



THE FURNITURE HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No. 180

NOVEMBER 2010

MAJOR ACCESSIONS TO REPOSITORIES IN 2009 RELATING TO FURNITURE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

The National Archives has now completed the 'Accessions to Repositories' programme 2009 and this information will shortly be available on its website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/>. In its annual 'Accessions to Repositories' survey, The National Archives collects information from over two hundred record repositories throughout the British Isles about manuscript accessions received in the previous twelve months. This information is added to the indexes to the National Register of Archives, and it is also edited and used to produce thirty-three thematic digests which are made available through The National Archives web site and distributed for publication in a number of learned journals and newsletters.

LOCAL

Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle Headquarters, The Castle, Carlisle, Cumbria:
Cumbria Decorative and Fine Arts Society: records of church furnishings for Bassenthwaite, Bromfield, Caldbeck, Crosthwaite, Dacre, Greystoke, Torpenhow 1989–2004 (DSO 289).

Cumbria Record Office, Kendal, County Offices, Kendal, Cumbria:
Punch and Sons, cabinet makers, Sedbergh: records c. 1870–89 (WDB 149).

Dorset History Centre, Bridport Road, Dorchester: James Mitchell, painter and decorator, Hazelbury Bryan: diary 1931 (D.2204).

Sheffield Archives, 52 Shoreham Street, Sheffield: John Watts (Sheffield & London) Ltd, manufacturers and suppliers of cutlery, scissors, cabinets and other goods: letter book 1940–66 (X275).

Southampton Archives Office, South Block, Civic Centre, Southampton:
Heaton, Butler & Bayne, stained glass manufacturers, London: three nineteenth-century watercolour window designs for St Denys, Southampton.

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds, 2 Chapeltown Road, Sheepscar, Leeds:
Leeds decorative and fine arts society: records including accounts 1979–2000 (WYL2265).

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire:
William Henry Randoll Blacking, architect: sketches and architectural drawings for church sculptures and reredos designs, 1902–40 (3762).

NATIONAL

Victoria & Albert Museum, Archive of Art and Design, 23 Blythe Road, London:
Joyce Badrocke, textile designer: papers c.1940–89 (AAD/2009/4); Jane Dillon, furniture designer: papers 1961–2000 (AAD/2009/1); Daphne Sanderson, textile designer: papers c.1956–80 (AAD/2009/5); Lucienne Day, textile and wallpaper designer: additional papers c.1950–69 (AAD/2009/6); Fortnum & Mason Ltd, department store, London: photographs of window displays c.1990–99 AAD/2009/2); Victoria and Albert Museum: records and research material for exhibition 'Household choices: design in domestic consumption' c.1989–90 (AAD/2009/10).

UNIVERSITY

Glasgow University Archive Services, 13 Thurso Street, Glasgow:
Stoddard International plc, carpet manufacturers: corporate and design records including those of James Templeton & Co. c.1850–2000 (ACCN 3319).

Sam Velumyl, Accessions Editor, The National Archives.

FHS ACTIVITIES — IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note that Clarissa Ward is retiring as Activities Secretary on Saturday 27 November 2010. The new Activities Secretary is Sara Heaton, 18 First Street, London, SW3 2LD. Tel. 07775 907390. Her working days will be Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Applications for the events featured in this newsletter should be submitted to her as per the blue event form.

MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Council would like to thank all members of the Society who have so kindly completed and returned the questionnaire, either online or by post. The comments are currently being evaluated and the results will be summarised at the AGM on Saturday 27 November followed by a short printed report in the February 2011 *Newsletter*.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2010–11 YEAR

Subscriptions are now due from members who pay annually by cheque or credit/debit card. Members who have already paid by banker's order on 1 July should ignore this request. Payment by cheque is preferred but credit/debit card payments can be made subject to a 2% surcharge to cover part of the additional costs to the Society. Please use the remittance form enclosed or email/telephone details. If you have not completed a gift aid declaration and wish to do so please tick the box on the form. Please contact the Membership Secretary if you have any questions.

The scheme for early notification of events is an option which provides details at the proof stage of the *Newsletter* about three weeks before publication. This will be sent by email unless transmission by fax or first class airmail is requested.

Dr Brian Austen, Membership Secretary, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St John's Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4EH. Tel. and fax 01444 413845. Email: brian.austen@zen.co.uk

CHANGE OR DAMAGE?

