

a hexagonal top and had similarities to the tables supplied by Chippendale in 1764 to Sir Lawrence Dundas for his London mansion in Arlington Street. The table sold in November was perhaps the more sophisticated of the two and realised over £80,000, the second plainer table made £67,000.

Other pieces of furniture which lacked any specific provenance but were related to designs published in the Director appeared at auction at Christie's New York during 1999. A mahogany pedestal desk related to Plate LXXXIV of the third edition of the Director was sold on 21 October, realising £464,500, a sum normally associated with furniture with a direct provenance. On 22 April Christie's sold a set of ten mahogany dining chairs based on the design in Plate XIV of the second edition, the original drawing for which is of course owned by the Society. The set raised £420,500, a reflection not only of the association to a known Chippendale design but also the desirability of long sets of 18th century chairs generally.

On 9th February 1999 Phillips London offered a pair of giltwood open armchairs the design of which is based on the giltwood suite in the Queen's collection at Clarence House and which the auctioneers attributed to Chippendale. Christopher Gilbert had concluded that the Clarence House suite may have been supplied by Chippendale to HRH Prince William Henry, Duke of Gloucester and to whom the 1763 (third) edition of the *Director* was dedicated. The chairs also had the V shaped cuts and slots to the underside of the seat rails (to facilitate packing), believed to be one of the identifying features of the Chippendale workshops. However, with an estimate of £30,000 - £40,000 the chairs remained unsold. Later, on 20 April, Phillips also offered a set of seven giltwood side-chairs and a stool which they attributed to Chippendale or John Linnell. The chairs displayed an interesting inventory mark on the underside of the seat rails identifying their location at some point in their existence at Chesterfield House, the South Audley Street mansion built 1748-9 by Isaac Ware for the 4th Earl of Chesterfield. The possibility of an indirect provenanced connection was left open by the auctioneers, but it is interesting to note that the 5th Earl of Chesterfield was a subscriber to the first edition of the *Director*, and that in the early part of the last century the 6th Earl of Harewood acquired Chesterfield House. The suite was estimated to sell at £15,000 - £20,000, although it is not known how it fared.

To conclude this short survey of 'Chippendale Spotting' we have a Yorkshire connection. On 23-24th November 2000 Tennants offered a set of six mahogany side chairs which were quite evidently of provincial manufacture, but the maker had obviously been working from plate XIII of the *Director*. The chairs had typical deep 'country' seat rails but the maker was remarkably faithful to the original design for the splat and cabriole legs. At £18,800 for the six they seemed like rather a good buy.

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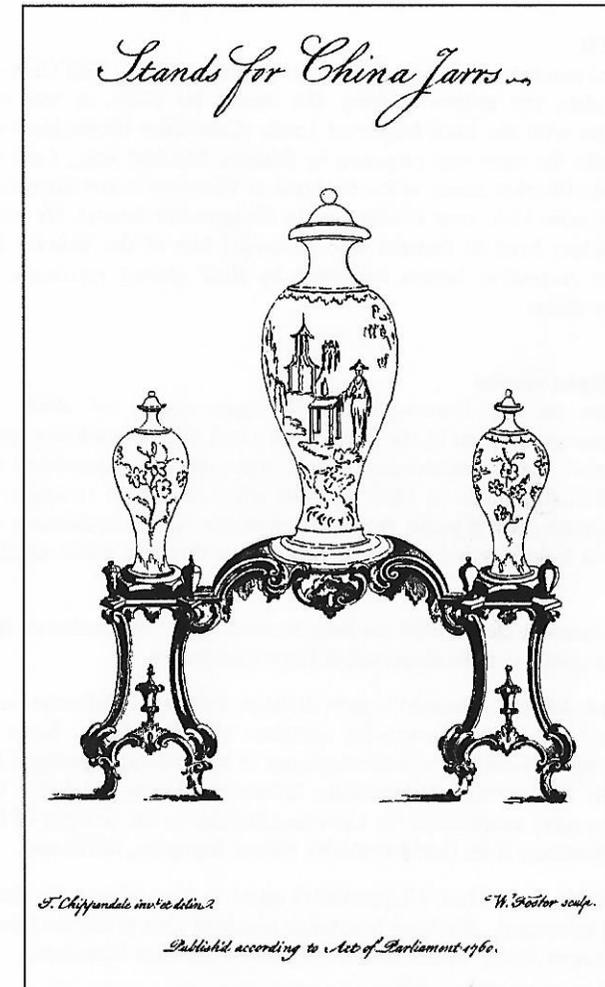
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The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



NEWSLETTER No 91

October 2001



Registered Charity No. 501046

ANNUAL DINNER

Nearly one hundred members and their guests were present at Otley Golf Club on 5th June to celebrate Chippendale the elder's birthday (he would be 282!). It was a particularly memorable occasion with the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Councillor David Hudson) who gave civic greetings while the toast was proposed by Richard Marriott Esq., Lord Lieutenant of the East Riding. Mr Marriott spoke of his boyhood in Wharfedale and his restoration of his family home at Boynton Hall, near Bridlington (a Chippendale house). He was thanked by the Society's President Lord St Oswald who reminded him of the historic familial links between their two respective homes cemented by their shared patronage of the great Yorkshire furniture maker.

