

A TABLE FROM MERE

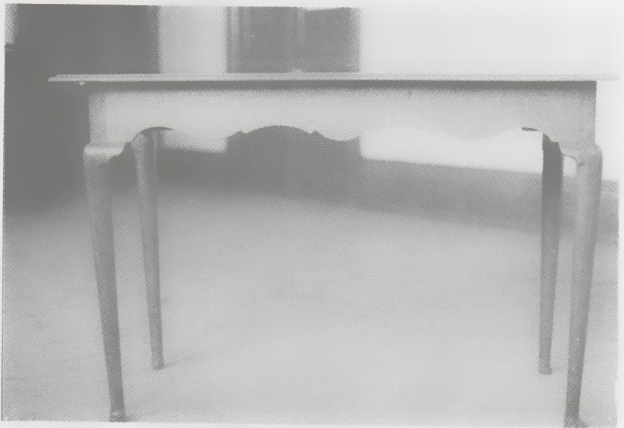


Fig. 15

The photograph (Fig 15) is a of an oak table which has stood for many years in the Lecture Hall at Mere, Wilts. Inset in the top is a contemporary brass plate engraved with the date and the names of two churchwardens, (Fig. 16). It is likely that the table came to its present home as the gift of Mr. John Farley Rutter who was a prime mover in the building of the Lecture Hall in 1863, and who is known to have collected old furniture from the locality.

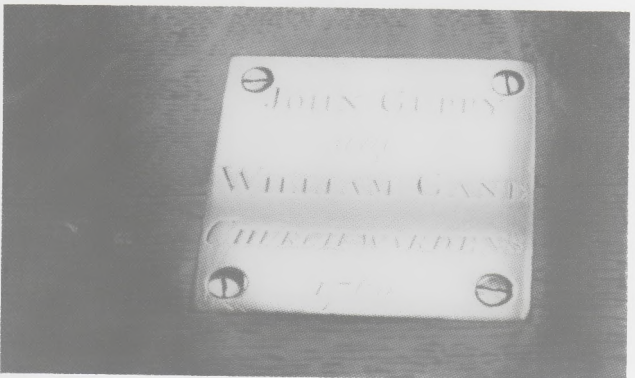


Fig. 16

The town of Mere lies in the SE corner of Wiltshire, within a few miles of Dorset and Somerset, in both of which counties the name Guppy is common (more so, indeed, than in Wiltshire). Unfortunately, many church records in Dorset and Somerset have been destroyed by the accidents of history and it has not been possible to trace the parish where John Guppy and William Gane were churchwardens in 1769. Perhaps one day one of our members may find the answer and thereby the name of the maker.

At present, all that can be said is that this is a beautiful example of provincial Georgian craftsmanship, precisely dated and for which we know at least the names of those who commissioned it.

Gabriel Olive