

Museum Purchases - Chest of Drawers

A recent purchase by the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, at Wright Manley's Beeston Castle Auction Rooms, Cheshire, was a chest of drawers made by the Chester Cabinet Makers, Brown and Lamont. The Museum paid £260 for the chest which is now on display at the Museum. The chest is stamped inside the drawers "From Brown & Lamont Cabinet Makers Chester", and dates from about 1870.

The chest is finely veneered in burr elm, with elaborate brass mounts and drawer handles. It is an example of the "Reformed Gothic" style of furniture, popularised by Charles Locke Eastlake in his "Hints on Household Taste in Furniture, Upholstery and other Details" (1868). Eastlake's influence was particularly strong in America.

Nothing is known about Alexander Lamont before he came to Chester in about 1861, but it is assumed that he had trained as a furniture designer. He entered into a partnership in 1861 with Frederick Brown of the "Browns of Chester" Department Store, and a manufactory was established in Newgate Street, with sale rooms in the Crypt Buildings in Eastgate Street. They supplied the gothic chairs for the Chester Town Hall (built 1864-69), and seem to have had furniture commissioned by the Grosvenor Family at the nearby Eaton Hall. The partnership split up in 1875, and later Lamont was the Chairman of the Grosvenor Museum's Management Committee.



Museum Purchases (cont'd.) - Set of Six Chairs

Macclesfield Museum have purchased a set of six Macclesfield style chairs stamped "Leicester" from Sotheby's in Chester. Similar chairs are in the exhibition, "The Chair in the North West", currently touring the area, and on show at Macclesfield from 11th July - 25th August.