

# The Chippendale Society

NEWSLETTER NO.48.

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## HONORARY OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (fuller details in the next newsletter)

May 11th. Annual General Meeting, Barclays Bank, Otley.

June 5th. Annual Dinner at the Otley Civic Centre. Mrs. J. Compton of Newby Hall will be our guest speaker.

SPRING EVENT March 18th. 7:30pm.

To our delight and pleasure Mr. Peter Gibson has accepted an invitation to address the Society in the Lecture Hall, Methodist Church, Boroughgate, Otley. The title will be, "The stained and Painted Glass of York Minster" with special reference to the Rose Window which was damaged in the fire. The talk will be illustrated with slides.

The price of the tickets is £1.50 (£1.00 o.a.p.) and includes light refreshments. Tickets are obtainable at the door.

Peter Gibson M.B.E; M Univ (York), FSA; FRSA. (Superintendent of the York Glaziers Trust) has lived all his life in York and is an international authority on stained glass. He has worked for more than forty years on the conservation of the stained glass windows of York Minster. He has travelled many miles to lecture or in his study of glass both here and abroad. In addition to this he has written numerous articles on glass painting and in 1972 he was the author of a major survey of the stained glass in York published in 'The Noble City of York' (Cerialis Press). In 1979 he wrote a visitors' guide to the York Minster Windows.

The lecture will cover the developments in glass painting from 12th. to the present day as seen in the Minster windows. The glass contained in the 128 windows of York Minster displays a unique commentary on the ancient art and craft of glass painting. This lecture will highlight conservation and restoration techniques involving a variety of craftsmen, art historians and scientists to ensure the preservation of this heritage of stained glass for future generations. I am sure this promises to be a most enlightening and a very enjoyable evening. Do come.

## A CHIPPENDALE STATUE FOR OTLEY

An over life size bronze statue of Thomas Chippendale set on a masonry plinth and with well lettered inscription tablets was unveiled in the Manor Square Otley by Sam Chippendale on 6th. January 1987. It is very fitting that this world famous cabinet maker should be so handsomely commemorated in his native town and the best thanks of the Society are owed to the Sam Chippendale Foundation who commissioned this figure from the Yorkshire sculptor Graham Ibbeson. The only other statue of Chippendale by Albert Hodge in 1905 adorns the facade of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The Otley statue depicts Thomas as a young man in tradesman's clothes.

Inevitably this fine new statue will need to be maintained and the

cost of flood-lighting paid for. The Society is seeking contributions to a special maintenance fund to offset these costs. Our target is £2,500. If any readers wish to make a donation cheques made put to the Chippendale Society should be sent to John Holdsworth, Barclays Bank, 2 Manor Square, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21.3AP. The following have sent contributions so far (a supplement to this list of donors will appear in the next Newsletter) : John Keil; W.R. Harvey & Co. Antiques Ltd; Jeremy Ltd; J. Eyles Antiques; John Cave; Jonathan Harris; R.E. Rawling; The Yorkshire Bank, Otley; Dacre, Hartley & Son, Otley; National Westminster Bank Otley; Sam & Colleagues of Otley Parks Dept; G. Eric Hunt Ltd; Ronald A. Lee (Fine Arts) Ltd; Mrs. C.E. Hook; Miss E.M. Atkinson; Newstead & Walker; S.R.B. Stell; On 13.2.87 the Fund stands at £490.

Below is a copy of the speech given by Sam Chippindale when battling against a very blustery wind on the occasion of the unveiling he did what we thought the wind was going to do for him.

You may well think that we could have chosen a better time for this ceremony but unfortunately the weather is something we cannot guarantee irrespective of the time of year.

As I wrote this short address the sun was shining and I hoped it would continue for at least another three hours. I am therefore pleased to see a good attendance on what I trust will prove to be an Historic occasion for Otley and it's people for many years. I would welcome in particular the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Mrs. Rose Lund, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Sheila Walker. Also, having worked in Bradford for over 50 years, it seemed appropriate to invite the current Lord Mayor, Councillor Bill Nunn, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Betty Nunn. Last but by no means least, Otley's Town Mayor Dr. Graham Kirkland and his wife. It is worth mentioning at this point that we are now in Otley's Centenary Year as a Local Government Authority, so this, by coincidence, is a double celebration.

Thomas Chippendale was baptised in Otley's Parish Church on 5th. June 1718, and this puts to rest the claim that he was born in Worcester. For some years the Society have felt that there should be some visual record of this fact, but a plaque was not likely to do justice, and a statue, whilst ideal, was beyond the financial resources of the Society.

Fortunately my Trustees agreed with my proposal that this could be handled through the Sam Chippindale Foundation. Before performing the actual act, it would be a sad omission if I did not pay tribute to all those involved in creating this statue. This not only involved the acquisition of the site recommended by Mr. J E Finney, the City of Leeds Director of Planning, but more particularly the whole-hearted co-operation from Mr. and Mrs Davison of Manor House China, previously known to many of us as the Old Grammar School, where in fact, Thomas Chippehdale attended.

Finally, I cannot express in words my gratitude to my Co-Trustee Roger Suddards for taking on what looked like a reasonably straightforward series of negotiations, but which turned out to be a highly complex affair involving Architects, Planners, Sculptor Printers and others.

S H Chippindale.  
6.1.87.

## THE MAGIC LANTERN SHOW

The evening at the Manor House Museum, Ilkley on Dec.12th was a tremendous success. Peter Brear's most interesting lantern slide talk was both entertaining and amusing. Once again the food and wine was very tasty and attractively served. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a convivial evening.

## RELOCATION OF THE CHIPPENDALE SOCIETY LIBRARY

We have over the years built up a good collection of books, exhibition catalogues and periodicals about the life and work of Thomas Chippendale. Only last month we added The Technique of Wood Surface Decoration by David Hawkins which is dedicated to our President and illustrates the marquetry pier table acquired in 1976. However, our books have been very underused because they were kept at the home of the Hon. Librarian; so the committee decided to deposit them in the Reference section of the Otley Public Library where they are more accessible to both members and the general public. A special glass fronted cabinet has been obtained to keep them in and the volumes will be available on the same basis as the rest of the reference collection. Our thanks are due to the Leeds City Librarian and the Otley branch Librarian for their ready co-operation.

## DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH FURNITURE MAKERS 1660-1840

This monumental volume of over 1,000 double column pages, sponsored by the Furniture History Society and edited by Geoffrey Beard and Christopher Gilbert was published just before Christmas. It is an astonishing achievement containing a wealth of new material, including details of several previously unknown Chippendale commissions. The book can be ordered from W S Maney & Son Ltd: Hudson Rd. Leeds, LS9.7DL. Price £100 inc. p & p. (Cheques to W.S.Maney & Son Ltd.).

## NEW CHIPPENDALE DISCOVERY

Members will be interested to hear that the Edward Joy Memorial Essay Prize has been won this year by Lucy Wood of the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Merseyside for an article published in Antique Collecting Feb.'87, on Lord Walsingham and the Younger Chippendale. The author publishes some important previously unrecorded documentary evidence about the firm's activities. The illustrations include a commode supplied by Chippendale, Haig & Co to Thomas de Grey, 2nd Lord Walsingham c.1778-81.

## CONSERVATION OF THE COLLECTIONS

This exotic oval collage of hand painted Chinese wallpaper bought last April with the aid of various grants has now been skillfully conserved at a cost of £900. The original brilliance of the colours have re-emerged (except for the purples). The green and gold papier-mache frame is being restored by Wiggins & Sons of London. Our thanks go once again to the anonymous benefactor who is paying for this work to be carried out by the best available experts.