

Two days later he rang again. 'About the table – those dealers didn't show the slightest interest in it...I have it on my kitchen table and have decided to cut the carved base away from the trunk and make something of it. The only thing is I don't want to spoil the teeth of my saw if there happens to be a metal core, and by the way I can see gold underneath'. My brother said 'I have to come into Leeds so don't cut it through till I get there'. Of course he had to have it –but how much? 'My brother suggested £25, would you be happy with that ?' The answer came 'Happy ? I would be delighted, I only paid fifty bob for it'

A few months later Norman Adams bought it from the Lumbs at the Grosvenor House Antiques Fair. It was last sold at auction in 1995 when it fetched £35,000.

If the feet are mentally excluded from the rest of the table the overall design has remarkable affinities to plate CXXXII in the first edition of Chippendale's *Director*, which illustrates three '*Brackets for Bustos etc*'. The table's association with the master is further enhanced by its similarity to a pair of larger console tables with the same naturalistic tree-trunk stems sold at the Denton Park sale in 1975. Denton was of course the only house in the parish of Otley to be furnished by Chippendale.

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The Chippendale Society

President: Lord St Oswald



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NEWS

On 14th October Christopher Marriott, the recently appointed curator of Nostell Priory gave a lecture entitled *Talking Chippendale: the challenge of interpreting Chippendale's furniture at Nostell Priory*. He is the first full-time professional curator at Nostell and he described some aspects of his new job which he clearly loves. In particular he discussed the National Trust's new practice of providing as much access to the furniture for visitors as possible. This includes the way in which room stewards now have authority to open specified cupboard doors and drawers in order to demonstrate their interiors, and will be providing short talks in the rooms on different 'objects of the week'. Christopher showed slides of many familiar pieces, as well as some items which have been recently restored. We are very grateful to him for giving his time to come and speak to us.

A GENEROUS GIFT TO TEMPLE NEWSAM

Mr Joe Meschede of Andrien, France, has recently made a gift to Temple Newsam of an exceptional gilt side table (sec cover). It rises from a beautifully carved tripod foot to a base of curving leafy branches (including a bird perched on one of them), to a rectangular top with a (modern) slab of marble.

The recent history of this wonderfully rare piece of mid 18th century English furniture, which first came to light near Otley a few years ago, is recorded in a privately printed book presented to Frank Lumb in 1993 containing a selection of some of the most interesting pieces which had passed through his hands. The story is abbreviated here:

'A was an individual who existed on the fringes of the antiques trade in Leeds, fond of buying and 'doing things up'. On this occasion he rang with the enquiry 'Can I pick your brains ... I have this sort of table which is a bit odd. The base and legs are quite nicely carved - then think of the trunk of a tree above which is a sort of square top. I have two dealers coming and haven't a clue how much to ask them'. It hardly sounded a treasure so Frank mentioned the first figure that came to mind - £25.

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SPRING EVENT

The Spring Event has been held over until the autumn when we will be organising a private evening at Temple Newsam which has been closed for over two years for major repairs. More details in the next Newsletter.

A SPECIAL ANIVERSARY COMING UP

Next year is the 250th anniversary of the publication of the first edition of Chippendale's great work, *The Gentleman and Cabinet Maker's Director*. The committee feels it could be celebrated in one (or more) of a number of different ways. They are anxious to canvas the Society's membership on a number of options. More details and a questionnaire will appear in the next Newsletter.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 12th May in the Chippendale Room at the Civic Centre, Otley at 7.30.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner will take place on Tuesday June 10th at Otley Golf Club, 7.00 pm for 7.30. The Society's guest this year will be The Rt Hon the Marquess of Zetland

No tickets will be issued but applications, including seating preferences, should be made by completing the reservation form below and returning it with your cheque. Please indicate if any vegetarian meals are required. Guests and potential new members are very welcome.