

A BUYING TOUR TO THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, 3-10 JULY 1972

Geoffrey Crofts and I left Burford at 8.45am on 3 July covering one thousand and sixty five miles during the eight days we were away when some one hundred and ninety five items were purchased at a total cost of five thousand four hundred and eighty pounds thirty pence, plus four hundred and fifty pounds to pay later on a chest on stand from Edward Neil of Preston who wishes delayed payment due to too good selling at Grosvenor House Fair.

Expenses:	Hotels	£ 74.56
	Petrol	£ 22.14
	Travel & Food	£ 22.37
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		£119.07

First call in Leicester, Queen Anne oak glazed bookcase on stand found in shop of Mr Green which he told me he had acquired with difficulty from bedroom of a house where it must have stood for the past two hundred years, the top piled high as ceiling which is responsible for cracked glass pane and the lack of colour or polish on the back stretcher rail due to lime wash which had fallen from the wall, piling high on the back stretcher and bleaching it over the years. Lunched at Loughborough before travelling on through Ashby de la Zouche to Ashbourne, Monyash and Buxton where we stayed the night. Terrible weather, headlights necessary in Derbyshire at 6.00pm.

Buxton shops are now about useless. Visit to Maurice Goldstone at Bakewell, he and his son away, no particular excitements there. Lunched in Sheffield, reaching York just in time to catch Greenwoods before they closed, and first visit to Robert Morrison (Thornton, The Adams House, York) in their new large private house premises. Visit to York Minster and Crypt, after dining calling at home of Mr & Mrs William Lee where nothing purchased - he grows old.

Next morning visit to the Thornton family shop and new palatial private house showrooms. Set of six oak three-legged chairs purchased that they had acquired at Hazlewood Castle sale, lot 439, previously having come from the Lowther Castle conducted by Maple and Co. London, 15 April and 11 June 1947. Travelled on to Knaresborough, reaching Harrogate just in time to get round main shops before their early closing day. Mrs Wilson, Greenwoods, Robert Agaard and Charles Lunn; visited after lunch Smith and Shaftoe's. Also Peters, The Galleries, 75A Bower Road. To Ilkley, Skipton, Gargrave and brief look at High Bentham, visit to Calf Cop (Dr Dowell and William Bruce). Night at Kirkby Lonsdale, a perfect day of summer weather.

Thursday, 6 July dull and wet. Calls at Kendal on Waller, Bell and Edmondson and Richard Phillips. Now chiefly selling reproduction furniture, finding antiques too hard to find and too expensive for most of his customers. Lunched in Windermere before calling at Townhead Antiques, Newby Bridge, call on Mrs Davidson and Young's at Keswick, reaching Penrith just after all shops had shut. So on to Temple Sowerby to

collect portrait purchased from Mr Harper, spent night at the hotel there and abortive evening call at Augill Castle, Brough.

Next morning visits to the shop of Mrs James (old premises of Mrs Jordan) Antiques of Penrith, before driving on to Carlisle and surprise visit on Maurice Dodd. That afternoon calls on Garth Antiques, Brampton, and journey to Alston where we were fortunate in finding Adelaide Dixon in her crowded shop, a number of items purchased though nothing of importance. There were too many other customers round for her to take us home where I have never been. (Does she still have her Nottingham Alabaster Plaque?)

So on to Hexham, arriving fifteen minutes before shops were due to shut, but by joint effort Geoffrey and I alerted everyone and kept them open. The Hedleys have now retired, the premises being taken over by one of their helpers.

Drove back along the military wall with stop at Housesteads, reaching Carlisle in time to get room and dinner at the County and Station Hotel, having previously telephoned Brunstock arranging to call around 9.00pm. Three oak court cupboards, one oak wardrobe purchased from the barn next to the motorway for two hundred pounds. Briefed by Lorna, I suggested to him it is wrong to go on stockpiling where goods are actually deteriorating due to neglect, and to all our surprise two hours later he was propounding this very fact himself to Lorna, so perhaps my visit once again may have done some good. He tells me he now has no less than eight hundred stone troughs - he is not too fit and aged, I think, sixty two.

Left Carlisle before 9.00am, driving via Cockermouth to Whitehaven where stocks were low and relatively dull; then down the coast road to Barrow-in-Furness and abortive call as we got involved in the annual Carnival, were unable to reach the two shops which were in any case closed, but could not ourselves escape through Carnival traffic, nor move our car for 1½ hours. The sun shone and ice cream was available.

So on to Ulverston arriving at 5.00pm as shops shut, but it is surprising what can be organised for or by me if desired. Mrs Todd was not at home, but I managed to have a word with her daughter. A call on young Thornton at Bardsea who it would seem is waging war with Kelly, Whitehaven; no holds barred so far as prices to be paid at auctions are concerned.

Reached Grange-over-Sands 7.00pm, collected Jean Dow for dinner at Grange Hotel where we spent that and Sunday night. Sunday morning attended Cartmel Meeting before paying call on old Miss Smith, in bungalow in Grangemount Road - noted she still has bronze figure of retriever dog and pair of circa 1860 bronze figures of girls which may be of importance.

After picnic lunch in Jean Dow's garden, visit to Levens Hall before driving up to the Bowness Ferry and crossing to Hawkshead for tea and call on Beatrix Potter house.

Back to Grange in time for dinner.

Monday 10 July, reloaded car before breakfast, call on Parker at Barton, shops in Preston, Warley Abbey; back on to the motorway down to Knutsford for five calls there, and so south to Burford. Stopped for tea and dinner on motorway, arriving Burford 10.15pm.