Cracking, lifting, warping, fading, cupping: the language of change is very complex. The UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage has recently been awarded a three year Post-Doctoral research project to study change in decorative furniture in historic houses. Understanding the typology of change and when it turns to damage will be one of the key research questions addressed by Dr Naomi Luxford, the project Research Fellow. Furniture is often richly decorated with veneers of exotic woods, forming highly ornate floral designs (marquetry) or geometric patterns (parquetry). The different materials exhibit different responses to changes in environmental conditions, and this can lead to damage. Climate change, and with it higher temperatures and humidity indoors will further exacerbate the processes. Understanding them is vital to successful management of change and to protection of these collections for future generations. The collection of the research partner English Heritage will be used to study these beautiful but vulnerable objects. Amber Xavier-Rowe, Head of Collections Conservation at English Heritage is convinced that the project will be of enormous benefit to the management of furniture collections: 'Within English Heritage wood has been assessed as the second most damaged material in the recent decennial collections audit. We are delighted to be able to support this long overdue research project.' The research will identify and test methods of non-destructive monitoring to study changes to decorative furniture surfaces. The view of stakeholders, as well as the public, on what constitutes damage, will be sought through an interactive web video. By understanding the effect of current display on material change, the impact of future environmental changes on decorative furniture can be assessed. Based on this, recommendations for care of these important collections will be drawn, enabling their future preservation.

For further information:

Matija Strlic, Research Manager, email: m.strlic@ucl.ac.uk

Naomi Luxford, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, email: n.luxford@ucl.ac.uk

FUTURE SOCIETY EVENTS

FUTURE SOCIETY EVENT BOOKINGS

For places on all visits, please apply to the Activities Secretary, enclosing a separate cheque *and* separate stamped addressed envelope for each event *using the enclosed booking form*. Applications should *only* be made by members who intend to take part in the whole programme. No one can apply for more than one place unless they hold a joint membership, and each applicant should be identified by name. If you wish to be placed on the waiting list please enclose a telephone number where you can be reached. Please note that a closing date for applications for all visits is printed in the *Newsletter*. Applications made after the closing date will be accepted only if space is still available.

CANCELLATIONS

Please note that no refunds will be given for cancellations for occasional visits costing £10.00 or less. In all other cases, cancellations will be accepted up to seven days before the date of a visit, but refunds will be subject to a £5.00 deduction for administrative costs. Separate arrangements are made for study weekends and foreign tours and terms are clearly stated on the printed details in each case.

N.B. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND SUFFICIENT STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPES FOR ALL APPLICATIONS, INCLUDING REQUESTS FOR DETAILS OF FOREIGN TOURS AND STUDY WEEKENDS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WORKS IN PROGRESS TALKS BY THE NATIONAL TRUST, ENGLISH HERITAGE, VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM AND SPECIAL PAPER ON THE SOANE MUSEUM, with afternoon visit to THE LONDON LIBRARY

AGM will be held at The East India Club, 16 St James's Square, London SW1

Saturday 27 November 2010, 11.00 am

The Annual General Meeting for the year ending 30 June 2010 will be held at the East India Club. The AGM will start at 11.00 am (coffee from 10.30 am).

This will be followed by illustrated Works in Progress talks by Christopher Rowell, the National Trust, Treve Rosoman, English Heritage, and Sarah Medlam, Department of Furniture Textiles & Fashion, V&A. In addition to these talks will be special papers on other current furniture related projects including the Soane Museum by Simon Swynfen Jervis, Chairman of the FHS, and Deidre Murphy, Curator, Historic Royal Palaces, on the future plans for Kensington Palace.

Afterwards there will be an optional lunch and in the afternoon a visit to the London Library. Now the world's largest independent lending library, the Library owes its foundation in 1841 to the vision of Thomas Carlyle and its unique subject system to Sir Charles Hagberg Wright, librarian from 1893 to 1940. Located in the north-west corner of St James's Square since 1845, the premises have been extended several times since and in 2004 additional space was acquired extending the Library in a practical and elegant design along Mason's Yard. The conversion of Duchess House has just been completed and the

FHS visit will give Society members the opportunity to see the new space and contemporary facilities available.

Admission to the AGM is free but all members wishing to attend should notify the FHS Activities Secretary at least 7 days in advance for security reasons. Tickets for lunch £17.50 per head and afternoon visit £10 per head should likewise be booked with the Activities Secretary at least 7 days in advance.

FHS ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday 5 March 2011, 10.30 am–4.30 pm

The Goodison Lecture Theatre, The Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London W1

Miniature Furniture And Interiors

Simon Swynfen Jervis, Chairman of the Society, has organised and will chair the 2011 Annual Symposium. The concept of this event is to consider the insights that dolls' houses and other forms of miniature furniture and interiors can throw on the history of furniture and interiors, and their miniaturisation in a broader sense as well as the detail of individual examples. The programme will include:

Simon Swynfen Jervis (Chairman of the FHS)

Introduction

Dr Jet Pijzel-Dommisee (Gemeentemuseum Den Haag)

Dutch Dolls' Houses: exploring the Dutch interior of the late seventeenth century

Christopher Monkhouse (Chicago Institute of Art)

The Thorne Rooms

Anna Cremer MA (Giessen)

Mon Plaisir in Arnstadt: the Dolls' House City between Female Education, Courtly Habits and Personal Testimony

Kathryn Jones (Royal Collection)

Queen Mary's Dolls' House at Windsor Castle

Dr Celina Fox (Author, *The Arts of Industry in the Age of Enlightenment*)

Enlightenment Pedagogy in Miniature: Madame de Genlis's models and their context

Fee: £35 (£30 students and OAPs) for FHS members, all non-members £40. Includes morning coffee and afternoon tea.

