

# THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY

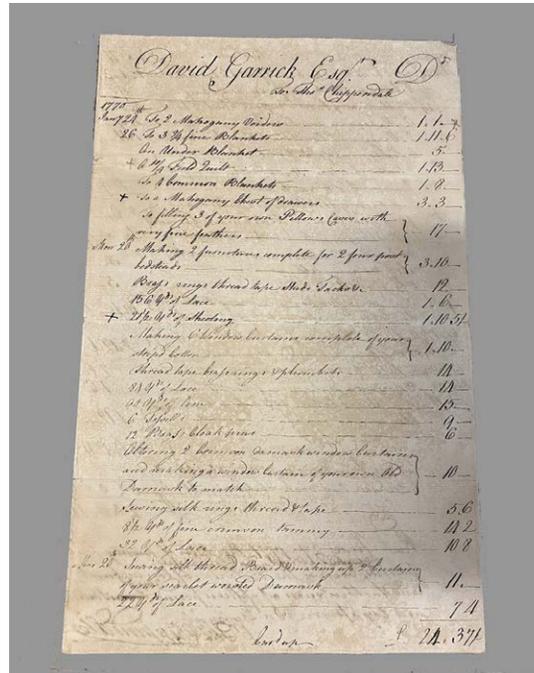


President: the Lord St Oswald

NEWSLETTER No. 153

www.thechippendalesociety.co.uk

October 2021



The latest addition to our Collection, an account for furniture supplied by Thomas Chippendale to David Garrick, January - July 1770.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I am tremendously pleased to be able to tell you about the Society's latest acquisition, which is one of the missing bills from Chippendale's Garrick commission. It was bought at Christie's sale of *Fine Printed Books and Manuscripts*, New York, 1-15 October (lot 160). Chippendale's work for David Garrick spanned the period 1768 to 1778, although it may have begun earlier. He not only supplied furnishings for Garrick's house in Southampton Street and his Thames-side villa at Hampton, but also furnished the new house at the Adelphi when Garrick moved there in 1771-2. Not all of the commission is documented. The surviving bills in the National Art Library cover the period May 1768 to December 1772, but there is a gap in the sequence of bills between July 1769 and January 1771, into which this bill fits neatly, from January to July 1770. It was receipted by Chippendale almost a year later, 27 June 1771.

The furniture listed was destined either for the Southampton Street house or for the villa at Hampton; the inclusion of packing charges suggests that at least some of it went to the latter. It is mostly of an unspectacular, domestic nature, and includes charges for filling pillows and for second-hand furniture.

The Society has many rare documents relating to Chippendale's life and work but this is the first furniture bill it has acquired. It is a peculiarly apposite purchase, because the Society also owns two pieces of furniture made for Garrick, a small bookcase and a half-round pier table. As far as we can tell, this is the first Chippendale furniture bill to come onto the market since 1970. We are most grateful to Peter Horwood of Christie's furniture department for alerting us to the sale, and to Thomas Heneage for acting for us in the purchase. It was bought with funds from the Pippa Rakusen bequest

Adam Bowett

## REPORTS

### BELVOIR CASTLE

Chippendale Society Study Tour, 28th September 2021



Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, built 1799-1832.

Twenty-three members attended this visit to Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, which has been the principal seat of the Manners family, earls and dukes of Rutland, since 1528. There have been three previous castles on the site, the earliest dating from Norman times, but the present building was begun in 1799 and completed (after a disastrous fire in 1816), in 1832. The architect was James Wyatt but the driving force was Lady Elizabeth Manners (née Howard) wife of the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke, who continued the project with other architects after Wyatt's death in 1813. It is one of Wyatt's most complete and successful Gothic buildings and, standing on its hill overlooking the Vale of Belvoir, it really looks the part, dominating the countryside with views extending up to twenty miles in all directions.

We were given a guided tour of both state rooms and private apartments either side of a two-course lunch. The overriding impression was of outstanding quality; in the mock-Gothic architecture, the interior joinery and plasterwork, and the furniture and paintings.

The paintings in particular were very fine, the collection having been started by John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Rutland, in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and continued by his successors. One highlight was a glowering portrait of Henry VIII after Hans Holbein the younger, but there were also family portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds and animal portraits by George Stubbs. Many were displayed in the purpose-built picture gallery, others lined the staircases and walls in all parts of the house.

