

The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald

NEWSLETTER No 127

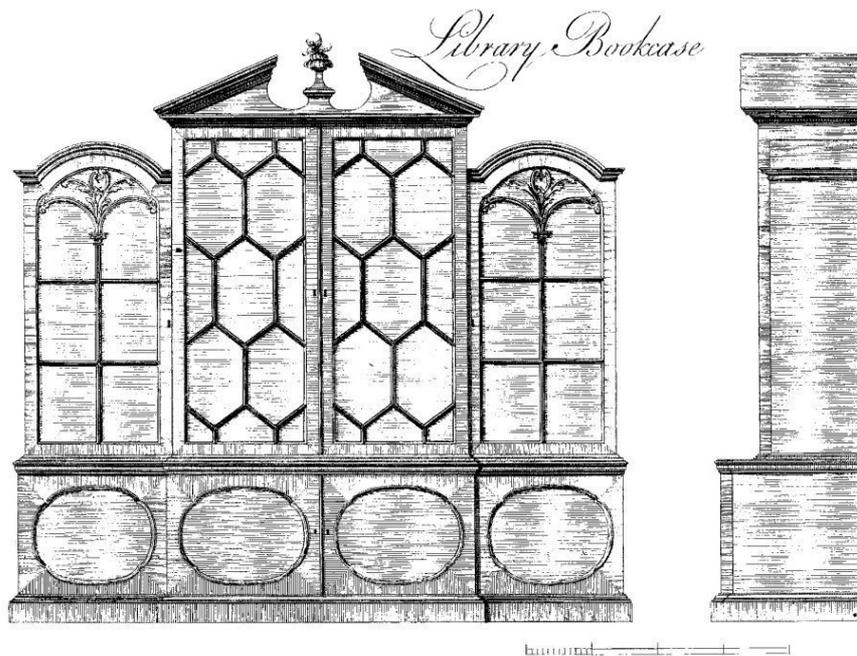
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Nº XCIII



Chippendale inv. et del.

Pub. according to the Act of Parliament 1755.

J.S. Miller sculp.

Plate no XCIII: *'Library Bookcase....This book-case will be very beautiful if neatly executed'.*

Use of email

Please help us to keep costs to a minimum by requesting the Newsletter to be sent to you by email in future. Please contact dib.chippsoc@enterprise.net

Annual Subscriptions

Subscriptions now run from 1st January each year and should please be sent to the Hon. Membership Secretary (address at the end of the Newsletter) to arrive before or immediately after that date. Those who pay by bankers standing order will be sent a new form if necessary. The rates are now £14 for single and £21 for double subscriptions. Life Membership is no longer available for new members.

Christmas Event: Wednesday 11th December

Owing to its popularity a few years ago we have decided to make a return visit to **Castle Howard** to see the State Rooms 'dressed' for Christmas, followed by a festive lunch in the Grecian Hall.

See attached application form

Events for 2014

Study Day Wednesday 5th March: *Wallpapers in the Age of Chippendale and Beyond.*

led by Anthony Wells-Cole, retired Senior Curator, Temple Newsam House
at Temple Newsam 10.30 – 3.00

Anthony Wells – Cole is one of the few acknowledged experts in Britain on historic wallpapers and has spent the past five years researching and cataloguing the extensive collection at Temple Newsam. His lecture and tour will reveal many of his new findings for the first time.

See attached application form

Visits to Sandbeck Park and Browsholme Hall are being planned for the spring and summer and a possible two day - visit to Lyme Park and Tabley Hall (and/or Tatton Park), Cheshire. More details available in the next Newsletter.

The **Annual Dinner** will be on Tuesday 3rd June at Otley Golf Club. More details in the next Newsletter

Five Day Study Visit to the Scottish Borders Saturday 19th – Wednesday 23rd July

We will be travelling by Britannia coach and based at the comfortable Ednam House Hotel, Kelso (where we stayed in 2009). Visits (to be confirmed) will be chosen from Hopetoun, Mertoun, Lennoxlove, Manderston, Thirlestain, Bowhill, Abbotsford, Floors and Paxton on the return journey. Many of these are ducal houses and none except Floors and Paxton

were included in our 2009 programme. See attached application form.

