

THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY



President: the Lord St Oswald

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A PAIR OF CARD TABLES ATTRIBUTED TO THOMAS CHIPPENDALE JUNIOR

These card tables are currently with the London dealers Godson & Coles, Fulham Road. They bear the crest of the Middleton family, of Stockeld Park, near Wetherby, Yorkshire. A long-established Yorkshire family based originally at Ilkley in Wharfedale, the Middletons later made Stockeld their principal residence, and in 1757 William Middleton (1707-63) engaged James Paine to rebuild it in the Classical style. William died before the house was completed and the house, estate and Middleton name passed to an infant great-nephew, William Constable (1760-1847), who took the name of Middleton. In 1782 William Constable Middleton married Clara Grace, the daughter of an Irish landowner from County Laois. It is probable that these tables formed part of a refurnishing scheme at Stockeld undertaken at the time of the marriage.

Despite producing six surviving children the marriage was not a success and ended in a celebrated divorce suit in 1793, caused by Clara's infatuation with a household servant. William left Stockeld to live in Middleton Lodge, Ilkley, leaving the house empty for at least two decades before it was let to a succession of new owners. In 1893 the house was sold to a Bradford mill owner, Robert John Foster. During the 19th and 20th centuries a succession of poor financial decisions led to repeated sales of land and chattels, and it is likely that this pair of tables left the Middleton family during this time. *(cont. next page)*



SUBSCRIPTIONS & EMAIL

In spite of several reminders, some subscriptions for this year remain unpaid. If you have not already paid, please do so now. Please help us keep costs to a minimum by requesting that the Newsletter be sent to you by email in future if you do not already receive it by this method.

A PAIR OF CARD TABLES ATTRIBUTED TO THOMAS CHIPPENDALE JUNIOR *cont.*



The tables embody the restrained but sophisticated neo-Classical style which the Chippendale firm had been developing in the late 1770s and which reached its fullest expression under Chippendale Junior in 1780s. The tables' design corresponds to a number of documented pieces of the 1780s and includes several signature motifs. These include the tapered, reeded legs with distinctive flared 'petals' at the top; the inlaid spiralling flowers or paterae which punctuate the segmental veneers of the half-round top; and the large engraved half-flower at its centre. The most direct analogies among documented furniture are with the Paxton House Drawing Room pier table of 1789 and the Stourhead 'Weeping

Women' commode of 1780-85, but the closest resemblance of all is to an undocumented commode formerly in the collection of Norman Colville and last sold at Christies in 2001.

The primary veneer of the top is holly, laid in radiating segments terminating in curved panels of contrasting purplewood. The crossbanding is satinwood and tulipwood, and the finely-engraved foliage and flowers were originally dyed in colours of green, pink, white, &c. The fluted frame and legs are solid satinwood with the exception of the central medallion with the finely carved Middleton crest, which may be boxwood.

EVENTS FOR 2019

London Half-Day Tour Monday 8th July 2019



We are delighted to offer a half-day study tour to Central London which gives members the opportunity of visiting the wonderful London home of the Earls Spencer, Mackinnon Fine Furniture and the British Museum print room.

Our Study tour commences with a 12.30pm tour of **Spencer House**, St. James's. Still owned by the Earls Spencer, the house is now let to Lord Rothschild's investment company and has been magnificently restored and now open to the public on a very limited scale. The house was built as a classical temple of love for John, 1st Earl Spencer and his childhood sweetheart, Georgiana Poyntz. It is a sumptuous neo-classical town house with the exterior and ground floor rooms designed by John Vardy in the style of Imperial Rome and upstairs rooms by James 'Athenian

Stuart' in classical Greek taste. Highlights include the Palm room with gilt columns as imitation of Palm trees - symbols of fertility, and the Painted room - a celebration of the 'triumph of love' and one of the earliest complete neo-classical rooms in Europe.

To complement this visit we are privileged to be able to see later in the afternoon, two drawings for Spencer House by John Vardy in the **British Museum** print archive, courtesy of Chris Coles one of our Chippendale members. These drawings are a fraction of other treasures we will be able to view here which also includes a string bound edition of 10 decorative cartouches by Matthias Lock.

In the middle of the afternoon we are delighted to visit the showroom of one of our members, **Mackinnon Fine Furniture**, also in St. James's. The owner Charlie Mackinnon has 20 years experience of dealing in English antiques and decorative arts and offers a continually changing collection selected for quality, provenance and decorative appeal. This will surely be another interesting highlight of our afternoon.