The furniture collection ranged from 17<sup>th</sup> century English caned chairs to Venetian boxwood chairs of state, Chinese cabinets and Italian Renaissance revival *cassoni*, but the predominant theme was Gillows, who supplied the bulk of the furniture from 1816 onwards. Belvoir was clearly one of Gillows' most important commissions, and it is extraordinary that it remains almost completely unresearched. Aside from the familiar Gillows chests and wardrobes in the secondary bedrooms, the state rooms contained some of their most spectacular work: there was a suite of wardrobes fitted with Japanese lacquer panels, vast beds with half and full canopies, and an imposing dining room suite comprising a vast table seating at least 32 people, with chairs to match, and four massive sideboards. The drawing room furniture was also mostly Gillows, but gilt rather than mahogany, and all the doors to the state rooms were either of the finest mahogany or bird's eye maple with rosewood banding.

The Castle is still privately owned and a family home, although it also serves as a high-class private hotel. Our only disappointment was that the one piece of genuine Chippendale in the house was not accessible. This was the armchair made from the Waterloo elm supplied by Thomas Chippendale junior to the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke about 1821. Other examples were made for George IV (Royal Collection) and the Duke of Wellington (Stratfield Saye).

Our thanks are due to David Allott and Cathy Lambert for organising this enjoyable visit.

*Adam Bowett*



Chippendale Society members in Belvoir's richly decorated Drawing Room.

## REPORTS - CONT.

### TATTON PARK AND TABLEY HOUSE Chippendale Society Study Tour, 12th August 2021



Tatton Hall, garden front, completed 1806-7

After three postponements and eighteen months late, 20 members of the Society managed to visit these two important Cheshire houses. We began at Tatton Park, where continuing Covid restrictions meant we were unable to enjoy a 'special collections' tour but were nevertheless impressed by the knowledge of the room guides. Tatton was the home of the Egerton family for around 360 years, but the present house and most of its contents date from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The architects employed to transform the original late-seventeenth-century house into a fashionable neo-classical mansion were Samuel Wyatt (1737-1807) and his nephew William Wyatt (1777-1853). Much of the furniture was supplied by Gillows; the Tatton commission was one of their largest and much survives *in situ*. The gardens were laid out by Humphrey Repton who produced one of his 'Red Books' illustrating the potential improvements that could be made to the parkland estate. The ownership of the Egerton family came to an end in 1960 when Maurice, 4th Baron Egerton, unmarried and without issue, left the estate to the National Trust.

Due to Covid restrictions the route for visitors through the house had been altered, and consequently we did not enter through the Grand Entrance Hall and our first view was of the Yellow Drawing Room, where we could only peek through the door at the Gillows' satinwood furniture; a satinwood bookcase with ebony inlay (supplied in 1795 for £27 10s) and a pair of satinwood cabinets described as 'cheverets', supplied in 1790 for £5 10s 10d. The latter were used as small writing desks. The spectacular Dining Room accommodated a huge mahogany table set with Baccarat glassware dating from 1911, lit by a mid-nineteenth-century English crystal chandelier of twenty-four lights. In the nineteenth century as many as forty-three guests dined here on a single occasion.

The Wyatt Library is regarded as one of the finest in the National Trust, with 8000 books amassed by the Egerton family over three centuries. The splendid bookcases were supplied by Gillows in 1811-12. It was not exclusively a male domain but a family room with comfortable seating furniture and small writing and games tables, a pair of Cary's globes and a fine Chinese ivory chess set. The Drawing Room and adjoining Music Room were both richly decorated with cherry coloured silk damask, possibly inspired by the two Italian Baroque-style gilt chairs brought back from Venice by the Egertons in the nineteenth century. Gillows supplied the Boulle-influenced brass inlaid furniture and opulent gilt framed seating.

There was much more to see, including many bedrooms, one with an early bath on wheels with attached coal driven water heater. Underneath the house the servants' quarters were substantial and included a small railway to carry coals from one side of the house to another. Unfortunately, the Maurice Egerton Exhibition Room, which contains a great deal of contentious ethnographic material, was closed. Time constraints meant that we only managed to view the gardens and glasshouses near the house and were unable to reach the renowned Japanese Gardens, which will have to wait for another visit.