Other visits of interest: the Leeds Art Fund are organising a visit by coach from Yorkshire to **Hanover, Berlin and Dresden** 31 August to 11 September 2014. For more details please contact James Lomax at lomax017@btinternet.com.

News

A Grecian Couch attributed to Chippendale the Younger for Temple Newsam

Temple Newsam has acquired a fine Grecian couch attributed to Thomas Chippendale the Younger. It was sold at the Newby Hall attic sale in 1985 and bought by Manchester City Art Galleries for the Lewis Wyatt library at Heaton Hall. Much of the furniture from Heaton has been de-accessioned recently and the couch has been transferred to Temple Newsam. An old label inscribed 'Library' on the stretcher suggests that it was almost certainly supplied to the new library at Newby, probably about 1807 when the room was converted from a dining room. Although an invoice has not yet surfaced the Chippendale firm was so closely involved with the furnishings of Newby over a long period that it would be difficult to attribute the couch to anyone else. It has been restored and reupholstered in crimson silk with a generous grant from Tomasso Brothers Fine Art. Four chairs also attributed to Chippendale the Younger which were sold from the Temple Newsam sale in 1922 and were repatriated some 10 years ago have been reupholstered en suite. The ensemble may be seen in the Terrace Room.

Report: Five Day Study Visit to Dorset July 2013

Our journey from Yorkshire to Dorset was broken at **Hagley Hall**, Worcestershire, which was opened specially for us by Lord Cobham and where we had lunch in the Dining Room surrounded by Vassalli's festive plasterwork. We admired the Soho tapestries in the Drawing Room, the stunning rococo carvings and decorations, the seat furniture by Paul Sanders and the magnificent and exuberant pier glasses and tables attributed to Samuel Norman and James Whittle. In the Gallery the furniture consists of a suite of chairs and sofas in mahogany with carved boxwood enrichments giving the effect of parcel gilding (a sofa and two chairs have recently been given to Temple Newsam in lieu of taxes). The pier tables have remarkable scagliola tops and above them the truly virtuoso carved pier glasses were originally flanked by dolphin-entwined candlestands painted to resemble mahogany and stone (now at Temple Newsam, the V&A and Philadelphia). Opposite them originally there were girandoles resembling cottages, windmills etc, all based on designs by Thomas Johnson. They have been attributed to one Edward Griffiths, but a contemporary travel journal reported it as the work of 'an artist in the neighbourhood of Hagley'. We found it instructive to compare the furnishings, purpose and plan of this Gallery with that of Longford Castle (1740) and Temple Newsam (1746).

Our comfortable hotel was The Grange at Osborne, near Sherborne which was occupied entirely by our group. The charming garden provided a welcome evening respite to the very warm weather which we enjoyed throughout the visit.

Next morning we arrived at Sir Walter Raleigh's **Sherborne Castle** where a copy of Ince and Mayhew's *Universal System* was prominently displayed in one of the first rooms, inferring that this was a house furnished by one of Chippendale's most formidable rivals with whom the family spent over £2,000 (and a mere £14 with Chippendale). This was part of a furnishing campaign of 1753 when a new young 7th Lord Digby inherited and set about many improvements including a new Gothick library built by William Ride, with furniture by William Bradshaw. A pair of very fine marquetry commodes by Pierre Langlois and a pair of heraldic pier tables and mirrors in Red Drawing Room were probably the stars from this period.

We proceeded to the magnificent **Kingston Lacy** where we were led by Christopher Rowell, the National Trust's Advisor on Furniture, and his colleague the Collections Manager. The Restoration house of the Bankes family was almost entirely transformed by William Bankes into an Italian palazzo in the early nineteenth century. Its treasures are too numerous, important and well known to enumerate here. Among the fabulous paintings, sculptures and works of art of all kinds we were particularly struck by the virtuoso quality of the carved boxwood doors in the Dining Room, the fine Axminster and Savonnerie carpets, the ebony seat furniture by Emanuel Brothers, and the occasional superb pieces from the late 18th century, including a lacquer cabinet in the entrance hall, and the Ince and Mayhew sideboard in the dining room. Continental pieces included a brilliant pair of gilt figurative torches in the Saloon and a group of four burgomeister chairs.

