), the 12th Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, seated in the library of St. Giles House in Dorset, under a portrait of the first Earl. Here James Reginato on the timelines of some of the houses he profiles in this book: "Most of these houses have belonged to the same families for centuries. Take Haddon Hall, for example: By 1200 the Vernons had settled into this crenellated stone manor house in Derbyshire. Almost 400 years later, in 1565, they married into the Manners family. Fast-forward another 400-plus years, and Haddon Hall remains in that family's steady hands. Broughton Castle, a moated romantic redoubt in Oxfordshire, was last on the real estate market in 1377, some 75 years after it was built, when Sir John de Broughton snapped it up. "We've been hanging on ever since," his descendant, the Honourable Martin Fiennes, told me jocularly. From Blenheim to Haddon Hall, one thing is clear: A family's attachment to its great house is visceral and time-tried. "This commitment requires dedication and funding that is beyond mortal man (and most of the 1%). Blenheim Palace, for example: "seven acres under one roof, eclipsing the splendor of any of the British royal family's residences. Getting access to these mostly ultra-private residences is one thing. Taking pictures that suggest detail as well as mass is another. Happily, Jonathan Becker's photographs are of the highest order they chronicle more than "great rooms" that really are great. But what kept me going through house after house there are 16 are the stories of the owners. From the chapter about Nicholas Ashley-Cooper: "St. Giles House, a gargantuan and grandiose brick pile, has been Nicholas Ashley-Cooper's family home since 1650. By the time he was born, however, it was like a haunted mansion. Uninhabited since the early 60s when the Ashley-Coopers decamped to Mainsail Haul, the eight-bedroom dower house on the 5,700-acre estate St. Giles House had fallen into a parlous state of decay, with rain and snow seeping in when the huge metal sheets that sealed it flapped in the wind. As he grew up, Nicholas comprehended with some relief that, since he was the second son, the decaying manor wasn't his problem. His brother Anthony, two years older, would inherit the dilapidated estate along with the family titles on the death of their

father, Anthony, the 10th Earl of Shaftesbury. Nick, as he is generally known, decided he needed to get away if he was going to make anything of his life. In the spring of 2002 he moved to New York's East Village, where he began to thrive as a techno disc jockey going by the handle Nick AC. Then, in November 2004, a series of tragic, hard-to-believe events changed everything. His father went missing in the Côte d'Azur, where he had been living for the previous two years; his body, mauled by animals, with just shreds of his jeans, was discovered five months later at the bottom of a remote ravine outside Cannes. The 66-year-old earl had been strangled at the behest of a high-end prostitute of Tunisian-Moroccan descent whom he had married two years previously and made the Countess of Shaftesbury. Six months later, on May 15, 2005, it got worse: Anthony, 27 years old, suffered a heart attack and died. Suddenly, Nick was the 12th Earl of Shaftesbury, and he had a huge wreck of a house on his hands. "Grab a Coors. Settle into the Barcalounger. Wallow.

Interesting book. I really like the personal stories of each estate.

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