At the end of our afternoon, those who wish to fortify themselves with a glass of wine before making their way home are cordially invited to the pied à terre of one of our members, situated on Coptic St., minutes from the entrance to the British Museum. Here members will be able to see how 1950s and 60s furniture can comfortably fit into a modern interior.

The cost for this exciting study afternoon is **£25** to include entrance and tour of Spencer House and the British Museum and a glass of wine. Note that there is no transport included and that the tour starts at 12.30 pm at Spencer House in St. James's and finishes around 6.30pm at Coptic St., Bloomsbury. Spencer House and Mackinnon Fine Furniture are 5 minutes walk apart in St. James's and the British Museum is a 20 min walk or short bus or cab ride from Mackinnon Fine Furniture. **Applications to be received by May 5th 2019.**

CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND LECTURE - MONDAY 13th MAY 2019



Dining chair, from the same model supplied to Nostell Priory c. 1750. Frank Lumb & Co.



Tester Bed, 1773. Burton Constable Foundation.

In the Picture Gallery, Temple Newsam, Leeds

11.30	Doors Open
12.00	Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting (Chippendale Society members only).
1.00	Lunch (optional, with lecture £17.50)
2.00	Lecture (Chippendale Society members £5.00, non-members £7.50, tickets at the door)
3.00	Selected tour of Temple Newsam
4.00	Finish

The Special General Meeting is required to approve some changes to the Society's Rules. Agenda to follow.

Lecture: New Perspectives on Wright and Elwick of Wakefield: Chippendale's Yorkshire Contemporaries by Andrew Cox - Whittaker

In 1745 the partnership of Richard Wright and Edward Elwick opened their doors in Northgate Wakefield. For more than half a century, their workshops and warerooms were to become the centre for the production and supply of high-end cabinet making, upholstery and the furnishing trade which operated out of Wakefield in the 18th century. This trade supplied finely made furniture of mahogany and walnut, sumptuously decorated wallpapers of the latest designs and almost every article that a genteel man or woman would need in order to furnish their interiors in the very latest and most fashionable taste.

Formed in London during the 1740's, Wright and Elwick's move to Wakefield could not have come at a more fortuitous time as it coincided with the great escalation of country house building in the North. The owners of great Yorkshire houses such as Wentworth Woodhouse, Nostell Priory, Temple Newsam along with many others were quick to employ Wright and Elwick to furnish and decorate their interiors in the appropriate style of the day. Their reputation was such, that Elwick was to write in 1775 that he had the 'honour to serve most of the Nobility & Gentry in the West and North Riding...'

Today, furniture connected to these great Yorkshire houses is highly regarded, but surprisingly little has been written about the furniture produced in Wakefield during the eighteenth century. This talk will look at the emergence of Wright and Elwick, the difficulties faced in supplying houses sometimes at great distance, the changing fashions of the eighteenth century and how Wakefield craftsmen were to interpret these fashions and make items often with great inventiveness – and to give rise to a reputation that led Thomas Chippendale in his correspondence with Sir Rowland Winn to make mention of the 'ingenious Mr Elwick'.

Andrew will then lead a tour of the furniture collections focusing on 18th century Yorkshire made pieces.

No booking required for the SGM and AGM (members only); **Lunches must be booked by 3rd May; advance booking preferable for Lecture only but also available at the door on the day.**

Annual Dinner 6th June 2019 at Otley Golf Club 7.00 for 7.30

The Annual Dinner will be held as usual in the convivial setting of Otley Golf Club on Thursday 6th June 7.00 for 7.30.

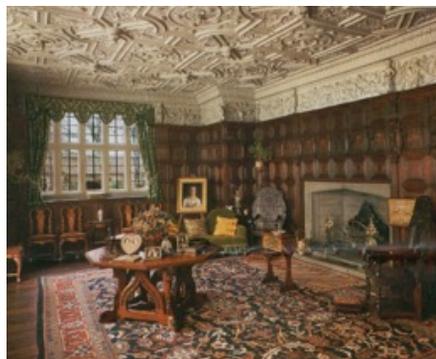
Our Guest of Honour is **Dr Mark Westgarth**, Director of the Centre for the Study of the Art and Antiques Trade at the University of Leeds. He has recently been the Guest Curator of the exhibition **SOLD !** at the Bowes Museum, exploring the role of antiques dealers in creating museum collections in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Last date for receipt of applications is 22nd May. Late comers cannot be admitted.