Next day we set out for **Longford Castle**, the fantastical triangular Elizabethan house of the Bouveries, Earls of Radnor. Although most famous for its incomparable picture collection, it was described by Christopher Hussey as 'one of the most magnificent collections of Georgian furniture in existence'. The collection was mainly assembled between 1736 and 1775. The new Gallery was clad in green damask and provided with superb suite of rich parcel gilt day beds and 8 stools costing £400 from Benjamin Goodison. Next came the circular drawing room in 1741 with a set of associated richly carved and parcel gilt green velvet chairs (matching the cut velvet on the walls) attributed to Giles Grendey ('perhaps the ultimate expression of the conventional shell knee design which first emerged in the 1720s': Adam Bowett). Another extremely impressive suite of carved mahogany chairs in the Billiard Room probably by Hallett was noted. In total Goodison was paid £1,585 – 19 – 6d from 1737 to 1745. Other makers working for the family included Benjamin Griffith (Goodison's apprentice), William Bradshaw for tapestries, carpets and upholstery (to whom a pair of superb oval pier glasses in the Billiard Room are attributed), Vile and Cobb and John Linnell into the 1760s.

Superb individual pieces we noted were the steel throne of Emperor Rudolf II c1575 made in Augsburg by Thomas Rucker (in the Gallery); a superb series of torchères c1760 (and earlier ones in the Gallery probably by Goodison); another gilt commode attributed to William Vile; a magnificent Kentian marble top side table in the dining room; gilt appliqués probably designed by James Wyatt in the Drawing Room and an inlaid commode designed by Wyatt but maybe made by Ince and Mayhew; a breakfront bookcase very similar to plate LXVII in the 1754 edition of the *Director* and plate XCIII from the 1762 edition (see frontispiece to this Newsletter) and a superb gilt chest with lacquer top in the style of William Kent c1765. And a totally unexpected surprise: a gilt commode designed by Cuvillies appeared to have escaped from Nymphenburg. We were very grateful for this special privileged visit and to our two well-informed guides.

After a short visit to Salisbury for lunch, when some were able to visit either the Cathedral or Mompesson House (with a fine John Channon tea table on loan from the V&A) we visited the Elizabethan **Breamore Hall**, where our guide was Sir Edward Hulse. The Hulses married into a series of City heiresses bringing family possessions and much money. The house contains particularly good portraits, including a Wright of Derby of Walter Hawkesworth Fawkes (later of Farnley) as a boy with a cricket bat. There were particularly fine rococo mirrors and Louis XV (or German) commodes in the Drawing Room; a fine set of Charles II chairs in the Dining Room; a good long set of parlour chairs in the Gallery and a spectacular embroidered table carpet dated 1614 on the stairs.

Next day we visited the large arts and crafts **Minterne House**, designed by Leonard Stokes where we were greeted by Lord Digby and given an extended account of his illustrious family, ending with the story of his sister the late Pamela Harriman. The house is full of many family treasures and we noted in particular a fine set of dining chairs and Flemish tapestries. Nearby at **Mapperton House**, with its stunning gardens running down a secluded valley we noted a particularly interesting suite of Egyptianising furniture (low bookcases, sofa tables, bureau) apparently from the Sandwiches' previous seat, Hinchinbrooke, which might be attributed to John McLean. A set of fine mahogany parlour chairs with scrolling back rails were not dissimilar to some attributed to Hallett seen at Longford.

Our way home took us to **Sezincote**, the fabulous 'Hindoo' villa which was the inspiration for the final profile of the Brighton Pavilion. It was bought by the Kleinworts in the 1940s who restored and furnished it in the subsequent decades in their own highly sophisticated style. At last we were able to see a securely attributed piece of Chippendale furniture: the Walsingham Commode (once in Lord Leverhulme's collection), dating from the late 1770s, bombe in shape and replete with fine marquetry panels with vases of flowers and fine palmette ormolu mounts, is clearly related to the series of distinctive commodes which begins with Lady Winn's at Nostell. It was a perfect way of ending a memorable five days.