

Social History Curators Group
formerly Group for Regional Studies in Museums

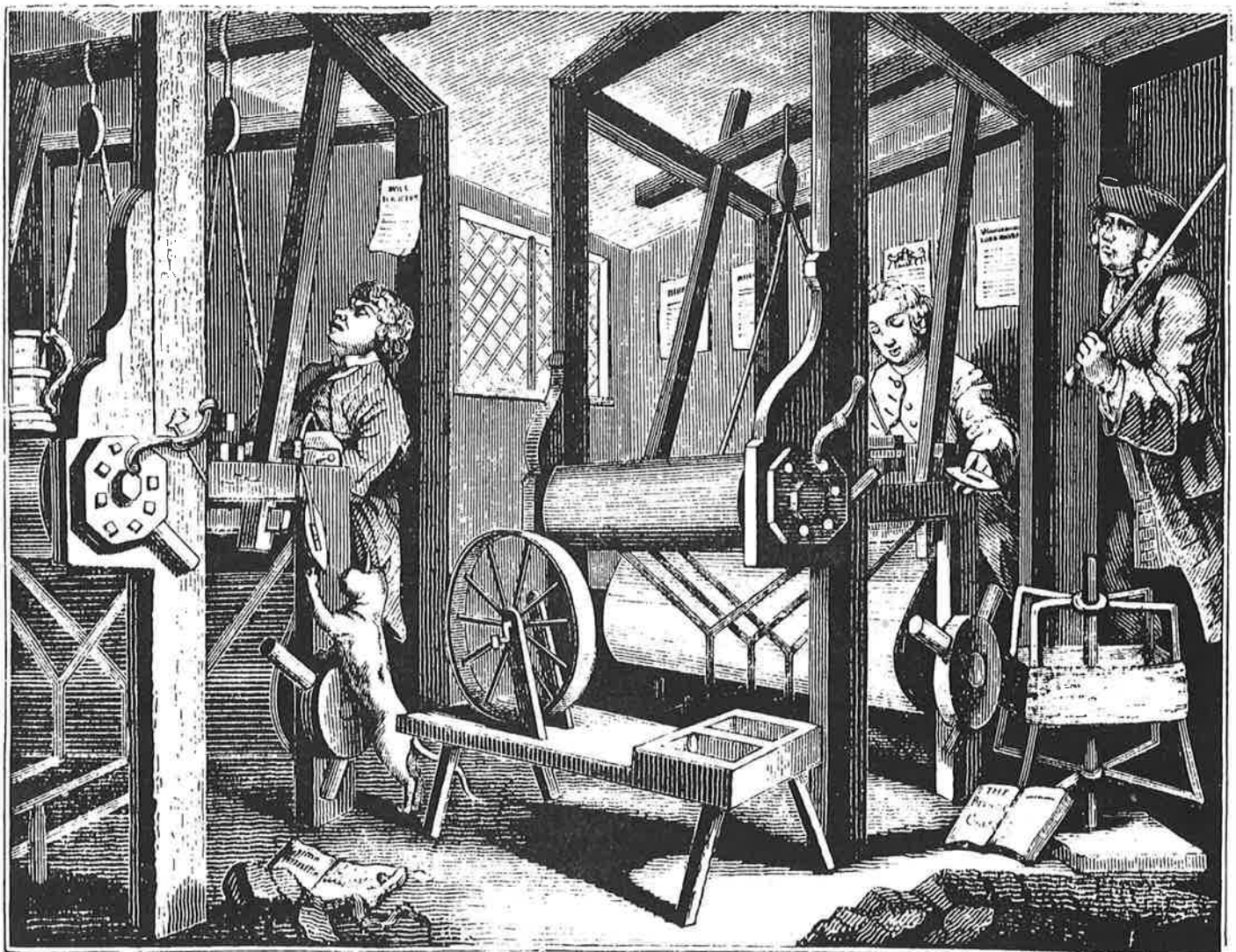
SHCG NEWS 2

Spring 1983

edited by Crispin Paine c/o AMSSEE, 34 Burners Lane, Kiln Farm, Milton Keynes MK11 3HB (tel 0908 563997)

ANNUAL STUDY WEEKEND - TEXTILES & MUSEUMS

BOOK NOW!



Annual Study Weekend - Hebden Bridge - June 23-26

TEXTILES & MUSEUMS

The conference is based at Hebden Bridge in the Calder Valley. The area has played an important role in the wool textile industry over the last millenium, and provides a unique environment in which to study the development of English cloth production. It is also an area of dramatic scenic beauty, of fine vernacular, and of numerous industrial features. Following an introduction to the region, there will be a full day tou of Yorkshire textile museums, ranging from complete mills run by local authorities to the smaller museums of local societies (and including a tour of a unique 18th century Moravian settlement). The Sunday morning will be devoted to contributions from the staff of textile museums from various parts of the country, allowing for useful discussion on the common aims and problems of this expanding area of museum activity.

Accomodation is at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, a magnificent Baptist Chapel which has just been imaginatively converted into a conference centre for the South Pennines.

An application form can be found in this issue, and should be returned as soon as possible. Further information can be obtained from Peter Brears at Leeds Museums.

Thursday June 23rd

- 2.00 Registration open
- 6.30 Dinner
- 7.30 Depart for Reception by The Calderdale Museums Service at the Piece Hall, Halifax, via Wainhouse Tower, Belle Vue and the People's Park.

