

REPORT ON THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

On 21 September some 70 members and guests responded to the kind invitation of Messrs Phillips to a Private View of their sale of Fine Furniture at Hepper House, Leeds. Among the interesting pieces on view was an unusual satinwood and tulipwood crossbanded serpentine secretaire cabinet which had been especially brought up from London for our perusal. Jonathan Cook spoke of its provenance from Woburn and the reasons for its possible attribution to Chippendale's great rival John Linnell. We are most grateful for Phillips' kind hospitality at which we made a number of new members and were given donations of over £100 towards our general funds.

The subject of the Autumn Lecture held at Arthington Village Hall on 18 October was *17th Century Gentry Houses of Calderdale*. It was delivered with great panache by Peter Thornborrow of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, who illustrated it with a number of intriguing stories connected with the houses and interiors concerned.

A meeting room has recently been opened at Otley Civic Centre and named in memory of our late President, Christopher Gilbert. It has been furnished with facsimile Chippendale furniture.

Chairperson: Mrs Pat Lofthouse

Hon. Curator: James Lomax M.A., Temple Newsam House, Leeds LS15 OAE.

Tel: 0113 264 7321

Hon. Secretary: Simon R.B. Stell LL.B., Last Cawthra Feather, 11-19 Westgate, Shipley BD18 3QX. Tel: 01274 585459

Hon. Treasurer: John B. Holdsworth, 74 Riverside Park, Otley, LS21 2RW. Tel: 01943 465711

Hon. Membership Secretary: Tony Lumb, 2 Montpellier Gardens, Harrogate HG1 2TF. Tel: 01423 503776

Hon. Conservator: Ian Fraser, Temple Newsam

The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



Photo courtesy of Christies

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NEW ACQUISITION

In September the Society was able to purchase a remarkable 12ft high organ screen in Chippendale's 'Cathedral Gothick' style at the sale of the well-known antique dealer Christopher Gibbs. The fact that it had first appeared at the Harewood attic sale in October 1988 prompted our interest, together with the Lascelles family's prominent armorial device of the Maltese Cross.

The design is very close to Plate CIV of the third edition of Chippendale's *Director*, a close variation of which was adapted as a 'Gothick Door' in Robert Sayer's *Modern Furniture in the Genteel Taste* (1760). First suggestions indicated that it may have formed part of Chippendale's furnishings for Daniel Lascelles at Goldsborough Hall (which included Gothick pieces) and possibly removed to Harewood in the 1930s. Although this cannot be ruled out, it now seems much more likely to be the screen for the 'elegant organ of nine stops [the mechanism] built by Mr John Donaldson of York' delivered to Harewood Church in July 1804, given by Edward, Earl of Harewood and recorded in John Jewell's *Tourist's Companion* (1819). The triple-arch design of this example together with its exquisitely carved tall crocketed finials, cusped arcading and 'false' pipes would have been entirely in keeping with the decoration of the church and its celebrated 15th century monuments. The whole ensemble was probably removed during the Gilbert Scott restorations of the 1860s.

Archival research on the building and decorating activities at the House and Church in the late 18th and early 19th century by Terry Friedman and Mark Westgarth reveals numerous payments for joinery and carpentry work by Samuel Middleham, Robert Moseley of Leeds and John Wood (any relation to Chippendale's master Richard Wood of York d.1782?). Likewise there are various payments for unspecified work to Chippendale the Younger at precisely this date. However, at the time of going to press we have not been able to find conclusive evidence of the actual maker of the screen. Nevertheless everything points towards it being a fascinating example of the enduring influence of Chippendale's 'Gothick' style well after the master's death. It is also by far the *largest* object in the Society's collection and should create a strong impact on visitors to Temple Newsam when the house re-opens at Easter 2003.

CLOSURE OF TEMPLE NEWSAM: 2001- 2003

Owing to extensive and much-needed repair work to the fabric of the building it will be necessary to close Temple Newsam House to visitors for two years from Easter 2001. The project, funded by a £1.3 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, involves re-roofing the South wing, re-pointing all the brickwork, renovations to the stonework, re-landscaping the courtyard and installing a lift. During this period a selection of the Society's collection will remain on display at Harewood House. We anticipate that we will be one of the first groups to be invited for a privileged visit to inspect the improvements and the new display of the Society's collections in the early summer of 2003.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Otley Civic Centre on 14 May at 7.30 pm.

The Annual Dinner will be held at Otley Golf Club on Tuesday 5 June. More details of both events in the next Newsletter

Visit to Nostell Priory 14 March

The Society's President Lord St Oswald has kindly invited members of the Society to be his guests for a Private Visit to his family home at Nostell Priory on 14 March at 7 pm to 9 pm. He would like to welcome us at 7.15 and this will be followed by a short talk by the National Trust Historic Buildings Representative for Yorkshire, Roger Carr-Whitworth. Wine and canapes will be served. The house has been closed to the public for extensive renovations for nearly two years and we are the first group to be able to view the improvements. Please note that this event is restricted to **members only**. Numbers are limited so please complete the form below and send to

John Holdsworth, 74 Riverside Park, Otley, W. Yorks LS21 2RW.

No tickets will be issued.

Nostell Priory is situated 6 m SE of Wakefield off the A638 Wakefield-Doncaster Road (J40/M1 J38/A1(M))