A light lunch will be available for FHS members in the Meeting Room at the Wallace Collection at a cost of £17.50 to include a glass of wine. Tickets for lunch must be purchased at least 7 days in advance from the Activities Secretary. In addition the Wallace Collection restaurant will be open (for bookings tel. 0207 563 9505) and there are numerous other cafes/restaurants in the area of Wigmore Street and St Christopher's Place.

The Wallace Collection Lecture Theatre is significantly smaller than our customary venue at the V & A. It is moreover anticipated that the theme of the Symposium may have a wide appeal. *Members are thus strongly advised to book promptly to ensure that they secure a place.*

All ticket bookings must be made via the FHS Activities Secretary.

SPRING STUDY WEEKEND — DEVON

Friday 6 to Sunday 8 May 2011

Elizabeth Jamieson, FHS Council member and independent furniture historian, is kindly organising and will lead this scholarly study weekend. Visits will include a mixture of large well-known collections and small private houses. The better documented collections on the weekend will be Powderham Castle, by kind permission of the Earl of Devon, and Ugbrooke Park; the latter designed by Robert Adam for the 4th Lord Clifford. Also, visits to Fursdon House and Great Fulford Manor where the private owners have invited members to visit their interesting homes and finally at Castle Drogo where the Drewe family are kindly allowing special access to their private wing before we visit the furniture newly acquired by the National Trust (see August *Newsletter*). There will be an introductory talk on the first evening.

Full details and application form will be available from mid December 2010 from the FHS Activities Secretary.

The Tom Ingram Memorial Fund and Oliver Ford Trust invite applications from students/junior curators and scholars for funding towards participation in this study weekend. For details of funding please contact Adriana Turpin, email: turpinadriana@hotmail.com

OCCASIONAL EVENTS

LANCASTER HOUSE, London SW1

Monday 31 January 2011, 2.30–4.30 pm

Dr James Yorke, author of definitive *Lancaster House: London Greatest Town House*, will very kindly lead the visit to this lavish town palace of the early Victorian era and now used for government conferences. Begun in 1825 by Benjamin Dean Wyatt for Frederick, Duke of York (d. 1827), it was finished by 1841 for the 2nd Duke of Sutherland. Decorated in a sumptuous French style to emulate Versailles, the building retains much of the original decorative scheme and many interior fittings.

Please note that as a Government building this event may be cancelled at very short notice so please supply daytime and evening contact telephone numbers on your blue application form.

Fee: £10 per head Limit: 25 people

Closing date for applications 10 December 2010

THE HOARE'S BANK ARCHIVE AND BUILDING — PRIVATE VISIT,
37 Fleet Street, London EC4

Tuesday 8 February 2011, 10.30 am to 12.00 pm

Due to the last visit being heavily oversubscribed, Hoare's Bank have kindly agreed to welcome another group of members to see the Bank archive and their head building. Now the sole survivor of private deposit banks founded in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this privileged visit will be led by archivist, Pamela Hunter. Originally based in Cheapside

in 1690 the Bank moved to Fleet Street and the building was rebuilt in 1829–30 with the first floor designed to provide comfortable living accommodation for whichever partner was on duty. The outstanding bank archive contains many records relating to patrons and craftsmen and we shall be privileged to see examples of those with particular reference to furniture history. Afterwards the group will tour the private house rooms (library, drawing room, dining room and museum).

Fee: £15 Limit: 20 members

Closing date for applications 10 December 2010

V&A FURNITURE STORES, BLYTHE HOUSE, London W14

The new Furniture Materials & Techniques Gallery

Thursday 10 February 2011, 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Curators in the Furniture Textiles and Fashion Department are kindly leading a private visit to the Furniture Stores to examine furniture that is being considered for display in the new Galleries at the Museum, which will open early 2012. This will be an exciting opportunity for FHS members to closely study furniture of all periods, which best illustrate the many forms, materials and techniques used in furniture construction and finish.

Fee: £10 per head Limit: 20 members

Closing date for applications 10 December 2010

OVERSEAS TOURS

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE AND PHILADELPHIA, USA

Monday 16 to Sunday 22 May 2011

Details of this study tour were published in the August newsletter. Closing date for applications was 1 November 2010. For availability of places and full details/ application form please contact the FHS Activities Secretary.

MALTA

Wednesday 26 to Sunday 30 October 2011

Kate Hay, Curator in the Furniture Textiles & Fashion Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, will be publishing her research on Maltese pietra dura furniture in the next *Furniture History* journal and has kindly offered to organise and lead a study tour of Malta next Autumn. Visits will include public and private collections on the island as well as other places of interest architecturally. Full details and application will be available from the FHS Activities Secretary early 2011.

