

Historic Windsor chair donated to Temple Newsam

The celebrated Burford antique dealer, Roger Warner, who died last year, had a wonderful personal collection of furniture and folk art that he took great pleasure in showing me when I visited his home in 2005. I was there to examine a historically important Windsor chair which stood in the corner of the homely parlour where we took tea. I was collecting material for an article on the earliest known Windsor chairs, having been made aware that one such chair had passed through his hands.¹

Roger explained that he had acquired it from a Yorkshire furniture collection that was sold in the 1940s. As this early form of Windsor comb-back was only known from old illustrations I very much appreciated the opportunity to take photographs and measurements. The fact that the legs and stretchers are replacements is unfortunate but their form can be envisaged from the pictures of the other two

examples, one of which is believed to be in America, the whereabouts of the other unknown.

With the planned auction of Roger Warner's collection in 2009, I was particularly

concerned that this very important chair might be sold abroad, as sadly was the case with the earliest labelled Windsor, by John Pitt of Slough. I was therefore very pleased recently to hear from Simon, Roger's son, that the chair and some other items had been bequeathed to Temple Newsam House, Leeds and is to be part of the display of vernacular furniture there. Given the valuable contribution to studies of regional and vernacular furniture made by Christopher Gilbert, a previous curator of Temple Newsam, this bequest by Roger Warner seems particularly appropriate.



One of the earliest surviving English Windsor chairs, of elm, beech and ash, the legs and stretchers replaced. Roger Warner left this example to Temple Newsam House

Robert Parrott

¹ *Regional Furniture* XIX, pp 1-20, 2005; *Regional Furniture* XVII, 2003.