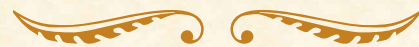


married his first cousin. Several of the pieces associated with him are from New York including a mahogany desk and a pierced back side chair in the Chippendale taste. An eight-legged mahogany dining table, also in the Chippendale taste, is thought to be one of the items sold at the auction of his household goods in 1777. It was one of three dining tables purchased by Richard Caswell, the first state governor, who lived in the Palace during the Revolution. Two Rhode Island dining tables with stop-fluted legs are thought also to have been part of the Martin sale.

In contrast to the Palace, furniture for the John Wright Stanly and George W. Dixon houses is predominantly American. Outstanding examples include a Salem bombé secretary, a pair of ornately carved Boston Chippendale side chairs that originally belonged to Massachusetts patriot Josiah Quincy, a handsome secretary labeled by Thomas Burling of New York, a pair of stylish New York Chippendale side chairs, a set of equally stylish New York Federal side and armchairs, a pair of Philadelphia Chippendale chairs with shell carving on the crest and legs, a handsome Pennsylvania tall clock, and a Philadelphia dressing table and a double chest of drawers in the Chippendale style. In addition there is a growing collection of southern furniture including an inlaid Baltimore sideboard, a handsome eastern Virginia or North Carolina bedstead, and a superb, pillar and claw tea table from Virginia.

For the Stanly and Dixon Houses and in anticipation of the new North Carolina History Center, we also actively collect furniture made in eastern North Carolina or with an eastern North Carolina connection. Among our most interesting pieces of North Carolina furniture are a mahogany corner chair and a late Federal sideboard signed and dated—"Jas [James] Borritz/ May 24th/ 1809"—made in Edenton, an unusual mahogany and white cedar bureau drawing (or architect's) table and a Pembroke or breakfast table with unusual geometric inlay resembling stylized soccer balls, both with New Bern connections. Contrasting with the coastal furniture are pieces from the piedmont including a secretary desk and a companion chest of drawers attributed to William Little of Anson County.



Decorative Arts Symposium

Each year the Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Symposium brings together scholars, collectors, students and others to view and consider some aspect of the decorative arts and its social implication. The program begins on the afternoon of the third Sunday in March and concludes the following Tuesday at noon. For more information please go to our web site - tryonpalace.org or phone 252.514.4900 or 1.800.767.1560.



FURNITURE COLLECTION



The furniture collection at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens includes a range of eighteenth and nineteenth-century English and American pieces. The American examples are primarily from New England and the Mid-Atlantic areas with a smaller group of Southern pieces. As in other media, we actively collect North Carolina furniture with a special emphasis on New Bern, Craven County and the central North Carolina coast, but the collection also includes some important piedmont-area objects.

The core of the Palace furniture collection was formed by the 32 pieces of English furniture including chairs, tables, case pieces, and looking glass forms given by Mrs. Maude Moore Latham in 1950. One of the most impressive pieces and the first one acquired for the site is a massive library bookcase in breakfront form attributed to the shop of Thomas Chippendale. Equally notable are a pair of demi-lune pier tables in the neoclassical style with veneered harewood tops inlaid with a golden pheasant perched on a gnarled tree, and urns, ribbons and pendant husks on the frieze and legs. Mrs. Latham's gift also included a pair of upholstered "French elbow chairs," a pair of George III looking glasses in carved and gilded rococo frames, and an eighteenth-century Chinese reverse painted mirror with Chinese figures in a Chinese landscape enclosed in a carved giltwood frame.

In 1957 and 1958, a large group of British objects joined the collection augmenting Mrs. Latham's original gift. These were forms identified by consulting curator Gregor Norman-Wilcox based on William Tryon's list of losses in a 1773 fire at Fort George in lower Manhattan and the 1777 sale of North Carolina Royal Governor Josiah Martin's household goods left behind when he fled New Bern. Notable examples of these purchases included a George III mahogany card table in the manner of William Vile, decorated in high relief with carved flowers, fruit and scrolls on pierced front and side panels and carving on the legs. Also purchased at that time were a George III mahogany silver table with pierced fret gallery in the Chinese taste, an unusual mahogany breakfast table with a recessed lower section enclosed in gilt chicken wire, and a mahogany bedstead with carved and reeded foot posts ending in hairy paw feet and bed screws concealed behind elaborately carved removable covers.

One of the most challenging items on the furnishing list was 13 "square elbow chairs [with] stuffed seats" listed in Tryon's inventory for use in the Council Chamber. Large sets of chairs were not readily available and the committee eventually purchased an assembled set of William IV mahogany armchairs in the gothic taste. A George II walnut master's chair with elaborately carved eagle head terminals and scale-carved claw-and-ball toes was acquired for the royal governor.

While the Palace was furnished primarily with English furniture, a few American pieces are included. Most of these objects relate to the years 1771-1775, when the Palace was the residence of Royal Governor Josiah Martin and his family. Before his appointment as Governor of North Carolina, Martin served in the British army and was posted to New York, where he met and

One of the most important furniture purchases from the 1957 buying trip to England by members of the Commission's Acquisition Committee was a suite of George II walnut seating furniture consisting of an armchair and six side chairs with their original Fulham tapestry covers. All the chairs have arched over-upholstered back and over-upholstered bowed seats with incurved sides. The out swept molded arms of the armchair end in lion mask terminals. The front cabriole legs are decorated with carved shells and pendant bell flowers at the knees and end in hairy paw-and-ball toes. The molded down swept rear legs end in similarly carved toes. The woven back panel of the seat covers has a vase of brightly colored flowers—poppies, tulips and lilies—resting on a shelf. The woven seats have sprays of flowers. Ex coll: The Earl of Shaftesbury, St. Giles House, Wimborne St. Giles, Dorset.