The Tom Ingram Memorial Fund and Oliver Ford Trust invite applications from students/junior curators and scholars for funding towards participation in this study tour. For details of funding please contact Adriana Turpin, email turpinadriana@hotmail.com

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION

British and Irish Inventories: A List and Bibliography of Published Transcriptions of Secular Inventories

This volume is a work of reference intended to cover all transcriptions of British and Irish secular inventories published from 1721 to 2009. It comprises a massive List of over 12,300 transcriptions, ordered first by date and then by location within county, with references to a substantial Bibliography with over 900 entries. The List ranges from 1278 to 1864, with a preponderance in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The inventories are mainly English, but there are numerous Scottish, Welsh and Irish examples, and a smattering from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. They range from the grandest palace to the humblest peasant dwelling, and include the odd masonic lodge, college and livery company. There are extensive indices of names, of locations and of trades, professions, titles and institutions. Although published by the Furniture History Society *British and Irish Inventories* is intended to be of use not only to furniture historians, but also to those active in many other fields.

The compilation has been undertaken by the Society's Chairman, Simon Swynfen Jervis, F.S.A., and is his second book for the Society, the first being *Printed Furniture Designs before 1650* (1974). This is now something of a rarity, two copies at present being advertised on the Internet, one at £132 and the other at \$375.

Hardback, x + 465 pp. ISBN 978-0-903335-15-7 Normal retail price £23.95

Special Offer to Members of the Furniture History Society: £19.95 (including post & packing). The book will be published on 16th November 2010 and copies will be despatched immediately thereafter. Cheques, made out to 'Furniture History Society' or credit/debit card details, should be sent, with details of the address to which the book is to be posted, to: The Publications Officer, Furniture History Society, 1 Mercedes Cottages, St John's Road, Hayward Heath, West Sussex RH16 4EH (Tel. and Fax 01444 413845 or email: brian.austen@zen.co.uk)

OTHER ITEMS

Please note that these are not organised by the Furniture History Society. Information/booking instructions will be found under individual items.

GOING FOR GOLD: CRAFTSMANSHIP AND COLLECTING OF GOLD BOXES, The Wallace Collection and V&A, London, 26–28 November 2010

A year after the opening of the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Galleries at the V&A, the Museum in collaboration with the Wallace Collection is celebrating the art of the gold box in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe. Leading international experts will speak on different centres of production including Paris, Geneva, Berlin, Dresden, Hanau, St Petersburg and London. Papers will illustrate design sources for boxes, diplomatic gifts, the challenge of recognising fakes and the leading collections assembled by monarchs and bankers.

£112 for two days, £94 concessions, £30 students, (lunch included), £56 for one day, £47 concessions, £15 students, (lunch included), More information: www.vam.ac.uk/tickets. Tel. 020 7942 2211.

ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM: ROBERT ADAM FURNITURE: DESIGNS FOR KENWOOD AND OSTERLEY

Kenwood House, London, Wednesday 1 December 2010, 10 am–5 pm

Delegates will consider Adam's neo-classical furniture, specifically focusing on his designs and interior schemes for both houses. The papers will discuss the most recent research and discoveries in this subject area. Speakers include:

Stephen Astley, Curator of Drawings, Sir John Soane's Museum
Adam's furniture drawings

Louisa Collins, Assistant Curator, Furniture Department, Victoria and Albert Museum
The ladies' favourite? Furniture, Femininity and Robert Adam

Eileen Harris, Free-lance historian and consultant
Adam chimney pieces and their related furniture

John Hartley, Furniture Conservator, Tankerdale Ltd
Aspects of the conservation of Adam furniture

Laura Houlston, Curator (Collections), The Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood
Adam at Kenwood: Furniture past and present

Christopher Rowell, Furniture Curator, the National Trust
Some observations on Adam and Linnell at Osterley

Helen Wyld, Paul Mellon Tapestry Research Curator, the National Trust
Adam and tapestry

This symposium is a collaboration between English Heritage and the National Trust and is generously supported by The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

For an application form (paper or email) please contact Chris Higgs on email: chris.higgs@english-heritage.org.uk or tel. 0207 973 349.

FURNITURE HISTORY

A member wishes to obtain a copy of Vol III (1967) of *Furniture History*. Offers, stating price, condition etc should be forwarded to Brian Austen (contact details on the last page of the *Newsletter*). The member concerned also has spare copies of a number of issues of *Furniture History*, including some early ones, and a mutual exchange might be negotiated.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

For his forthcoming book on Sir Ambrose Heal and The Heal Cabinet Factory, Dr Oliver Heal has traced the output of Heal & Son's London Cabinet Factory and the work of the furniture designer, manufacturer and retailer, Sir Ambrose Heal between 1895 and 1939. In order to produce a useful work of reference it is intended to include as many photographs as possible of furniture made by Heal's between these dates. Oliver would welcome the opportunity to photograph surviving items and requests help in locating such pieces in private collections. For example it would be nice to trace the 1900 Paris exhibition suite, Lady Maufe's bureau in chestnut and the walnut bureau bookcase exhibited at the 1914 Paris exhibition of British Arts & Crafts.

