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The Chippendale Society

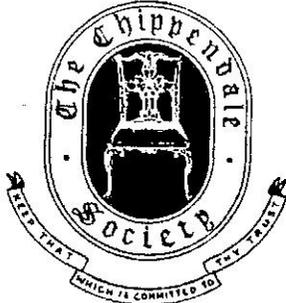
President: Lord St Oswald



One of the '10 oval backed Satton Wood Chairs covered with needlework' supplied to the Coffee Room at Harewood House, c.1770. A set of ten nearly identical chairs supplied to Denton Hall have been discovered recently (see News).

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www.thechippendalesociety.com

News

A newly discovered set of Chippendale chairs from Denton Hall

Among the many fine pieces of furniture offered for sale at Sotheby's New York on 5th and 6th April ('A Celebration of the English Country House') were a remarkable set of ten chairs (and a later pair of matching armchairs) with an impeccable provenance to Denton Hall, near Otley (lot 430). Remarkably, they are almost identical to the '10 oval backed Satton Wood Chairs covered with Needlework' supplied by Chippendale to the Coffee Room at Harewood c1770. Clearly they were part of Sir James Ibbetson's commission with the firm dating from after the house was completed in about 1777 and which we know from a document in the Society's possession to have amounted in total to £551. Few authenticated Chippendale pieces from Denton have been identified apart from the two pier tables also in the Society's possession at Temple Newsam, and a commode at Pittsburg. Thus this set of chairs is a welcome addition to the corpus of firmly attributed pieces supplied to Chippendale's only known commission within the parish boundary of his own home town.

It is interesting that Chippendale never exactly repeated a successfully design for different clients – there are always subtle variations, perhaps not surprising in this case since the two sets are approximately six or seven years apart. The Denton chairs are veneered in mahogany rather than satinwood; they have a border of laurel wreaths in their back roundels; and the legs are square sectioned with spade feet rather than turned. Otherwise they have Chippendale's usual notches in the underframes of the seats (used for glue clamps) and indications of screw holes for battening.

Denton passed by inheritance to the Wyvill family in 1861. Forty years later the house was let and much of its original furniture was taken to their ancestral seat at Constable Burton, in Wensleydale. These chairs were sold by Mrs D'Arcy Wyvill to the antique collector Arthur S. Vernay of New York in 1922. His surviving ledgers record their purchase and subsequent sale to Mrs L.S. Morris of East 64th Street for \$4,000. They achieved \$180,000 (including buyer's premium) at the recent sale.

44th Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will take place at Otley Golf Club on Tuesday 6th June 2006 at 7.00 for 7.30. The Society's guest this year will be Dr Ingrid Roscoe, Lord Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

No tickets will be issued but applications, including seating preference, should be made by completing the reservation form below and returning it with your cheque to the Treasurer at the address shown below.

There will be a choice of starters and desserts, but to assist the caterer and also to ensure only a modest increase in cost of ticket the price this year will be £19 (last year £18) and you are asked to indicate your preference for the main course, either

- A) Roast Loin of Pork (with apple sauce)
- B) Duo of Plaice and Lemon Sole Fillets (filled with prawn mousse & white wine and cheese sauce)
- C) Vegetarian
- D) Gluten-free

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ANNUAL DINNER

I/We wish to apply for ...places and enclose my/our cheque for £.....made payable to the Chippendale Society

I/We require the following main courses (please insert number of each in spaces below):

A).....B).....C).....D).....

I/We would like to be seated with.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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

Please send to John Holdsworth, 74 Riverside Park, Otley, West Yorks LS21 2RW