

Chairman: Mrs Pat Loffhouse, Fairfield, 4 Forest Gate, Otley LS21 3HF
Hon. Curator: James Lomax M.A., F.S.A., Temple Newsam House, Leeds LS15 OAE.
Tel: 0113 264 7321
Hon. Secretary: Simon R.B. Stell LL.B., Last Cawthra Feather, 11-19 Westgate, Shipley
BD18 3QX. Tel: 01274 585459
Hon. Treasurer: John B. Holdsworth, 74 Riverside Park, Otley, LS21 2RW. Tel: 01943 465711
Hon. Membership Secretary: Tony Lumb, 2 Montpellier Gardens, Harrogate HG1 2TF.
Tel: 01423 503776
Hon. Conservator: Ian Fraser, Temple Newsam House, Leeds LS15 OAE, Tel: 0113 264 7321

The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



Photo courtesy of the National Trust

The Duchess of Gloucester, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, receiving a copy of the Society's facsimile reprint of the first edition of Chippendale's Director from the Chairman of the Society, Mrs Pat Loffhouse.

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www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk

News

Presentation of a copy of the Society's facsimile of the *Director*

At a short ceremony at Nostell Priory on 19 July 2006 the Chairman of the Society, Mrs Pat Lofthouse, presented a copy of the Society's facsimile reprint of the first edition of Chippendale's *Director* to Her Majesty The Queen through the good offices of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.

In his words of introduction the President of the Society, Lord St Oswald, pointed out how fortuitous it was that Her Royal Highness was able to perform this happy task. He recalled that in 1764 Chippendale had dedicated his third edition of the *Director* to the then Duke of Gloucester, Prince William Henry, the younger brother of George III, using fulsome language occupying an entire page of text praising the Duke's excellent taste. If this was a ploy to attract royal patronage, it certainly worked, for Chippendale was busy over the next two years with 'a great quantity of unexpected business which I did not know of nor could I refuse doing it as it was mostly for the royal family', as he explained to Sir Rowland Winn of Nostell (thereby giving a convenient excuse for further delay in supplying furniture to Nostell).

Indeed, evidence from the Duke's bank statements reveals that he spent a total of £138 - 15 - 6d with Chippendale between 1764 and 1766. Quite what furniture this represented remained a mystery until the late Christopher Gilbert identified an elegant suite of armchairs and sofas in the Royal Collection which could be traced back to Prince Henry's household. They were recently shown at the Queen's Gallery for that stunning exhibition *George III and Queen Charlotte*. Ironically, they are almost identical twins to the set in the Saloon at Nostell.

Her Royal Highness was also presented with a personal copy of the reprint. In her subsequent letter of thanks to the Chairman she said that The Queen had directed that her copy should be placed in the Library of the Royal Collection where it could be used and consulted by the curators and visitors.

Remaining copies of the facsimile

A number of copies of the facsimile remain for sale at £100 each, including post and packing, and may be obtained from The Antique Collectors' Club, Sandy Lane, Old Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4SD, telephone 01394 389 977.

The Society's web site.

You may have noticed that the Society's web site address has changed (see opposite). The site is in the process of being updated to make it more attractive and informative.

Forthcoming Events

Lecture

Maurice Taylor will give a lecture on

Historic Houses around Ripon

on Thursday 5th April at 7.30 pm in Arthington Village Hall.

Cost £3 to include tea and coffee. All are welcome.

A G M

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Christopher Gilbert Room, Civic Centre, Otley at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 15th May.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held at Otley Golf Club on 5th June. Details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Summer outing

A visit to Ripley Castle and Markenfield Hall is being planned for early July.