

Hotel de la Bouëxière (French room), about 1735

- Hotel de Jean Gaillard de la Bouëxière – tax collector for the Crown, able to buy himself an influential position (Seigneur/Lord); not born into nobility. 17th c. building that he remodeled and modernized as a private hotel/residence.
- Principle rooms on the 2nd floor (called 1st floor in France). In France, ground floor is called *rez-de-chausée* (ray-duh-show-say; means “level with the road”).
- Salon: place to converse, read/discuss literature, enjoy music, play cards
- Decoration: scalloped shells are reference to Venus; overdoor paintings of Muses; panels with stories of Jean de la Fontaine (based on Aesop’s fables)
- Allegorical heads: Africa – elephant, America – feathers, Europe – helmet of Minerva, Asia – camel
- Mythological figures: Apollo with lyre – god of music and poetry; Diana – goddess of hunt, holds bow
- Chinoiserie: fascination with prints, porcelains, furniture, textiles from China/Asia; fireplace back shows man sitting cross-legged in exaggerated Asian costume with lotus-leaf hat; holds teapot and bowl on a table
- Trophy panel: Arts – garland of roses; celebrates music – flutes, oboes, bagpipes, castanets, book of music; theater – jester’s staff and theatrical mask
- Trophy panel: Hunting – oak leaves surround hunting horn, dead rabbit and bird, flintlock gun, sword, bundled rods (Roman fasces), axe, javelins across it; falcon’s hood and lure
- Monkeys along the cornice in human roles – mimic putti by playing musical instruments
- Donated to Mia 1983 with funds to restore and install by Groves Foundation
- Window in wall shows metal framework that supports paneling and cornice
- Incorporates both *Rococo*: shells, arbor with peacock, sinuous foliage, floral garlands and *Régence* (1715-23): symmetry of carvings, moldings, C-scrolls, shells, floral motifs, classical grotesques (serpents), Asian influence – forerunner of *Rococo*
- How to dress for the room: wear splendid, luxurious fabrics; you are there to see and be seen!