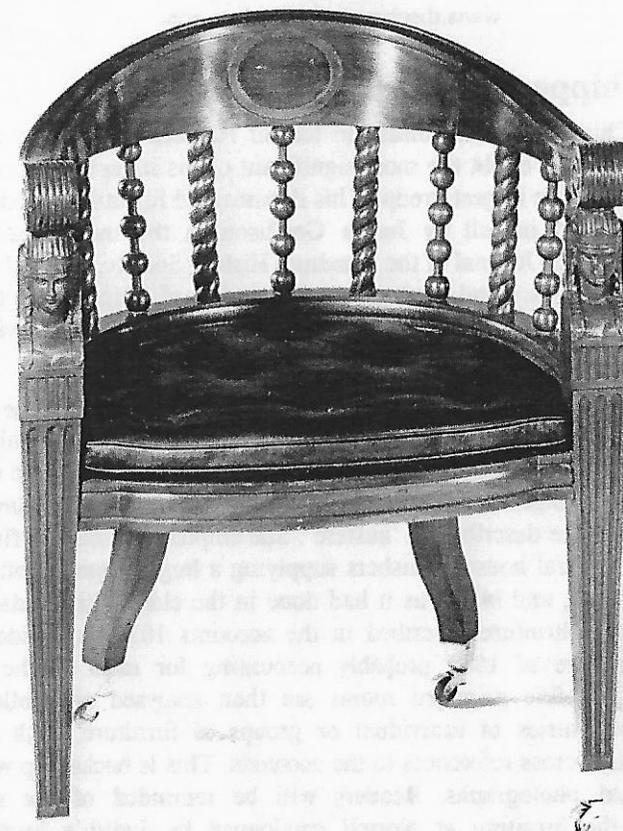


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The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



A chair similar to those at Stourhead

NEWSLETTER No 103

March 2006



Registered Charity No. 501046

www.thechippendalesociety.com

Thomas Chippendale junior at Stourhead

The younger Chippendale's commission for Sir Richard Colt Hoare at Stourhead, Wiltshire was without doubt the most significant of his independent career and the house still contains the largest group of his documented furniture in existence. It has now been published in full by Judith Goodison in the most recent volume of *Furniture History* (the Journal of the Furniture History Society, vol XLI (2005) pp 57 – 116). This represents a real landmark in the studies of Chippendale the younger's work and a model of excellence in analysing and interpreting the evidence in the form of documents and surviving furniture.

Lady Goodison begins with a brief introduction and background to the commission, pointing out that it began in 1795, soon after Hoare's return from Italy, and lasted until 1820, with the incomplete accounts totalling over £5,000. She discusses the style of the furnishings, and its indebtedness to the French *directoire* while Colt Hoare's own taste are described as 'austere'. She emphasises that the firm continued to be complete general house furnishers supplying a huge range of soft furnishings, upholstery, curtains, and blinds as it had done in the elder Chippendale's time. Of the 163 pieces of furniture described in the accounts 103 can be identified there today, with the fire of 1902 probably accounting for most of the losses. The furnishings of the five principal rooms are then analysed and followed by the catalogue of 42 entries of individual or groups of furniture, with descriptions, measurements and cross references to the accounts. This is backed up with excellent and professional photographs. Readers will be reminded of the same format employed for the furniture at Nostell catalogued by Judith's husband in *The Burlington Magazine* in May and June 1969. There follows a complete transcription of the accounts: as always this provides a wonderfully detailed picture of the processes of furnishing a great house. It is good to see that Hoare, as a banker, understood the importance of credit and was generally more prompt with payment than many of the elder Chippendale's clients in the previous generation.

The Chippendale Society hopes to order a number of offprints which can be made available to members at a modest price in order that this exemplary work can be made more widely available.

Facsimile Reprint of the 1754 Director

Copies of the limited edition of 400 are still available from the distributors at £100 (to include p & p) from The Antique Collector's Club, Sandy Lane, Old Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4SD. Tel. 01394 – 389977.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Christopher Gilbert Room, Otley Civic Centre at 8pm on 8 May.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held on 6th June at the Otley Golf Club. The guest speaker will be Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire. More details and application forms in the next Newsletter

SPRING VISIT (in association with Aspect Study Tours)

Two Lancashire Houses: **Browsholme Hall and Gawthorpe Hall**

Thursday 27th April

Gawthorpe Hall is a 17th century house near Padiham, formerly the seat of the Shuttleworth family. The architect was probably Robert Smythson, who also built Hardwick, Barlborough and Heath Old Hall. It was sympathetically restored by Sir Charles Barry in the early 19th century. The house is famous for its fine plasterwork, its collection of fine needlework (from the Kay-Shuttleworth collection) and fine portraits. It will open earlier than usual for our visit.

Browsholme Hall, in the Forest of Bowland, has been the seat of the Parker family since 1507 to the present day. It is a delightful and immensely characterful Elizabethan house containing excellent oak furniture, portraits, arms and armour, stained glass and many curiosities including part of a Zeppelin.

Depart by Coach from Otley Rugby Club 9.30 (car parking available), return approx 5.30. Lunch is not included in the price but is available at the National Trust's café at Gawthorpe Hall. Coffee at Gawthorpe and tea at Browsholme are included.

Tickets £40 from Nicholas Merchant, 17 East Parade, Harrogate HG1 5LF

(Please make cheques payable to *The Chippendale Society*)

CANCELLED ?

Please send me tickets @ £40 each for the Chippendale Society's spring visit to Gawthorpe and Browsholme Halls on 27 April. I enclose a cheque for £.....and SAE.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Tel No.....

Directions to the Rugby Club will be given with your tickets.