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Downton Abbey Creator Julian Fellowes Honored by American Ancestors and
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July 29, 2022—Boston, Massachusetts—Julian Fellowes, creator of the worldwide hit television series *Downton Abbey*, was honored on Thursday, July 28, 2022 in Newport, Rhode Island, by American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the oldest and largest genealogical society in America. Fellowes is an award-winning screenwriter, director, producer, novelist and actor with a long and distinguished career. Recently, he received two Primetime Emmy Awards and a Golden

Globe for conceiving, writing, and producing *Downtown Abbey*, an historical drama which focuses on the lives of an aristocratic family and their servants in post-Edwardian England. The show has become the most watched British costume drama since *Brideshead Revisited* aired in 1981 and has reinvigorated interest in British history and culture for a new generation of viewers.

Hosts NEHGS President and CEO D. Brenton Simons and Executive Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods, presented Lord Fellowes with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Dramatic Arts, a celebratory look back at his many accomplishments, and a book detailing his family history.

“We are delighted to honor Lord Fellowes with this award for his outstanding contributions to the arts,” said Brenton Simons. “His mastery of storytelling in productions such as *Downton Abbey* and *Gosford Park* have left a deep impression on millions of viewers around the globe, and his memorable characters and clever dialogue will live on screen forever. He has brought British history vividly to life again and again, for all to understand and appreciate.”

In 2002, Fellowes won an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for *Gosford Park*, directed by Robert Altman. In addition to his accolades for *Downton Abbey*, Fellowes is the recipient of the International Emmy Founders Award and a special BAFTA award. Fellowes most recently wrote the feature *Downton Abbey: A New Era*, which opened in the United States in May 2022.

Other film writing credits include *Vanity Fair*, *Piccadilly Jim*, *Separate Lies* (National Board of Review Directorial Debut Award), *From Time to Time* (Directed, Best Picture— Chicago Children’s Film Festival), *The Young Victoria*, and *The Chaperone*. He has written three international best-selling novels: *Snobs*, *Past Imperfect*, and *Belgravia*. In January 2011, Fellowes was given a peerage and entered the House of Lords as Lord Fellowes of West Stafford. He and his wife, Emma, live in London and Dorset, England. They have a son, Peregrine.

Also attending were Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the United States of America and Dr. Peter Abbott OBE, Her Majesty’s Consul General to New England. Mr. Simons presented a scroll honoring the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II to Dame Pierce, who accepted it on behalf of Her Majesty.

Photo, from left: D. Brenton Simons, Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, Julian Fellowes, and David Trebing, Chairman of the Board for American Ancestors/NEHGS.

About American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society

American Ancestors is a national center for family history, heritage, and culture. It is the global brand of New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), America's oldest and largest genealogical society (founded 1845). American Ancestors serves more than 350,000 members and millions of online users engaged in family history nationally and around the world through its website AmericanAncestors.org with more than 1.4 billion names in its databases. Located in Boston’s Back Bay, NEHGS is home to a world-class research center and archive, an expert staff, and the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center. It maintains a publishing division which produces original genealogical research, scholarship, and educational materials, including the *Register*, the flagship journal of American genealogy since 1847; *American Ancestors*, its award-winning magazine; and *Mayflower Descendant*, a quarterly journal of Pilgrim genealogy and history.

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