

# The New Hall Table

A signed table with an interesting provenance was offered at a recent auction held at The Pedestal, Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames.

The large (361 × 122 × 74 cm) pine six-leg table had been made for New Hall in Dymchurch, Kent in late 1848/early 1849 and is signed by two craftsmen, one of them signing several times.

The top is formed of six planks with end cleats. The base has six baluster legs joined by peripheral stretchers and retains much of the original ochre paint. The square top of each leg slots into a recess on the underside of the top and it is in these recesses that the pencil signatures of



Pine table made for New Hall, Dymchurch, Kent.  
*Photo courtesy of The Pedestal.*



Signatures of craftsmen: 'J. Elliott Jan'y 13 1849' (left) and 'Jeremiah Wraight 1848' (right).  
*Photos courtesy of The Pedestal.*

the craftsmen can be seen. They are as clear as the day they were signed:

'J. Elliott Jan'y 13 1849' and 'Jeremiah Wraight 1848'

Further research may throw more light on Wraight and Elliot; a reference to a John Wraight working at High Street, Folkestone, Kent in 1789 may prove to be a relative (*Dictionary of English Furniture Makers 1660-1840*).

New Hall is an interesting historical building, as Dymchurch in Kent was once the headquarters for law and order on the Romney Marsh. It was here where the

governors of the Marsh resided (known as The Lord of the Level) and where swift justice was administered to anyone endangering the wellbeing of the Marsh. The governors met in a courtroom called the New Hall. In 1797 a Gaol was built next door which was in use until 1866 when the New Romney Constables were superseded by the County Police. New Hall was last used as a local court house in 1951 and is now a museum.

The large table sold at The Pedestal on 20 July 2021 for a hammer price of £2000.

*Simon Green*