

The same dealer also had a really superb overmantel mirror, imitating a fanciful Chinese garden, which had probably originated in the London house of the Marquess of Bath and was attributed to John Linnell. A pair of extraordinarily elegant bergere chairs possibly designed by Gaubert and made by Francois Herve for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Spencer were an excellent point of comparison with Chippendale's own forays into this Francophile genre at Harewood and Burton Constable. A pair of grand gilt side tables from Beningborough probably by James Moore, an elegant bombe commode perhaps by John Cobb and a satinwood bookcase by Ince and Mayhew provided a great representation of the finest workshops of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Carlton Hobbs had a fine array of works not least a magnificent but unprovenanced bookcase attributed on grounds of style to Vile and Cobb and comparable to the examples Chippendale supplied to Sir Laurence Dundas. It was good to see the pair of tall faux bronze and porphyry candlestands probably by Chippendale junior which last appeared in rather a distressed state at the Harewood sale in October 1988: now they had been smartened up almost out of all recognition.

Thomas Coulborn & Sons showed a superb set of 12 sidechairs with backs of a Chinese railing design topped by mini pagodas, 'very proper for a Lady's Dressing Room, especially if it is hung with India Paper', and for many years on loan to Aston Hall. They were identical to sets supplied by Chippendale to that highly discriminating connoisseur Sir Gilbert Heathcote at Normanton Park, Rutland, and another group at Saltram.

Pelham Galleries had a magnificent group of English and Continental pieces, of great rarity and interest. Among the latter maybe the prize would go to the pair of sofas designed by Robert Adam for Sir Abraham Hume's London house and probably made c1780 by Sefferin Nelson under the supervision of George Seddon. They reveal Adam at his most refined with the sparsest use of exquisite classical ornament: it is remarkable to note how fast taste had moved over a period of just 15 years from the robust designs for Sir Laurence Dundas of 1765 (realised by Chippendale) to these examples of almost fin de siècle refinement.

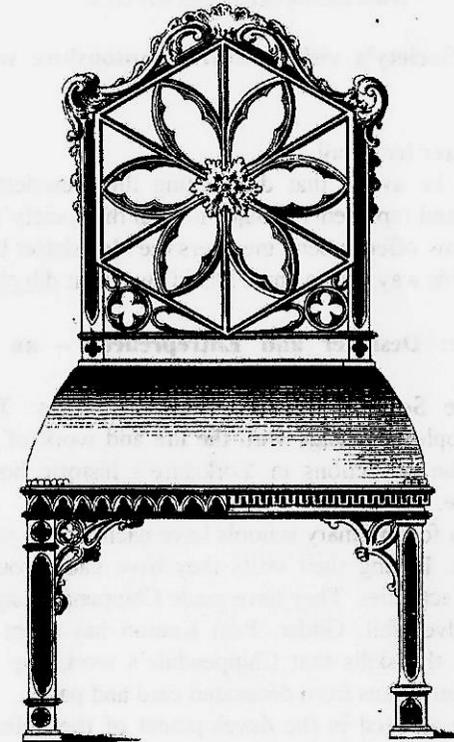
Ronald Phillips had their customary spectacular array of mirrors, commodes, bureaux etc all of exemplary quality and in superb condition. Perhaps their most eye-catching piece was the recently discovered enormous chinoiserie overmantel mirror based on a design by Thomas Johnson. More modest was the delightful green and cream japanned armchair with its traceried back in the Gothick taste based on plate XXV of the *Director* (see cover) while the arms look to plate XVII. Something 'proper for a Library'. But maybe the prize would go to the - possibly unique - bookcase with its fitted and movable kneehole desk: from a Yorkshire provenance and very similar to another example at the Wentworth Woodhouse sale of 1948.

In addition the sale rooms also yielded many splendid masterpieces over the summer. Perhaps some of the most significant for Chippendale-watchers were at Christie's on 7 July which included a pair of tapering pedestals each topped with a distinctive circular block with concentric fluting centring on a finely carved rosette. They were identical to the pair in the Yellow Drawing Room at Harewood and were almost certainly made for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Portland during the time when he resided at Burlington House, Piccadilly.

# The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald

## *Designs of Chairs.*

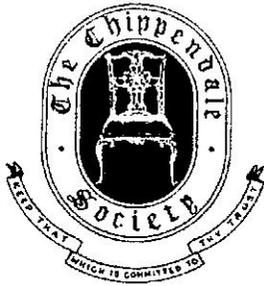


*Published according to Act of Parliament 1761.*

Plate XXV from the third edition of the *Director*. One of 'Three Designs of Chairs...proper for a Library...'