Please contact: Oliver Heal, Baylins Farm, Knotty Green, Beaconsfield, HP9 2TN or e-mail oliver.heal@yahoo.co.uk. Telephone 01494 673188.

OFFER OF TRANSPARENCIES

James Hildreth-Brown has an extensive collection of transparencies illustrating furniture from the medieval period to the twentieth century. He now wishes to dispose of these slides and has offered them to anyone who can make use of them. For further details please contact James Hildreth-Brown, Hardings, Normansland Farm, Drovers Lane, Wheat-hampstead, Herts. AL4 8EY, tel. 01582 833864.

SOCIETY FOR COURT STUDIES

The Society for Court Studies was founded in London in 1995 to promote the study of courts and princely households. It is an international organization of scholars and friends of courts coming from diverse fields. Its president is Dr Simon Thurley. Annual membership is £30 (£25 by standing order) and £10 for students. The Society organizes nine seminars a year at 6 Fitzroy Square, London W1, and conferences; runs a web-site (<http://www.courtstudies.org>) with sample articles from the journal, information about exhibitions relevant to court studies, and an extensive bibliography; and publishes a journal, *The Court Historian*, the premier journal in English for any scholar who works on the households, entourages or cultural programmes of rulers. Though focused mainly on early modern and modern Europe, the journal has published articles about medieval, American and Asian courts.

BOOK REVIEWS

Pierre Arizzoli-Clementel and Jean-Pierre Samoyault, *Le mobilier de Versailles, chefs-d'œuvre du XIX^e siècle* (Dijon: Editions Faton), 2009, 487 pp., 412 col. illus., ISBN 978-2-87844-121-5, €158.

Following on two volumes published in 2002 dealing with the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century furniture at Versailles, this one covers pieces of nineteenth-century date, predominantly of Empire style, used in the Grand and the Petit Trianon. It tackles in careful detail and with great clarity the complex history of the re-use and re-decoration of existing rooms and the creation of new interiors within the older buildings or in additions to them. Plans and drawings help to explain these changes. Two major essays cover the various intentions of the different regimes which used the Trianons in different ways — as state apartments, as royal residences and as museums. The authors acknowledge their debt to the extensive work on the history of the Trianons and their furnishing by Denise Ledoux-Lebard.

Napoleon's plans from 1808 included the complete re-furnishing of the Grand Trianon to provide apartments for his mother, for himself and, from 1810, for the Empress Marie-Louise. At the Petit Trianon the early nineteenth-century schemes designed for his sister Pauline were swept away by the Empress Eugénie in the mid-century and thus cannot be fully discussed. With Louis-Philippe, Versailles itself was proclaimed a museum of French history and the Grand Trianon took on a new role in providing comfort and domesticity for his large family, who deliberately cultivated these attributes.

State officials and museum curators have had quite as strong an effect on the appearance of these interiors as any king or emperor, with substantial alterations taking place in the Trianons in 1903 and in the 1950s. The re-creation of the Petit Trianon by the Empress Eugénie in 1867, as a shrine to Marie-Antoinette, is famous, but the removal of pieces at the same time to Malmaison for an exhibition on Napoleon and Joséphine is less well known. The role of the Mobilier National in facilitating the tidal movement of furniture within the

palace or beyond it is well illustrated: by the 1880s the Grand Trianon was home to Empire pieces from the Elysée Palace, Meudon, the Ecole Militaire, Malmaison, the Tuileries and elsewhere. The Empress Marie-Louise's work table (no. 38) is one of the few pieces of furniture that has maintained its place in one interior since it was supplied.

Although, as with the earlier volumes, this is not an exhaustive catalogue, all the significant pieces are covered and the authors' skill in marshalling the complex biographies of each piece is remarkable. Inevitably, the catalogue contains pieces of the highest quality along with items deemed (reasonably) by the authors as *d'un modèle assez banal* (no. 44, a *psyche*). It ranges from well-known models by Jacob-Desmalter, Marcion or Boulard, to a table (no. 32) supplied in 1816 to the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne by the Ecole Royale des Arts et Métiers at Chalons, which was sent to Trianon in 1837 for the use of Louis-Philippe's daughter Marie, or the table with a micro-mosaic top showing Hartwell House (no. 116), which was shown in the 1817 *Exposition des Produits d'Industrie*, acquired by the Garde-Meuble in 1819 and sent to Trianon only in 1851.

This is an ambitious and successful catalogue. The authors have provided us with an exceptionally valuable tool in understanding the process of furnishing as well as the furniture itself.

Sarah Medlam

Raphael Masson (ed.), *Mélanges offerts à Pierre Arizzoli-Clémentel* (Versailles: Château de Versailles, 2009), 320 pp., 148 col., 24 b. & w. illus., ISBN 978-2-85495-396-1, €70.