After a short drive to Tabley House we sat down to a well-earned lunch. The black and red sandstone neo-classical house was built by John Carr between 1761 and 1769 for Sir Peter Byrne Leicester. Unlike Tatton it was turned down by the National Trust in 1976 and the principal State rooms are managed by the Tabley House Collection Trust. The remainder of the house is leased to Cygnet Health Care, providing residential care for the elderly. Tabley is mainly known for the Leicester picture collection and the Gillows furniture.



Chippendale Society members in one of Tatton's hothouses.

## REPORTS - CONT.

### TATTON PARK AND TABLEY HOUSE - *cont.*

We were split into two groups for our private tour. We entered from the south side through the raised Portico into the Entrance Hall. At one time a billiards room, it has been restored to its original use as an entrance hall with niches for statues, plaster reliefs and swags and with medallions representing the four seasons. Here was a rich mahogany circular table by Gillows, with unusual legs draped with carved bunches of grapes and with lions' paw feet. The Drawing Room housed a chair of 'Chippendale' style and a pair of rococo gilt mirrors also said to be 'Chippendale'. The common Parlour or Octagon Room had canted corners filled with glazed china cabinets and also housed an unusual double rent table. The Dining Room was dominated by a painting of the Prince Regent by Sir Thomas Lawrence (Sir John Fleming Leicester, created first Baron de Tabley in 1826, was a long-term friend of the Prince).

Underneath the painting was a letter from the Prince congratulating Sir John on his marriage. The adjacent Oak Hall contained a macabre man-trap with its original warning sign, dated July 3rd 1818. Upstairs was a Gallery spanning the west side of the house, created from three rooms in the early nineteenth century when the windows were deepened to improve the lighting and the elegant arches put in place.

With several 'cosy corners' created within the room, the Gallery became not only a ballroom and picture gallery but a library, study and a sociable family room. The furniture included two more Chippendale-style rococo mirrors, an unusual Regency rosewood and gilt sofa by George Bullock (an almost identical sofa was supplied to Longwood, Napoleon's house in exile on St. Helena). Further Gillows furniture included mahogany sofa tables and a mahogany teapoy.

The Gallery displayed some of the best pictures in the Leicester collection, including a portrait of Georgiana Maria, Lady Leicester, as Hope, by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

Our tour ended in the Chapel, a structure moved in its entirety from near the Old Hall to its present location in the 1920s, when the original chapel and house collapsed as a result of brine extraction. The interior retains most of its original fixtures and fittings and on the north side there was a charming stained glass window in memory of the 3rd Lord de Tabley, designed by Edward Burne-Jones and executed by Morris & Co.

Cathy Lambert



Tabley Hall, south front, completed 1769.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are delighted to be able to offer you our Christmas lunch at Goldsborough Hall situated in the village of Goldsborough between Harrogate and Knaresborough. Goldsborough Hall was once the home of Daniel Lascelles, brother of Edwin of Harewood House and also a patron of Thomas Chippendale. In the 1920's the house became the home of the The Princess Royal when she married Henry Lascelles in 1922, (later the 6th Earl of Harewood). The Princess Royal was daughter of George V and Queen Mary, great grand-daughter of Queen Victoria and aunt of our current Queen. Goldsborough Hall is currently run as a country house hotel and restaurant which has attained three AA rosettes.

When we arrive, we will be served tea/coffee followed by an informal talk by one of the owners of Goldsborough Hall on the history of the house and Princess Mary. Following the talk we will be served our Christmas lunch which will include three courses followed by tea/coffee and petit fours. The cost will be £42 including gratuities. Please send your cheque and application form with menu choices, made payable to 'The Chippendale Society' to Cathy Lambert, The Hon Events Secretary, Nesfield Hall, Nesfield, Ilkley, LS29 0BN. Applications must be received by the 14th November. Assume that you have a place unless you hear to the contrary.

Note that there is no coach travel included. Please meet at Goldsborough Hall at 10.50am.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS & EMAIL

Just a reminder to all our members that subscriptions are due on the 1st January 2022. The subscriptions remain the same at £14.00 per single member and £21.00 for a joint membership.

Payments may be made by Pay Pal via our website or cheques may be sent to me at The Croft, Breary Lane, Bramhope, Leeds LS16 9AE. Alternatively a payment may be made by bank transfer; Barclays Bank plc, Sort code 20-37-13, Account number 80260274, Account name - Chippendale Society Membership Account.

Thank-you

Peggy Pullan, Membership Secretary, email; fh817@ncf.ca