**NEWSLETTER No 120**

August 2011



Registered Charity No. 501046

[www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk](http://www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk)

**The Report on the Society's visit to Northamptonshire will appear in the next Newsletter**

#### **Receiving the Newsletter by email**

Members may already be aware that distributing the Newsletter by post is becoming increasingly expensive and represents a major item in the society's expenditure. Like many organisations we can now offer to send members the Newsletter by email. If you would be willing to receive it in this way please email David Bower at [dib.chippsoc@enterprise.net](mailto:dib.chippsoc@enterprise.net)

#### **Thomas Chippendale: Designer and Entrepreneur – an Interactive eLearning Resource**

Melissa Gallimore, the Society's Learning Officer, writes: This project focuses on encouraging young people to engage with the life and work of Thomas Chippendale by involving them with the collections in Yorkshire's historic houses and developing an interactive web resource.

Over 150 children from four primary schools have each visited one of the country houses involved in the project. During their visits they have had a tour of the collections and engaged in a variety of activities. They have made Chippendale style motifs out of clay and 'gilded' these using silver foil. Gilder, Pam Keeton has spent time with some of the children demonstrating the skills that Chippendale's workshop would have used. They have also made 'marquetry' fans from decorated card and paper.

The children have also assisted in the development of the online resource to provide a stimulating and engaging website for all young learners. The website will be available to all by the beginning of October 2011 and if you would like any further information about the project please contact me at [melissa@melissagallimore.com](mailto:melissa@melissagallimore.com).

The project has been supported by a number of organisations including The Chippendale Society, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Leeds Art Collections Fund, and the individual houses involved.

#### **Provisional Date for a Christmas visit to a North Yorkshire country house followed by a festive lunch: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.**

Further details and application forms will be included in the next Newsletter.

#### **2012 Summer Study Visit to Country Houses**

The Britannia coach has been provisionally booked for six days from **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July, not 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012** as some members who attended this year's five day visit in July were informed. The date has been changed as it coincided with the Yorkshire Show. Further details for next year's programme will appear in the next Newsletter.

#### **Other events of Interest**

##### **Lecture by John Makepeace**

At Lotherton Hall, Aberford Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 4 pm.

##### ***John Makepeace – the human dimension***

To be held in conjunction with ~~with~~ the touring exhibition *John Makepeace, enriching the language of furniture* which will be on display.

Admission by ticket only £3.50 (includes tea at 3.30)

from [wendy.shuttleworth@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.shuttleworth@leeds.gov.uk) 0113 281 3259

##### ***Music in the Country House: A Christmas Garland***

In the Picture Gallery, Temple Newsam Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.30

The programme, devised by Jane Troughton, includes seasonal readings, songs and instrumental pieces from country houses from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

Adults £10, Concessions £6. Tickets and details from [temple.newsam.house@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:temple.newsam.house@leeds.gov.uk) 0113 264 7321

#### **Some highlights from the summer antique fairs**

The *Masterpieces* fair held at Chelsea Royal Hospital in late June is now in its second year and has rapidly become the foremost showplace for works of art in London - as good as visiting any great museum or country house. Among the dealers specialising in everything from Oriental sculptures to classic cars there are a large number of well established furniture specialists who clearly pulled out all the stops to make a mouth-watering display of highly desirable things. This short selective account concentrates solely on furniture attributed with very good reason to Thomas Chippendale the elder and junior and some pieces by his rivals and contemporaries which show the latter in a wider context.

Apter Fredericks were able to represent work by most of the leading late 18<sup>th</sup> century London furniture makers. A remarkable set of six chairs with extraordinarily beautifully and crisply carved pierced splat backs had belonged to an 18<sup>th</sup> century Bishop of Gloucester. They corresponded in almost every detail with a design for plate XIV of the first edition of the *Director* (plate XI of the third), for which the original drawing is owned by the Society. It is rare indeed to find such a close copy of a Chippendale design and clearly made by a metropolitan maker, almost certainly in St Martin's Lane. A pair of gilt sofas with serpentine shaped backs and garlanded legs with central panels were attributed to Chippendale junior because of their apparent parallels with the Tapestry Room chairs and sofas at Newby, but also because of their V shaped notches on the underside of the seat rails allowing for gluing cramps – a Chippendale signature. (contd over