This very handsome volume (can one imagine any museum in Britain producing something similar?) is a tribute from his friends and colleagues to Pierre Arizzoli-Clémentel, whose long career culminated in twelve years as director of Versailles, a post from which he retired in June 2009. It assembles no fewer than thirty-three contributions, concluding with a tribute and a bibliography, which reveals the breadth of his published work on the decorative arts. For this *Newsletter* it is appropriate to single out Daniel Alcouffe and Alexandre Pradère on Charles Hecquet, who was called 'ébéniste du Roy' in 1722 and supplied the crown from 1716 onwards (a 1725 commode for the *Grand Cabinet de la Reine* at Fontainebleau is illustrated), but was supplanted by Gaudreaux in 1726, and was more dealer than maker; Yves Carlier on two *bureaux plats* commissioned by the Duc d'Antin, son of Madame de Montespan and director of the *Bâtiments du Roi* up to his death in 1736, the one attributed to the Boulle workshop, the other a simpler ebonised piece of about 1730; Amaury Lefébure on a stunning, and beautifully illustrated, *secrétaire* and commode, now at Malmaison, made by Simon-Nicolas Mansion in 1805 as a speculation, hoping for imperial patronage, and eventually given to Napoleon as a present in August 1806 and, much later, featured in a novel by Maurice Leblanc, *Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes* (1908); and Jean-Pierre Samoyault on Jacob Desmalter's amboyna safe for the 'diamants de la Couronne', ordered and delivered in 1817. There is much besides, on textiles, on porcelain, on sculpture and painting, and, by Bertrand Rondot, on the marble and porphyry vases in the Galerie des Glaces, amounting to, all in all, a varied, learned and enjoyable album.

Simon Swynfen Jarvis

REPORTS OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES

STUDY WEEKEND, DERBYSHIRE, 'SOME STATELY BEDS AND OTHER TREASURES', 6-9 May 2010

Over three days, members of the FHS visited Chatsworth, Haddon Hall, Hardwick Hall, Renishaw and Kedleston Hall under the theme of State Beds. Our studies were led by Annabel Westman and Lucy Wood, with contributions from many of the group.

The trip began at Chatsworth where we were greeted by Matthew Hirst, Head of Art and Collections, Hannah Obee, Curator of Decorative Arts and conservators Yannick Chastang and Peter Holmes, who were on hand to guide us through the 'Masterplan' developments at Chatsworth. We were given the opportunity to get close to the furniture in the State Rooms whose restoration and redisplay was completed in 2008. The George III and Queen Charlotte coronation thrones, carved by Katherine Naish and upholstered by Vile and Cobb in the State Drawing room provoked particular debate. They are upholstered in yellow silk and silver brocade in an unusual pattern for the date.

The conservator Yannick Chastang talked us through his recent work on two desks by Charles Andre Boulle collected by the 6th Duke, on display in the State Music Room. It was a privilege to have the intricacies of the marquetry explained by someone who has both knowledge and first hand experience of the techniques. Returning to the theme of state beds and bedding, we were guided through the restoration of the state bed at Chatsworth by Annabel Westman. It now seems likely that the bed was originally made for the George I in 1723 and given to the 4th Duke in 1761 as a perquisite. (A. Westman. *Apollo*, June 2008, pp. 68-74). Much care and thought was given to the reweaving of the silk damask. The original silk has faded badly from a lustrous crimson to burnt orange colour. This is due to the heavy yellow weft degrading at different rates to the red warp. For the sake of synchronicity the new damask has been woven to match the old, and new curtain pelmets carved to adjoin the bed.

We were taken to see the newly opened Sketch galleries, created to give an overview of the collecting practices from the time of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, to the present day. A Roentgen writing table, chair and occasional table have been brought back to full working order by Peter Holmes, who was able to give us detailed explanations of the springs, latches and rollers that worked the furniture. The FHS are particularly grateful to The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire who had brought out a recently acquired chair by Joseph Walsh especially for the visit. The ash timber has been carved and shaped under tension to create a beautiful curved form.

At Haddon Hall we were given a full tour of the hall, chapel and outbuildings by Janet Blackburn and Joe Walker. We were taken into the State Bedroom. The bed is now at Belvoir Castle, but seeing its original setting was a reminder of the essentially public function of grand state beds.

In the morning members went to Hardwick Hall and greeted by Andrew Barbour, National Trust Area Curator of Interiors. Much attention was paid to the remains of the Chatsworth state bed made for the 1st Duke of Devonshire by Francis Lapierre in 1697. What remains are the tester, footboard and headboard arranged as a throne canopy in the Long Gallery by the 6th Duke of Devonshire around 1827. New insights were given to some of Hardwick's better known furniture by Director of the Musée national de la Renaissance at Ecoen, Thierry Crépin-Leblond. In particular a 1580s cabinet relating to designs by Jacques Androuet Du Cerceau that was possibly purchased by Mary Queen of Scots whilst she was a political prisoner in Hardwick. (See, David Bostwick, 'The French Walnut furniture at Hardwick Hall', *Furniture History* 31 (1995), pp. 1-6).

