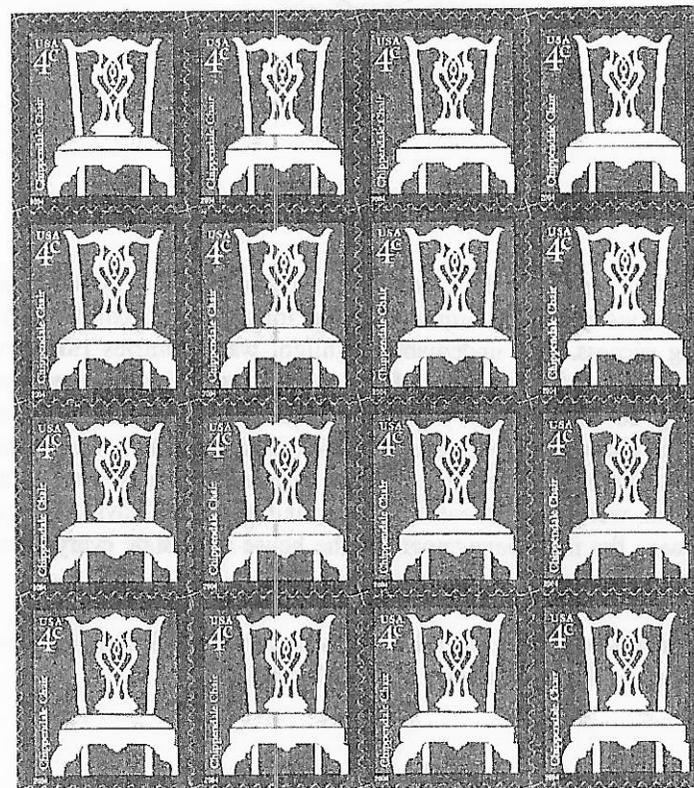


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The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



*Block of US Postal Service 4c stamps, featuring a 'Chippendale Chair'
Kindly donated by Mr Don Greenwood*

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News

The Society's joint visit with the Leeds Art Collections Fund to South West Scotland, including Dumfries House, Blairquhan, Drumlanrig and Culzean Castles should be counted a big success. The undeniable highlight was Dumfries House, which had been opened to visitors for less than a fortnight. We were given exclusive access for a whole morning, so we were able to admire at our leisure the truly exceptional early Chippendale furniture and other treasures of this wonderful house, preserved here almost untouched for 250 years. Our guides were exceptionally well informed, and their discussions were supplemented by contributions from David Jones and James Lomax. We wish the new management of the house and estate every success for the future.

At the last committee meeting Mr John Hill was elected the Society's Vice-Chairman and Mr Anthony Mills the Honorary Events Organiser.

Exhibition

Members are strongly recommended to visit the exhibition *Taking Shape: finding sculpture in the decorative arts* at the Henry Moore Institute, The Headrow, Leeds 2 October – 4 January, thereafter at the J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles 31 March – mid June 2010. The exhibition brings together some of the finest English and French mid 18th century furniture from the collections at Temple Newsam and the Getty Museum, examining their sculptural qualities and challenging some accepted art-historical hierarchies. The exhibition is open daily free 10.00 – 17.30 (Wednesdays til 21.00). More information at www.henry-moore.ac.uk.

Sales

The summer saw a number of high profile auction sales featuring documented and attributable Chippendale furniture, breaking all records for high prices. Four of the five Chippendale lots in Christie's '12 Exceptional Furniture' sale on 18 June (evening) made over £2 million each. The chinoiserie Kenmure Cabinet (£2,729,250), although not documented, had Chippendale's early signature all over it: its use of figured padouk wood, and scrolled foliage and rockwork make it a natural cousin to the White Drawing Room bookcase at Dumfries. From the Dundas commission were the famous bookcase (removed from Aske) (£2,057,250), two of the gilt armchairs (£2,281,250) and one of the sofas (£2,169,250).

From the collection of our loyal supporter Simon Sainsbury (Christie's also on 18 June, during the day) there was a remarkable library desk with stylistic and constructional features clearly linking it to its counterpart at Dumfries House and pointing to the St Martin's Lane workshop. Other features seen on the Dumfries furniture appeared on 4 June at Sotheby's, in the form of a bed, as well as a concertina action tea table, the legs of both entwined with palm foliage very similar to the bed in the Blue Bedroom in Ayrshire. A pair of pedestals (one dating from c1775) identical to those in the Yellow Drawing Room at Harewood appeared at Sotheby's on 4 June. Other remarkable pieces appeared at Sotheby's New York on 26 April including a pair of bergeres from Moccas Court, a fitted dressing commode and an elegant side table. More armchairs, replete with St Martin's Lane features, appeared at Christie's on 5 June, extraordinarily similar to the ones supplied by Chippendale to the Duke of Gloucester. An extremely charming semi-chinoiserie breakfront secretaire-cabinet also featured in the same sale and was attributed to either Chippendale or Wright and Elwick of Wakefield, highlighting the difficulty in distinguishing between the two firms whose style and quality is often so similar.

Forthcoming Event

Christmas Visit to Nostell Priory 10 December 12.30 – 4.00

At the suggestion of our President Lord St Oswald members are invited to a Christmas-themed cold buffet luncheon in the Coach House at Nostell Priory followed by an opportunity to view the special festive decorations in the house. After the visit the cafeteria will be open for teas (not included in ticket).

For further details and application form please see insert.