

GORDON RUSSELL DESIGN MUSEUM

Newsletter No.6

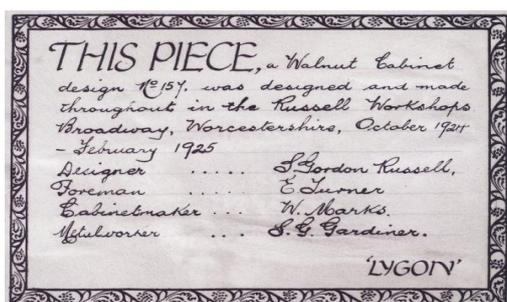
June 2012

EXHIBITION NEWS

The museum's recent exhibition, *Polished Thoughts*, showcasing the prize winning work of students from Rycotewood College proved a great success. In April visitor numbers went up by 50%. School parties found the designer's 'Ideas' book, demonstrating the process of developing an initial idea into a finished design, particularly inspiring. Arrangements are already underway for the museum's second exhibition which will open in September 2012 and feature an early GR piece, 'The Lygon Cup', which is being lent for display by the British Optical Museum.



BBC ANTIQUES ROADSHOW



Label on underside of bottom drawer on the right hand side identifying those

Following a visit to the museum by the Antiques Roadshow production team in April this year the Paris cabinet was collected for filming at the show's valuation day being held at Cheltenham Town Hall. Museum volunteer and former joint Managing Director of Gordon Russell plc, Laurie Wolder accepted their invitation to join the show to discuss Gordon Russell's 1925 prize winning design with the furniture expert, John Bly.



Another Gordon Russell piece also will feature in this show, this Utility double pedestal dressing table. Following its purchase at auction in 2009 the owner, Stella Parkes, discovered that, with its extensive archives, the museum could provide a provenance certificate. This told her that the dressing table had been made in 1950, and was therefore as old as her! John Bly looked in detail at the piece and remarked on the excellent workmanship that gone into its construction. Although not worth a great deal at present he told Stella that she owned an 'antique of the future'.

It is hoped that this edition of the Antiques Roadshow will be transmitted in the autumn of 2012.

EXHIBITIONS

The current V&A major exhibition, **British Design 1948-2012** which runs until 12 August 2012, features a Gordon Russell Helix rosewood and mahogany sideboard designed by David Booth for the 1951 Festival of Britain. The museum has also received a request for the loan of a Coventry chair and a Murphy radio cabinet from the Royal College of Art for an exhibition they are holding later this year to mark the 175th anniversary of their foundation.

The museum is looking forward to working with the Ashmolean in Broadway when it opens early next year.

VOLUNTEERS

The museum are delighted to welcome Rosie Black, Mo Bogaard, Rosemary Chapman, Diane Ellis, Anna Gateley, Peter Hammond, Malcolm & Joan Jones, Gillian Nicholls and Sheila Sage to the team of enthusiastic and motivated volunteers who ensure that the museum can continue successfully. The Trustees look forward to working with the volunteers to improve visitor numbers and the visitor's experience.

Swedish Travel Writers recommended the Gordon Russell Design Museum as a place to visit as part of weekly tip for week 49 (December 2011) on their website: www.tripant.com. This is another example of the interest the museum holds for visitors from far and wide.

EDUCATION



Schools and colleges have shown a growing interest in the museum's educational programme. Tours can be arranged for group visits on application to the Curator. Recently the museum's education team made successful visits to Alcester Grammar School and Cotswold School where the pupils enjoyed the challenge of constructing model chairs.



The education team continue to develop their programme of activities both within the museum and for school visits.

2012 Rycotewood/Gordon Russell award winner



In his design for a piece of furniture for 'third space' (where older and younger generations are working the same environment) Mike Sewell incorporated a waste product of the banana industry. He used a 0.3mm thick veneer made from the fibrous trunk of the banana plant with ash in solid and veneer form in his design.

Wade Dunsford from Hands of Wycombe, Paul Reilly and Ray Leigh were among the judges who selected Mike Sewell's finished design in the accompanying photograph for the 2012 Rycotewood/Gordon Russell award.

INTERN

In January the Museum welcomed its first intern, Lilly Dell, who had graduated with a 2.1 BSc in Restoration and Conservation from the London Metropolitan University. Lilly said that not only did she find the experience delightful but also she became aware of the importance of the help the volunteers give in dealing with the hard work involved in running a small museum. Speaking to former Gordon Russell employees brought the museum and collections to life. During her internship Lilly helped the Curator mainly with conservation cleaning, and this experience inspired her to continue her career within the Conservation profession.



MUSEUM LEAFLET

Copies of the museum leaflet are now available in Chinese and Japanese for the growing number of visitors to Broadway from those countries. Please do circulate to anyone who might find it of use.

MUSEUM WEBSITE – watch this space

Visitors to the museum's website will soon be able to enjoy the result of the current redesign work. We do hope you will encourage everyone to visit the new website to arrange their visits to the museum and to see the latest developments in the museum's activities.