

# Peter Demaine (1931-2007)

With much regret we report the death of Peter Demaine, one of our longstanding members. Inspired by the exhibition at Towneley Hall in 1986, titled *The Chair in the North West: Regional Styles in the 18th and 19th Centuries*, Peter and his wife Barbara jointed the RFS. No doubt it was Peter's professional background as a metallurgist and researcher that instinctively related to an analytical approach which took into account shared stylistic characteristics and construction detail combined with the use of indigenous woods, thus lending credibility to the concept of regionality in 18th and 19th century vernacular furniture.

In recent years, Barbara mentioned that they had formed a collection of 'Empire' chairs which we now associate with the 19th century Lancaster workshop of R. Simpson. Such enthusiasm and interest is infectious and the lifeblood of our society.

*J.M. Boram*