NEWS

The Harewood Organ Screen

Research continues on the Harewood Church organ screen of 1804, attributed to Chippendale the younger (bought by the Society last year). By extraordinary good luck Mark Westgarth discovered that the mechanism of this organ (by John Donaldson of York) was bought by a Mr William Knight in 1858 for £100 when the whole structure was removed from Harewood church. Mr Knight then presented the organ mechanism to his parish church at Sileby in Leicestershire where it remains to this day albeit much altered and upgraded.

Temple Newsam remains closed until the early summer 2003. A number of items from the Society's collection continue to be displayed at Harewood House.

The Victoria and Albert Museum's new British Primary Galleries re-open on 22 November after several years' closure for complete refurbishment. Some of the great masterpieces of English furniture will be displayed in new settings arranged by theme and style. Among the documented Chippendale furniture held by the V&A is one of the armchairs from the suite supplied to Sir Lawrence Dundas to the designs of Robert Adam, and the japanned furniture from David Garrick's villa at Hampton, Middlesex.

At **Burton Constable**, near Hull, Chippendale's great looking glasses in the Saloon have been restored and reinstated. We hope to arrange a special visit to Burton Constable for the Society's members next April. Please look out for this in the next Newsletter

Chippendale Society Website

We have commissioned a website which we hope will go on line in the near future. It should contain details about the Society, membership details, our events and publications. It will also give information about Chippendale senior and junior, their work, and where it is to be found in houses and museums. Support for this has come from the Hargreaves Charitable Trust and the Roland Winn Charitable Trust. More details will be given in due course.

AUTUMN LECTURE

Adam Schoon (of TV's 'Going for a Song') will speak on

Rockingham: the Rise and Fall of a Yorkshire Pottery

The speaker will be happy to give an opinion on examples brought to the lecture

On Monday 12 November at Wesley Hall, Boroughgate, Otley, at 7.45 pm

Parking in Walkergate at the rear of the Hall

Admission (at the door) £2 to include refreshments

Chippendale Spotting

By Mark Westgarth (continued from Newsletter No 90)

A few pieces of furniture have also appeared at auction over the past two years with a good provenance but perhaps lacking that extra piece of concrete evidence to definitively close the attribution. Two pieces appeared at Christie's auction of Important English Furniture 6 July 2000, both believed to have been from the lesser known Chippendale commission for Foremark Hall, Derbyshire. The first was a mahogany serpentine commode of a type without any real precedent in Chippendale's *oeuvre*, indeed the rather tentative manner of the attribution by the auctioneers, 'in the manner of', indicated they were perhaps going out on a limb with this one. The commode was sold for the relatively humble sum of £31,725, which when one considers the £200,000 plus that is expected of a fine Chippendale commode is a clear demonstration that the attribution remained unconvincing. The other item from Foremark Hall attributed to Chippendale, a pair of giltwood open armchairs, again bore little resemblance to any known Chippendale model and they remained unsold despite a relatively reasonable estimated price.

Perhaps the most significant piece in this particular sale was a mahogany bookcase with Gothic glazing bars based on a Director pattern. According to the sale catalogue this had almost certainly been part of a set of five bookcases supplied to the London house of Sir Rowland Winn in the 1760s. The bookcase had been removed to Nostell Priory in the late 18th century and at some stage had attracted armorial escutcheons in the form of the Winn crest. The fact that the bookcase had lost its architectural pediment and had perhaps been subject to other re-modelling was reflected in the eventual price it realised, which although a shade under £70,000, was still considerably short of the £100,000 expected.

Two mahogany sideboard tables appeared on the market last year, both based on the model Chippendale supplied to Ninian Home at Paxton House in about 1776. The first appeared with the London dealer Carlton Hobbs in May and was said to have come from the collection of Lord Delamere. The table had some basic similarities with decorative elements of both the Paxton sideboard table and also the sideboard table supplied to Harewood in about 1771 but appeared to be a less sophisticated model than either of them. The other table appeared at Christie's auction of Important English Furniture 30 November 2000 and appeared to have several stylistic similarities to Chippendale's known *oeuvre*. Catalogued as 'attributed to' the table had suffered considerable modifications attracting both a later mahogany top and having been reduced in depth and width. Despite these modifications it still managed to realise almost £100,000.)

Tripod tea tables appeared at Christie's sales on 11 November 1999 and 6 July 2000, both unprovenanced but of a quality normally associated with Chippendale's workshop. Each had