

Regional Furniture at Temple Newsam House, Leeds

Temple Newsam, a large Tudor/Jacobean country house on the outskirts of Leeds, was acquired virtually as an empty shell by the City in 1922 but it was not developed as a museum of decorative art until 1938. For the first forty years furniture collecting concentrated exclusively on elite post-medieval work and acquiring fashionable pieces is still a core activity. However, during the 1970s the curatorial team staged a series of exhibitions exploring the regional content of 17th century oak furniture and various aspects of the Georgian and Victorian vernacular tradition such as back stairs, school and common furniture. Since 1980 this diversification of interest has also been reflected in the acquisitions policy and so it may be useful to provide a check list of chairs in the collection which bear a makers name or can be confidently attributed to a firm. I must acknowledge the helpful interest of Bill Cotton in building up this anthology.

Windsor arm and side chairs

MARSH, Sleaford, Lincs. (stamp on top of seat)
HUBBARD / GRANTHAM, Lincs. (stamp on top of seat)
AMOS / GRANTHAM, Lincs. (stamp on seat edge)
TAYLOR / GRANTHAM, Lincs. (stamp on top of seat)
A. WILSON / MAKER, ?, Grantham, Lincs. (stamp on seat edge)
NICHOLSON / ROCKLEY, Notts. (stamp on seat edge)
NICHOLSON / ROCKLEY, Notts. (stamp on seat edge)
BENJAMIN GILLING... WORKSOP (paper label under seat)
J. SPENCER ?, Notts/Yorks. (stamp on seat edge)
G. WHARTON & SON, Northallerton... Yorks (stencil under seat)
W. LOW ?, High Wycombe, Bucks. (stamp on fan tail)
W. MEAD ?, High Wycombe, Bucks. (stamp on fan tail)
GILLOWS, Lancaster (corresponds to a Gillow drawing)

Ladder back chairs

KERRY, ?, Worcs. (stamped on upper back post)
C. LEICESTER, Macclesfield, Cheshire (stamp on back post)
C. LEICESTER, Macclesfield, Cheshire (stamp on back post)
C. LEICESTER, Macclesfield, Cheshire (stamp on back post)

Common turned chairs

P.C. (Philip Clissett), Herefordshire (stamp on top of back post)
T. BEARD, ?, Shropshire (stamped on front apron rail)
W.C. ?, Herefordshire (stamped on top of back post)
I.W. ?, Herefordshire (stamped on top of back post)

Spindle back chairs

J. ALLEN, ?, Lancashire (stamped on back post)
I & D BANCROFT ?, Lancs/Cheshire (stamped on back post)
J.S. (? John Steele) ?, Cheshire (stamped on back post)
LEICESTER, Macclesfield, Cheshire (stamped on back post)
W.L. ?, Lancashire (stamped on back post)

Kitchen chairs (Grecian, Roman and Stick-back)

SEWELL / C. NORTON, Oxon. (stamped on rear seat edge)
S. HAZELL / OXFORD, (stamped on rear seat edge)
R. SIMPSON / MAKER, ?, Lancaster (stamped on back post)
J. MARCH / GEDDINGTON, Northants. (stamped on rear seat edge)
(Isaac Allsop & Son) Worksop, Notts. (corresponds to a design on the
firm's trade card)
W. BREAR MAKERS / ADDINGHAM VIA LEEDS, Yorks. (stamped on rear seat
edge)
H. KING / MAKER / WIGAN, Lancs. (stamped on rear seat edge)
HOBBS / NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, Northants. (stamped on rear seat edge)

Christopher Gilbert