

The Chippendale Society

NEWSLETTER NO. 46

MARCH 1986



HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT: Lady Elsie Stoddart-Scott.
CHAIRMAN: Andrew Firth.
SECRETARY: Simon Stell.
TREASURER: John Holdsworth.
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:
Tony Lumb.
CURATOR: Christopher Gilbert.

SPRING VISIT

The Society is invited to visit the house of Mr. & Mrs. D. Gaunt at The Nunnery, Arthington, Nr. Leeds, on Friday the 18th April 1986 at 6.30p.m. Members should apply as soon as possible on the tear-off slip below as numbers are limited.

DIRECTIONS

Turn off the main Pool-Harewood Road on the church side of The Nunnery into the yard at the side of the house.

A change of footwear is requested to avoid soiling the carpets.

A glass of wine will be served in the house and a light finger buffet supper will be served at the Wharfedale Hotel, Arthington from 8.30p.m., the price of which will be included in the ticket. The ticket must be presented at the house and retained to exchange for the supper. In the event of the function being under-subscribed by members, applications on behalf of guests can be considered after April 4th on application to the treasurer, Mr. J. Holdsworth.

Please forward attached proforma with cheque payable to the "Chippendale Society" as soon as possible.

I request tickets at £4.00 each for the visit to The Nunnery and supper.

Cheque for enclosed.

MEMBER'S NAME
(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

TEL. NO:

MEMBER'S ADDRESS
.....
.....

PLEASE ENCLOSE A S.A.E. with your cheque to:-

THE HON. TREASURER,
BARCLAYS BANK, PLC,
2 MANOR SQUARE,
OTLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE. LS21 3AP

P.T.O.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER.

Will be held at the Civic Centre, Otley on Friday June 6th 1986 at 7.30p.m. for 8.00p.m. when our principal guests will be Lord and Lady St. Oswald of Nostell Priory. This promises to be a most enjoyable function and the cost this year will be £8.50 per head. There will, as usual, be a fully licensed bar with a choice of dinner wines available for purchase prior to the meal.

Applications please to the Hon. Treasurer, using the attached tear-off slip. Members please note that to save expense tickets will not be issued for this function. Please give names of guests and any seating preference.

Dress: Lounge Suits.

TO THE HON. TREASURER,
CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY,
BARCLAYS BANK PLC,
2 MANOR SQUARE,
OTLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE. LS21 3AP

I wish to apply for places at £8.50 each, at the Annual Dinner and my guests will be:

My party would like to be seated with:
OR/ I would like to be seated with:

I enclose my remittance of £.....

MEMBER'S NAME:
ADDRESS:

TEL NO.:

PROGRESS REPORTS ON RESTORATION WORK.

1. Report on Restoration of the Pole Fire-screen.

The blue and gold tripod fire screen made by Chippendale for Harewood House in 1770-1 and acquired with grants from the Sam Chippendale Foundation and the Victoria and Albert Museum has now undergone the first stage of restoration. This has been funded by money provided by the Sir George Martin Trust, Leeds City Council and the Museum and Art Gallery Service for Yorkshire and Humberside. Dick Reid of York has recarved the scroll foot of one of the legs, fashioned a pole headed by a vase finial and also a panel surround, these missing features are copied from a fire screen Chippendale made for Newby Hall at almost exactly the same time. The pair to our pole screen which is preserved at Harewood (now in the old library but originally ordered for the saloon) is in exactly the same state, both having been 'upgraded' by the provision of new standards and panels in Regency days and entirely re-gilded, probably by Trollop & Co., in 1851. The next phase of conservation involves discovering which parts of the richly carved stands were painted blue and which elements were gilded, then the fire screen can be restored to its original appearance. We hope to attract grants to cover the cost of this programme.

2. The Chippendale Crane.

This spectacular three-dimensional carving originally made to adorn the canopy of a dome bed at Harewood House sold in 1951 and disappeared from view until identified in a restorer's workshop by our member Simon Redburn who bought it and offered it to the Chippendale Society at cost. It had been regilt more than once, the later layers obscuring the finely carved plumage and details of the rock work on which the bird stands. The later coats of gold have now been expertly removed by Cliff Wright of London, revealing the exquisite original finish. We are indebted to Charles Lumb & Sons for arranging free transport to and from London and to Mr. Wright for his skilful work which included an element of subsidy. This ravishing bird is now on loan to Temple Newsam House where it is displayed on a magnificent rococo chest of drawers stationed beneath a Chippendale period looking glass.

UPDATE ON RECENT DISCOVERIES.

Two Chippendale Commodes.

On 26th October 1985 Christie's in New York auctioned (lot 152) a pair of marquetry commodes, the decoration being inlaid on a ground of sycamore veneer. They displayed stylistic analogies with some of Chippendale's documented work and seemed to relate to an entry in his Burton Constable bill dated 26th October 1774 for

'2 Very neat commodes for the Piers of Air wood (the name for stained sycamore) very neatly inlaid with various other fine woods with folding doors and drawers within Cross Banded &c £58.' The identification was clinched by the discovery on the drawer edges of old ink inscriptions 'W. Constable' and 'Miss C', clearly references to William Constable and his sister Winifred who lived at Burton Constable at that time. The pair were bought by an American for £155,753 although they are at present in this country having some damage made good.

Newly Discovered Chippendale Reference.

Geoffrey Beard has recently found amongst the Stowe papers at the Huntington Library, California a previously unrecorded bill from Chippendale to Earl Temple dated 14th February 1756 for 'A large mahogany Library table cover'd wt best black leather ... £13.13.00.' So far this piece has not been identified.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday May 12th 1986 at Barclays Bank, Manor Square, Otley. The A.G.M. will follow a meeting of the executive committee which will start at 7.30p.m. All members are very welcome to attend both meetings if they wish. The A.G.M. will commence at 8.15p.m. Please do come.