

# The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald

## NEWSLETTER No 122

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www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk

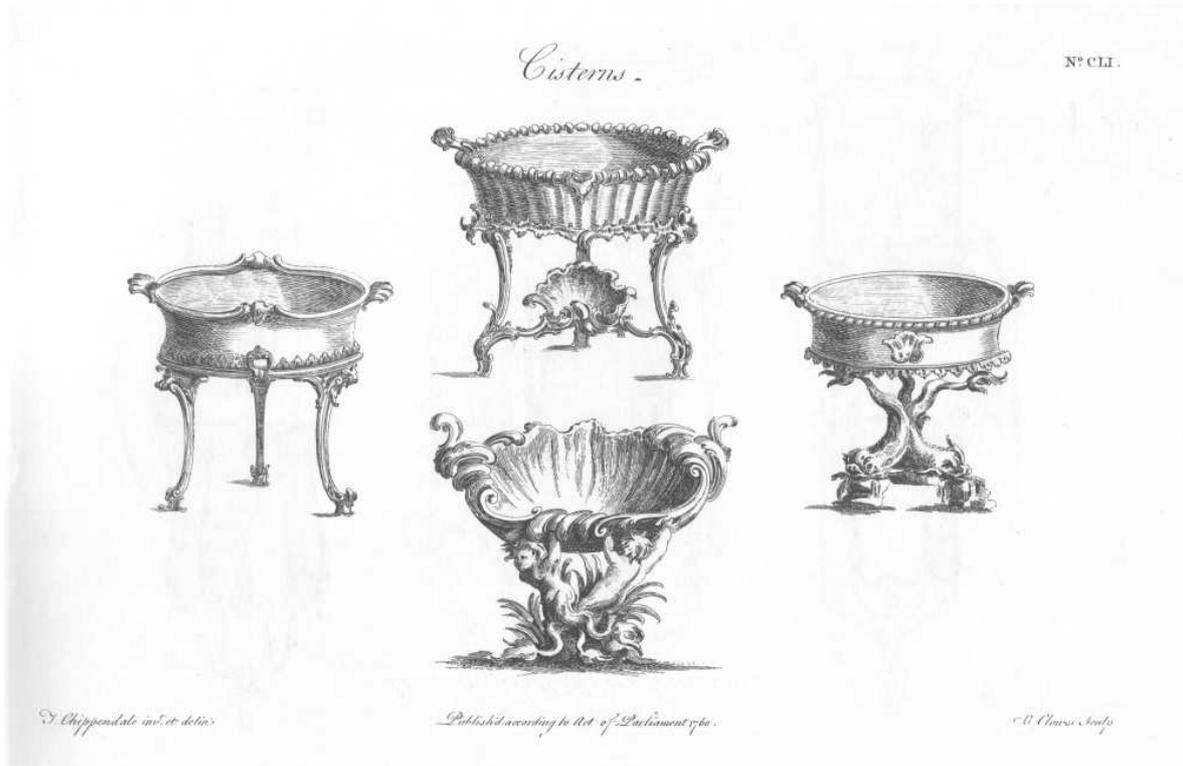


Plate CLI from *The Gentleman and Cabinet Maker's Director* (1762)

'Four Cisterns. The Ornaments should be Brass. The Cistern at the Bottom should be made of Wood, or Marble, and cut out of the Solid. The others may be made in Parts, and joined with the Brass Work'

## The Newsletter and subscriptions

The Society's committee has recently discussed the problem of the increasing costs involved in producing and distributing the Newsletter and also the cost of maintaining and updating the website. These activities are central to the running of the Society and to fulfilling its function of publicising the work of the Chippendales and encouraging interest in it and in the Society. At present the income from subscriptions, including a contribution from the life membership fund, is far from covering these basic activities. Two ways of tackling this problem have been considered.

The first is to encourage more members to agree to receive the newsletter by email. At present we have this agreement for about twenty out of over 300 members. We are again asking those who can agree to this to email David Bower whose address is [dib.chippsoc@enterprise.net](mailto:dib.chippsoc@enterprise.net). In order to make it easier to print the Newsletter for those who wish to do so it will be sent with a new layout in both PDF and Word (.doc) format and will sometimes be partly in colour, though it will always be possible, of course, to print in black and white only. The new layout will also be used for the version sent by post.

