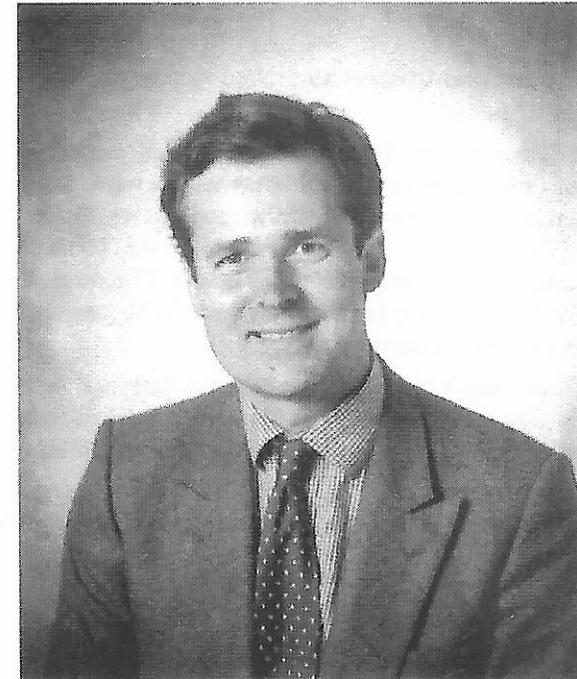


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# The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



**The Society's new President**

At the Annual General Meeting on 8th May Lord St Oswald was proposed as the Society's new President and graciously accepted the offer. He has said how much he looks forward to his future association with the Society.

**NEWSLETTER No 88**

September 2000



Registered Charity No. 501046

### **Our new President writes:**

I was extremely flattered to have been asked to take on the Presidency of The Chippendale Society.

As you might know my family acquired the Nostell estate 350 years ago and moved into the old monastic buildings which were converted into a house sometime after the dissolution of the monasteries. Seventy two years later saw the beginning of the construction of the present house. Sir Rowland Winn, 5th baronet employed Thomas Chippendale to supply furniture for both his London house, which was in St James's Square, and his country seat which of course was at Nostell.

Nostell is still very much the Winn family home, despite it and many of its contents being owned by the National Trust; the chief of which being of course the world- renowned collection of Chippendale furniture.

My family still own the estate, the running of which takes up a lot of my time. I am married and have a lively family and when time allows I enjoy a variety of country pursuits.

### **A New Acquisition**

We are delighted to announce the acquisition of a rare letter by Thomas Chippendale the Younger (its discovery was first reported in Newsletter No 86). It was bought on the Society's behalf by Simon Phillips at Christie's sale of Books and Manuscripts on 7th June. The costs were met entirely by a group of benefactors: the Raymond M Burton Charitable Trust, the J Paul Getty Jr Charitable Trust, the Harewood House Trust, Hotspur Ltd, Jeremy Ltd, Charles Lumb & Sons Ltd, the Monument Trust, Ronald Phillips Ltd, Mr and Mrs Patrick Walker, and Clifford Wright Ltd. We are very grateful for their generosity. The letter is now on display in the exhibition at Harewood.

The letter is written from 57 Haymarket and is dated 4 November 1813. It is addressed to an unknown patron and discusses in detail the design of an

armchair, evidently to match a set of chairs already made. He elaborates on its features ('...the scrawl for the elbows I suppose you meant it to lay horizontally...') and makes discreet suggestions ('...as the pannel is of wood [in the other chairs] I rather think it would look better in these than Cane. If the scrawl for the Elbow was to turn down as in the side sketch perhaps it would look better.') Chippendale ends with the postscript: 'By the base conduct of Lord Salisbury's Steward I have lost my premises in St Martins Lane and am for the present in the Haymarket'. This latter comment finally establishes the date at which the firm's premises in St Martin's Lane, established by Chippendale the Elder at Christmas 1753, were finally abandoned.

### **Report on the Society's Activities**

The Annual Dinner was held at Otley Golf Club on 6 June. Some eighty members and their guests attended and heard our new President Lord St Oswald give a most interesting and entertaining after-dinner speech about his family's home, Nostell Priory. We are extremely grateful to him and to John Holdsworth for making the arrangements.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Reception and Private View of Phillips' Sale of Fine Furniture**

*21 September*, 6 pm - 8 pm, Hepper House, 17a East Parade, Leeds  
(Please see enclosed invitation with reply details.)

The Directors of Phillips have kindly invited members of the Society to a Reception and Private View of their autumn sale of Fine Furniture in their saleroom in Leeds on 21 September. A senior member of their staff will talk informally about some of the most interesting pieces for sale. If you have any friends who you feel might be persuaded to join the Society, please bring them along to this event: application forms for new members will be available.

#### **Autumn Lecture**

*18th October* at Arthington Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.45 pm

Peter H Thornborrow (Senior Historic Building Officer, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service) will give an illustrated lecture on

#### ***17th Century Gentry Houses of Calderdale***

Admission £2.50 at the door. Tea and biscuits included