In the evening we went to Renishaw Hall. Andrew Barber explained that the plaster work in the Library was an example of early work by the Rose family, whose work appears across other Derbyshire and South Yorkshire houses. Instantly recognisable was the Chippendale Commode, c. 1770 with its marquetry veneer and ram's head mounts. Thanks must be given to the Sitwell family for giving us after hours access to their home and dinner in the magnificent dining room.

The final stop on the visit was to Keddleston Hall where we were accompanied by the National Trust collections manager Simon McCormack. It was wonderful to see the stucco plaster work by Joseph Rose, having seen the work of his ancestors the night before. The newly restored great gilt sofas made by Linnell in 1765 are spectacular. Andrew Barber and Annabel Westman explained the effort it took to find the original upholstery fragments in order to weave the wool and silk damask facsimile. Lucy Wood explained her recent research on the Swedish Christopher Fürloh and George Haupt and their work with John Linnell, relating it to the card tables in the Drawing Room. There are plans now to restore the state bed, c. 1760. The changes made to the bed over time and unusual configuration of the hangings make the project an especially difficult one. The trip ended with a visit to the Fishing Pavilion designed by Robert Adam. It is known that this was furnished with fishing stools but further research is needed as to precisely what these may have looked like.

The author is very grateful to the Tom Ingram Memorial Fund and Oliver Ford Trust who generously funded her place on this trip.

Polly Putnam

OVERSEAS TOUR, COBURG AND GOTHA, 10–13 June 2010

Suggested by Jonathan Marsden, Director of the Royal Collection and Editor of the Furniture History *Journal*, the aim of this visit was to gain an understanding of the motivations and interests which influenced the artistic activities of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Our first destination was the Veste Coburg, one of the largest fortresses of its type in Germany, where we were welcomed by the Director, Dr Klaus Weschenfelder. The fortress's medieval appearance gives little impression of the range of decorative styles and works of art on display inside. Glass is one of the strongest areas of the collection, almost entirely due to the efforts of Prince Alfred, third Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The Duke's Living Room contained a table made for Prince Albert's brother Ernst II in 1855 by the Coburg cabinetmaker Tobias Hoffmeister. The Veste's print collection is world-renowned and contains around 300,000 items, of which we were shown a selection, including some furniture designs by Karl Friedrich Schinkel. We concluded our visit with the extensive sleigh and coach collection; two sixteenth-century wedding chariots of Duke Johann Casimir were particularly fascinating.

On day two we were greeted at Schloss Callenburg by Dr Bachner and Dr Otmar Fugmann, Director of the Family Foundation of the present day Prince Andreas of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, reminding us that this house remains a home to the Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family. From 1826 onwards the castle was remodelled by Ernest I and his son Ernest II in a neo-gothic style. The Roentgen Room contains a fine *bureau plat* and cylinder bureau made for Duke Emil August of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg by David Roentgen. It also has on display a rare piano of which only two exist and a musical regulator clock from 1785, for which Gluck composed the melodies, both made by Roentgen and Peter Kinzing. The adjacent room houses some French Empire furniture commissioned by Ernest I in 1816 on the occasion of his marriage to Prince Albert's mother Louise of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg, including a secretaire made by Jacob-Desmaller.

We then made the short journey to Schloss Rosenau. Here the curator Jutta Stumm explained how the Schloss was used for many years as the ducal summer residence. Initially under the management of Karl Friedrich Schinkel, and latterly André-Marie Renié-Grétry a disciple of Charles Percier, it underwent a significant neo-gothic redecoration between 1808 and 1817. This was finished in time for Duke Ernst I's wedding to Princess Louise which was marked with an elaborate faux-medieval tournament. In 1990, with careful reference to watercolours commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1845–50, the Rosenau was restored to its appearance in the era of Duke Ernst I. The magnificent Marble Hall is the largest interior, rendered not in marble, but polished white and gold scagliola, and decorated with eleven chandeliers by the Viennese firm Danhauser in 1817. The Library was converted from the Schloss's ancient chapel and houses works by Walter Scott and Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué. Above each cabinet is a lunette, richly painted by Gustav Heinrich Naecke, an associate of Friedrich Overbeck. In the centre of this room is an impressive Florentine carved Carrara marble table, a gift from Prince Metternich to Ernst I in 1814. The first floor is furnished with black varnished Biedermeier furniture also commissioned from Danhauser. Prince Albert's recently reconstructed Empire style cradle is also on show.