EVENTS FOR 2019

Chippendale Society Study Tour to Lancashire Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th September 2019



The Drawing Room, Gawthorpe Hall

Our two night, three day study tour in Lancashire begins at the **Judges Lodgings** in Lancaster. Originally a lodging house for visiting judges to Lancaster, the building now houses an excellent collection of Gillows furniture. We are delighted to be supporting the re-opening of this Museum and we are privileged to have Gillows expert, Susan Stuart, as our guide.

After lunch we will continue our study of Gillows furniture at **Lancaster Castle**. The origins of the castle date back to Roman times and it is still owned by our current Queen as part of the Duchy of Lancaster. A prison until 2011, recent renovations have made it more accessible to visitors and during our tour we will see some of the furniture in the position for which it was designed. In stark contrast those who wish will be able to visit the old gaol. (Some areas may have restricted access if the Court is sitting).

Our second day, 4th September, we have a tour of **Astley Hall**, Chorley. The original timber framed house was built between 1575 and 1600 for the Charnocks of Chorley. Highlights of Astley Hall include the breathtaking plasterwork in the Great Hall and Parlour where the ceiling plasterwork appears to defy gravity. Sumptuous Flemish tapestries and walnut furniture abound. A long standing Catholic family, it is no surprise that there is a Priest's Hole upstairs. On the top floor the Long Gallery probably predates the 1660s alterations and the ceiling and floor undulate dangerously from end to end.

Towards lunchtime we make our way to Southport to visit the privately owned, **Meols Hall** where we will have lunch. Like many stately homes, Meols Hall has had a chequered history. Owned by branches of the Fleetwood-Hesketh family since the twelfth century, reconstruction of the 16th and 17th century farmhouse did not take place until the 1960s. Our guided tour will illustrate the care taken to make alterations in keeping with the origins of the house whilst creating a beautiful home and showcase for some important paintings by Poussin, Brueghel, Reynolds and Salvator Rosa.

Patrick Walker O.B.E.

We regret to report the death of Patrick Walker O.B.E., a long-term member of the Chippendale Society and a generous supporter of our aims. Patrick and Mavis are fondly remembered for participating in our events over many years where they enjoyed

On Thursday the 5th September we proceed in the morning to **Gawthorpe Hall** near Burnley. The former seat of the Shuttleworth family, the design of the current house is largely attributed to the Elizabethan and Jacobean architect, Robert Smythson. It has superb plasterwork by John Burridge who also worked for Sir Arthur Ingram at Temple Newsam. In the mid nineteenth century, alterations were made by Charles Barry, designer of the Houses of Parliament. Furniture is to be found by the firms of Crace and Gillows and there is much attributed to Pugin's designs. Gawthorpe has always been renowned for the wonderful display of textiles collected by the last family member to live there, Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth. The house underwent a major conservation and refurbishment programme in the 1980s.

Late morning we travel to **Towneley Hall** also near Burnley where we will have lunch. Towneley Hall was originally the ancestral home of the Towneley family from the 14th century until the last descendant, Lady O'Hagan, sold the house and grounds to Burnley Corporation in 1901. Highlights include the magnificent Great Hall rebuilt in 1725 by Richard Towneley in high English Baroque style with beautiful plasterwork by Francesco Vassali and Regency changes made by Jeffry Wyatt (later Wyatville). Although left with little content, Edwards Stocks Massey, a wealthy local brewer donated money for purchasing pictures, and the rooms were gradually refurbished so that today it houses an excellent collection of furniture from Tudor to Victorian.

The cost is £335 per person sharing, with a single supplement of £75 to include 2 nights dinner, bed and breakfast at the four star Farington Hotel near Preston, Britannia Coach Travel, all entries and guided tours, three lunches and one morning coffee/tea. **Applications must be received by the 10th May 2019 with a non-returnable deposit of £75 per person. Balances will be due by 1st July 2019.**



Bergere from Northumberland House, Towneley Hall

sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Last year they led the campaign to find sponsorship for the tercentenary exhibition catalogue and without their help it would never have materialized. Their many friends, and the innumerable good causes which they both supported, will be greatly saddened by this news. We extend our sympathy to Mavis and the family.