The second way of increasing income may be by raising the annual subscription and by suspending the life membership option for all new members. These measures are still under consideration.

## Schools Project

Over 150 children from four schools participated in developing the programme at Temple Newsam, Harewood, Nostell and Burton Constable. The new website <http://www.chippendaleactivities.org/> went live on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October after a successful launch at Temple Newsam on 4<sup>th</sup> October. There has been good coverage in the local and regional press and the website is being promoted by the Primary Times website which is popular with primary school teachers looking for teaching resources. Viewing figures to date are very positive: from October to December the site had some 600 visits and 40,000 hits. The most popular download is the marquetry film. Our renewed thanks go to Melissa Gallimore the Society's Education Officer for co-ordinating the project and for financial help from the Heritage Lottery

Fund, the Society's Pippa Rakusen Fund and from the houses themselves.

## Events

**The Annual General Meeting** will be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 at Otley Methodist Church Hall.

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner** will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at Otley Golf Club. Details and application forms will be given in the next Newsletter. The slightly later date has been chosen in order to avoid a clash with celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

## Visits

### **Rode Hall, Cheshire, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

(Sir Richard Baker – Wilbraham, Bt)

Rode Hall, near Congleton, Cheshire, is an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century house, set in 10 acres of beautiful gardens and extensive parkland and has been the home of the Baker Wilbraham family for over 350 years. It has fine family portraits and Georgian furniture, notably by Gillows and George Oakley. Its collection of porcelain however is unique and truly remarkable. The family's connections with the industry (close by at Stoke) ensured they had a highly developed taste for the very finest 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century English productions: Chelsea, Bow, Worcester, Derby as well as Spode, Coalport, Davenport and an exceptional group of arts and crafts pieces. Rarely in any English house does one find such consistently high quality over such a long period. The collection is still growing and is meticulously cared for and documented.

### **Southill Park and Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June**

(Sir Samuel Whitbread and the Duke of Bedford) (overnight at the Inn at Woburn)

Southill Park is the supremely elegant home of the Whitbread family, built by Henry Holland from 1795. Most of its original furnishings, designed by the architect and supplied by the leading furniture makers of the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, have survived intact (and in superb condition) within the house. The Whitbread's chaste francophile taste was very similar to that of the young Prince of Wales at Carlton House, the

Spencers at Althorp, and the Bedfords at Woburn. The interiors culminate in the exquisite Pompeian decoration of Mrs Whitbread's boudoir with its delicate grisaille cameos, porphyry roundels and gilt architectural details.

Woburn Abbey is justly famous as one of the great treasure houses of England. As well as looking at the great family portraits, paintings, silver and porcelain we will be able to admire a range of superb 18<sup>th</sup> century furniture. The house was partly refurnished following a rebuilding campaign in the 1750s and 60s by Henry Flitcroft and Giovanni Borra for the fourth Duke of Bedford. Thus from this period we find wonderful rococo furniture by James Whittle and Samuel Norman and especially Pierre Langlois whose marquetry pieces are some of the earliest revivals of this style in England. For the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke Henry Holland was employed to rebuild the south wing and create the strikingly pure neo Classical library and adjacent rooms. His furniture presents remarkable parallels with the Whitbread's at nearly Southill.

Southill is only very rarely open to visitors so we are particularly privileged in being able to see it. At Woburn we will be given tours by their expert guides. Afterwards there will be some time to see the gardens, antiques centre or have tea (not inc). The Inn at Woburn is a comfortable 18<sup>th</sup> century three star hotel in the village.

### **Rococo Bavaria 9<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September (with the Leeds Art Fund)**

This is a 12 day visit to the great houses, churches and palaces of mid 18<sup>th</sup> century Bavaria. We will travel by Britannia coach from Leeds, via Dover – Calais ferry, staying in four star hotels, one night en route in Ghent, three nights in the World Heritage Site at Bamberg, three nights in Munich, and three nights at Lindau on Lake Constance. On our way back we will stop for one night near Aachen. Highlights of the tour will include the palaces at Wurzburg, Pommersfelden, Bayreuth and Nymphenburg; and the churches at Vierzehnheiligen, Weltenburg, Ottobeuron, Ettal, and Zweifalten. The tour will be led by James Lomax.

For more information please contact James Lomax at 01937 588041 or [lomax017@aol.com](mailto:lomax017@aol.com).

