



The Chippendale Society

President: LADY STODDART-SCOTT
Chairman: MRS MARY GILBERT

Hon. Secretary:
Mr. Simon R.B. Stell, LL.B.,
Empire House,
10 Piccadilly,
Bradford, BD1 3LR.
Tel: 734700

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr J.B. Holdsworth,
74 Riverside Park,
Otley, West Yorkshire.
Tel: 465711

NEWSLETTER NO 54

FEBRUARY 1989

SPRING LECTURE, THURSDAY, APRIL 13 1989, 7.30 pm
AT THE STUDY CENTRE, HARLOW CAR GARDENS, HARROGATE

This illustrated lecture, entitled "Historic Gardens and Gardeners" will be given by our member Mr Tony Harrison. Many will remember with great pleasure, his previous lecture on porcelain.

Mr Harrison lectures professionally for various shipping lines and has spoken many times on the QE2. He is a keen supporter of The National Trust and has also been Chairman of the Parks Committee in his native Southport.

The lecture will be followed by a light supper in The Smiths Arms, Beckwithshaw, at 9.00 - 9.15 pm.

This event is sure to be very well supported, so you are advised to book early, by completing the tear-off slip below and returning it (cheques payable to "The Chippendale Society") to Simon Stell, Empire House, 10 Piccadilly, Bradford, BD1 3LR.

ACQUISITION OF A STOOL MADE BY THOMAS CHIPPENDALE FOR HAREWOOD HOUSE IN 1777

In the last newsletter it was reported that a sale of surplus furniture from Harewood was being held by Christie's on 3 October 1988 and the Society hoped to bid for a stool recorded in Chippendale's bill under 9 June 1777: '2 large Circular Stools the feet very neatly Japanned Green and white, stuffed and Covered with your needlework and finished with Brass nails £3. 18s'. When an inventory of Harewood House was made in 1795 the full suite consisting of 8 painted armchairs and a pair of stools was recorded in the Entrance Hall - the D-shape of the seat indicates the stool(s) were intended to stand in two half round niches, (now occupied by sculpture pedestals). The painted decoration of green husks, rosettes and lining partly survives on the seat rail but the turned legs have been completely stripped down to the beech carcass, the three chairs from this set which survive at the house have unfortunately been totally stripped so it will take detailed research to establish precisely how the legs were finished. cont..

Application Form for Spring Lecture, April 13 1989.

Please reserve places at £5 each (tickets will not be issued)
[Applications must be received by April 5 1989].

Name

Home Address

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Tel No.

However, the original needlework cover, probably worked by Edwin Lascelle's second wife Lady Fleming, is preserved - although the panel is now detached from the frame. The only other seat furniture from Chippendale's workshop which still has its original covers is the famous Tapestry suite at Newby Hall, so this stool is rather rare and important. Because of its run down state we hoped to secure it fairly cheaply - the pre-sale estimate being £1,500. Happily the Society succeeded in purchasing it for £7,250, thanks to a 50% government grant and contributions from Christie's, the National Art-Collections Fund, June Sellin and David McAlpine; Florian Papp has donated £200 towards the cost of conservation. The question remains as to whether to preserve the stool in its present naturally aged condition or attempt some degree of restoration. No decision will be taken in a hurry.

CHIPPENDALE FURNITURE AT PAXTON SAVED

Members will have been delighted to read in November that, thanks to a large grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund this fine Adam house near Berwick-on-Tweed together with its memorable collection of documented furniture by Thomas Chippendale Snr. and Jnr. commissioned by Ninian Home between 1774 and 1791 has been handed over by John Home Robertson to the Paxton Trust, so its long term future in situ is now assured.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 May 1989 8.15 Chippendale Society AGM

This will as usual follow one of our regular committee meetings at Barclays Bank, Manor Square, Otley (which members are welcome to attend) and commence at 8.15.

Annual Dinner Friday 9 June 1989

At the Otley Civic Centre - we are fortunate that the distinguished author, Dr G W Beard, furniture historian and authority of the English Country House, has agreed to be our guest speaker. Full details in the next newsletter.

Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that Annual Subscriptions should be made payable to the Membership Secretary. There are three categories of membership, namely:

- (1) Life Members who make one payment of £25
- (2) Ordinary Members whose annual subscription is £5
- (3) Husband and Wife Joint Membership whose annual subscription is £7.

Those members who fail to make payment of their Membership Subscription will not receive future Newsletters. Members are also reminded to inform the Membership Secretary of any changes of address.

All enquiries regarding the above should be addressed to Mr T Lumb, Membership Secretary, 2 Montpelier Gardens, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.