

# The Chippendale Society

NEWSLETTER NO.47.

NOVEMBER 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

## CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT. DECEMBER 12.1986.

Buffet Supper and Magic Lantern Show to be held at:  
The Manor House Museum,  
Ilkley.  
Time: 7pm for 7:30pm.

This special social event is bound to be popular so you are advised to book early by completing the form at the end of the newsletter.

We have been fortunate in engaging Peter Brear, Director of Leeds City Museums to show a fascinating selection of frequently amusing Victorian magic lantern slides (some of which are animated) from his famous collection.  
The price of the ticket also includes a first class buffet and a bar licence has been applied for. This promises to be a very convivial occasion and one not to be missed. Numbers are limited to 50 so members are urged to apply at once for places for themselves and their guests.  
Tickets are £7 each.

## CATCHING UP

As this is the first newsletter for several months members may be interested to hear a little about events which have taken place during this time.

## The Nunnery Visit

A visit to the home of Mr and Mrs Gaunt of The Nunnery, Arthington on April 18 1986 provided 50 members of the Society and their guests with a most interesting evening. Visitors were greeted by Mr and Mrs Gaunt and given a short history of the house which dates back to 1585. combined with a guided tour of the building and followed by a welcome glass of wine. It was unfortunate that the weather prevented a walk around the gardens. Afterwards, members gathered at a local hostelry for a buffet supper and a chat.

Thanks to everyone, particularly Mr and Mrs Gaunt, who helped to make this visit as successful and enjoyable as it undoubtedly was.

## Annual Dinner June 6 1986

Once again it was a memorable occasion. Some 104 members and guests sat down to a delicious meal at the Otley Civic Centre. Our principal guests were Lord and Lady St Oswald of Nostell Priory. Lady St Oswald amused members and guests by talking about discoveries she had made in the family archives at Nostell. Our President

Lady Elsie Stoddart-Scott thanked Lady St Oswald for accepting our invitation to be guest speaker at the dinner and presented her with a commemorative goblet.  
Sam Chippindale gave a stirring address and unveiled a model of the statue of Thomas Chippindale which Sam Chippindale's Foundation is commissioning.  
John Holdsworth was Master of Ceremonies.

Please note change of address and telephone number of your newsletter editor:

Beatrice Greenwood,  
26 Hookstone Ave;  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire, HG2 8ER.

Harrogate (0423)873124

May I remind Annual members that subscriptions are due.

#### RECENT AQUISITION

On April 10 Lord Harewood sold at Christie's a number of richly carved and gilt looking glasses which Chippindale had supplied to the house. The majority had been in store for over a century and were surplus to requirements. The most spectacular lot was a superb pair of oval mirrors in their original silvered frames ordered for the yellow damask sitting room in 1775 at a cost of £40. They are the sole survivors of the only suite silvered furniture which Chippindale ever made.

The purchasing sub-committee decided that the Society should make a determined effort to buy these looking glasses for our collection and prior to the sale we succeeded in securing quarentees which would give us a purse of £120,000 at the auction. The Honorary Curator and Sam Chippindale attended the sale, but regretfully prices were extremely high and the mirrors fetched £280,000 - a world auction record for English furniture.

The second most desirable lot was an oval collage of hand painted Oriental wallpaper in a gold and green papier-mache frame made by Chippindale to hang over a chimney piece in one of the guest bedrooms at Harewood; it was in a rather poor state but is a very rare item of exotica. It was bought by Wellington Antiques of New York. We accordingly approached them shortly after the sale and negotiated it's purchase for £14,000. The full sum plus £2,500 to pay for restoration was raised from external sources as follows;

The Victoria and Albert Museum £7,000.

The Monument Trust £7,500.

Mrs. June Sellin £2,000.

An anonymous benefactor £5,000.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone who made this magnificent purchase possible. The panel of chinese paper is presently being conserved at a studio in Gateshead while the frame will be restored by Wiggins of London who specialise in period frames.

#### RESTORATION REPORTS

Thanks to a generous grant of £1,000 from the Sam Chippindale Foundation we have been able to authorise a start on the second phase of restoring the blue and gold tripod firescreen from Harewood House. This involves removing a layer of Victorian gilding to reveal the original painted and gilt finish.

It is also good to report that the Leisure Services Committee

of Leeds City Council have voted us £250 to pay for making us a special dust proof glazed case for displaying the delicate fabric covered bed cornice which has recently been expertly cleaned by the Textile Conservation Centre at Hampton Court.

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APPLICATION FOR CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT

To: Simon Stell, Last Suddards, Building Society Chambers, Wesley St;  
Otley, LS21.2AZ. West Yorkshire.

To be held at The Manor House Museum, Ilkley. Friday December 12.

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm.

I wish to apply for.....places at £7 per head and enclose my cheque for £.....made out to The Chippendale Society. Your cheque will be returned if the event is over subscribed.  
Tickets will not be sent: