

A comment from John Parry

It was interesting to read in the autumn Newsletter (No 53), Bob Parrott's article referring to Christie's sale of my collection last March. I would like to elaborate a little bit on the chair's history.

On a Saturday morning in February 1999, Bill Cotton rang me up with a request that I travel immediately to Ludlow to purchase a windsor chair. Bill had learnt of its existence, having received a letter from Ray Cave after the publication of the book on chairs, and enclosing a photograph. Following its receipt, he had asked to be notified in the event of the chair being available to purchase.

I have to confess that I had never previously considered purchasing a windsor chair, and consequently had no idea of values. I was quoted the price of £8,750 which astonished me, and eventually I acquired it for £8,300. With regard to its recent origins, it did not come from a pub in the west country, rather from a pub in Banbury, where Ray Cave had spotted it while stationed there during military service, although he was not able to acquire it until a later date when the pub was being modernized. I subsequently lent the chair to Bill for research purposes. Bill was at first convinced that the chair was the one featured in David Knell's book (*English Country Furniture 1500-1900*, p328), but if you examine the illustration, it is obvious that that chair has been scrubbed, and is sadly devoid of the fabulous colour and patination of the chair in my collection.

John Parry