Our group then made its way to Schloss Niederfüllbach, home of Prince Leopold between the death of his wife Princess Charlotte and his appointment as King of the Belgians. It remains exclusively a private home, lived in by Mr and Mrs von Petzhold and their family. Our visit began with the warmest of welcomes from Mr von Petzhold. Two years after the death of Princess Charlotte, daughter of George IV, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha purchased the estate. The former antechamber of the west wing now houses the Dining Room and is furnished with Prussian, Silesian and Saxon furniture. The most important pieces are a large mahogany veneered chest of drawers from Berlin, a fine gambling table from Dresden and set of eight white and gold chairs upholstered in crimson silk from around 1810–20, which were came from one of the Prussian Royal Palaces.

On day three we took a brisk walk through Coburg to Schloss Ehrenburg. Duke Ernst I employed Schinkel here in one of his earliest projects and Grétry who from 1816 decorated the interiors, including the Throne Hall, in a style influenced by Napoleon's decorations in the Tuilleries Palace. A splendid suite of seat furniture in this room was supplied by Jacob-Desmalter in 1813. There are seven different suites of seat furniture by Jacob and Jacob-Desmalter in the Schloss. There are also examples of the replication of French models by local makers in an attempt to keep costs down. Other items of furniture of particular interest included a table by David Roentgen in the Duchess's Study and two magnificent pianos, one in the Music Room by Chopin's favourite maker Ignace Pleyel, and another in the Duchess's Study from Nuremberg by Anton Biber.

After our visit to Schloss Ehrenburg, we left Coburg and travelled the 130 km to the other ducal seat of Prince Albert's family, Gotha. The town is dominated by the vast Schloss Friedenstein. Other impressive buildings include the Town Hall, St Margaret's Church, the schloss's baroque Orangery and the Natural History Museum, originally built by Duke Ernst II in 1864 to display the magnificent ducal art collection of Gotha.

The following morning we were welcomed to Schloss Friedenstein by the Chief Curator, Dr Bernd Schaefer. Duke Ernst I of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg built the Schloss with the intention to contain as many functions of state as possible under one roof. We were honoured to be shown the coin cabinet, created in 1712. The lavishly adorned seventeenth-century State Apartments display a tremendous contrast to the austere exterior of the Schloss. The *Hauptsaal* or banqueting room was decorated by Giovanni Caroveri with full figurative plasterwork. A vast collection of spectacular decorative art works from all over the world

are on display in the *Schatzkammer*. In the palace's west wing is Duke Emil Augustus' colourful suite of Empire rooms. His collection included a variety of delicate fans and a range of impressive neoclassical marble sculptures. Perhaps the most famous picture is *The Gotha Lovers* which was painted in the late fifteenth century, considered to be the first secular double portrait in Germany. The *Ekhof-Theater* at the far end of the west wing was built between 1681 and 1687, and is still in use.

Immense gratitude is due to Clarissa Ward for all of her painstaking work in planning this visit and Sara Heaton who did such an excellent job as Group Organiser. Everyone was very impressed by all of our hosts who displayed excellent knowledge of their subjects and showed the utmost kindness and hospitality to our group. The FHS would like to thank Dr Klaus Weschenfelder, Dr Franziska Bachner, Mrs Jutta Stumm, Mr von Pezold, Dr Peter Krückmann and Dr Bernd Schaefer. And great thanks are of course also due to Jonathan Marsden, for having the idea for the visit was in the first instance, and for providing the group with such helpful notes, images and information during our trip.

David Oakey and Wolf Burchard

THE OLIVER FORD TRUST AND TOM INGRAM MEMORIAL FUND

In line with one of its roles — the promotion of interest in interior design — the Oliver Ford Trust has generously expressed the desire to sponsor a place on each FHS study weekend or foreign tour. Applicants should either be a student with a particular interest in interiors, or a junior museum professional. Applications from non-members will be considered. Grants will be awarded via the Tom Ingram Fund, to which candidates should apply.

The Tom Ingram Memorial Fund makes grants towards travel and other incidental expenses for the purpose of study or research into the history of furniture (a) whether or not the applicant is a member of the Society; (b) only when the study or research is likely to be of importance in furthering the objectives of the Society; and (c) only when travel could not be undertaken without a grant from the Society. Applications towards the cost of FHS foreign and domestic trips and study weekends are particularly welcome from scholars. Successful applicants are required to acknowledge the assistance of the Fund in any resulting publications and must report back to the Panel on completion of the travel or project. All applications should be addressed to Adriana Turpin, Secretary to the Fund at 39 Talbot Road, London W2 5JH, Turpinadriana@hotmail.com, who will also supply application forms for the Oliver Ford Trust grants on request. Please remember to send an s.a.e. with any request.

The committee requests that applications for study trips be made well in advance of the final deadline for acceptance — preferably at least one month before.

COPY DEADLINE

The deadline for receiving material to be published in the next *Newsletter* is **15 November**. Copy should be sent, preferably by email, to m.winterbottom@bath.ac.uk or posted to Matthew Winterbottom, The Holburne Museum, Bath BA2 4DB, tel. 01225 820813

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