Friday June 24th

- 8.30 Breakfast
- 9.15 Lecture: An Introduction to West Yorkshire & its Woollen Industry, P. Brears.
- 10.00 Coffee
- 10.30 Lecture: The Yeoman Clothier - His Traditional Techniques, Practical Session - Carding & Spinning.
- 12.00 Lunch
- 1.00 Walking Tour of the Hebden Bridge area, to see remains of the domestic and factory systems, vernacular architecture, pack-horse routes, church & 16th century Cloth Hall, 17th century Grammar School Museum.
- 6.30 Dinner
- 8.00 Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 25th

- 8.30 Breakfast
- 9.15 Full day study visit of West Yorkshire textile area, including Ryburn Farm Museum, The Colne Valley Museum, Bradford Industrial Museum (for lunch), Saltaire, The Moravian Museum at Fulneck, and Armley Mills, Leeds (for tea).
- 7.00 Return to Hebden Bridge for free evening.

Sunday June 26th

- 9.00 Breakfast
 - 9.30 Members' Session/Lecture
 - 10.30 Coffee
 - 11.00 Members' Session/Lecture
 - 12.30 Lunch
- Afternoon free. Members may wish to visit:
- 1 Shibden Hall, Halifax, The West Yorkshire Folk Museum, open 2-5pm.
 - 2 Bankfield Museum, Halifax, open 2.30-5pm.
 - 3 Bronte Parsonage Museum, Haworth, open 2-5.30pm.
 - 4 The Worth Valley Railway, Haworth.
 - 5 Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley, open 10-6pm.
 - 6 Bolling Hall Museum, Bradford, open 10-6pm.



Committee activities

The Committee has been concerned over the relations between local authority museums and libraries in Scotland, and has been discussing them with other bodies involved.

A proposal to reduce specialist group representation on the Museums Association's Curatorial Board was resisted. For years the Group has been trying to persuade the Board to widen the choice offered in Diploma paper G; the Committee is discussing the problem with the other specialist groups in the Human History field.

The Committee commented on the MA's draft Code of Ethics, and contributed a new section on the care of animals in farm museums.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art has been invited to discuss the problem of the export of social history items; meanwhile the Committee is looking for more examples of particular incidents.

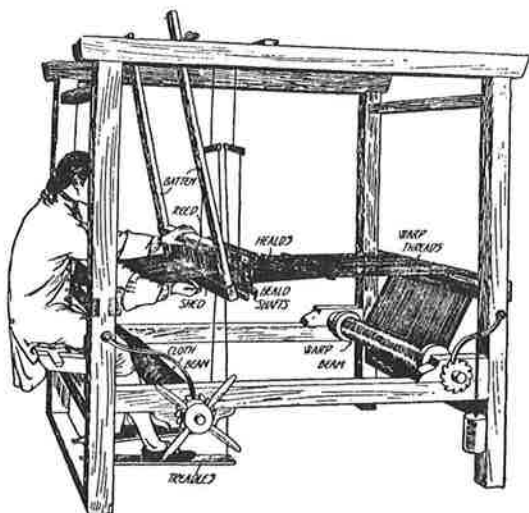
The Membership Secretary reported at the last Committee meeting that the Group had 159 members; a new recruiting leaflet is being printed.

A special bibliographic edition of 'SHCG Journal' is to be published this summer, and another issue will appear in the autumn.

Leicester shoots

Gaynor Kavanagh, lecturer at the Department of Museum Studies at Leicester and an SHCG member, has produced 'History Option Learning Goals and Bibliography for Museum Studies Students'. Designed to supplement the 'Learning Goals' and 'Bibliography for Museum Studies Students' this booklet comprises firstly the syllabus of the specialist training given on the Leicester course and secondly a related bibliography.

As the first published attempt to analyse the nature and content of specifically social history curatorship, this publication will be of great interest to SHCG members. We hope to include a review in a future issue; meanwhile copies can be obtained from Gaynor at the Leicester Department (no price given).



Two new ideas

Two major new initiatives by the Group were agreed at the Committee's last meeting. They arose out of a wide-ranging discussion of the Group's activities based on a paper by the Chairman and detailed comments by the Vice-chairman.

The first major proposal is for a 'Manual of Social History Curatorship', a handbook to stand beside the Manual of Curatorship, and to be based on the syllabus worked out by the Group's working party on education. The Vice-chairman, John Shaw, is drafting an outline, and the Committee is looking into possible finance.

The second initiative is an attempt to tackle head-on the absurdly uneven and inadequate coverage of the country by social history museum services. The idea is to carry out a survey of social history museum provision - collections, staff, displays, services - in the 11 largest cities of Britain. This is still being discussed, but if kept simple it could produce the first really useful data on just how good our museum services are.



Sydney Jones

The splendid drawings on the next page are by Sydney R. Jones and come from "Old English Country Life" by Gertrude Jekyll and Sydney Jones, first published in 1939 by Batsford.

Does anyone know where the originals of Sydney Jones' drawings are now?

SHIC ??

Where is SHIC? SHCG committee has been bombarded with enquiries, as of course has the Museum Documentation Association which is to distribute it. We understand that there have been problems at the printers', but still have no news of a publication date. Meanwhile it is astonishing how many curators are waiting to use it!

Vernacular and neo-vernacular

Sadly, there were not enough takers to make the proposed 'Vernacular and neo-vernacular' weekend in West Surrey viable. Kathy Callow and Matthew Alexander have put a lot of work into arranging an excellent programme, and hope to offer it again in the autumn.

Collecting

Whatever was at home on the range in the 1670s?

Collecting Victorian and Edwardian kitchen implements has been a popular pastime for some years. To search for domestic equipment of earlier centuries is a more challenging puzzle - the first problem being to determine the cooking technology of the time, and thus what implements were used.

The Victoria & Albert Museum is currently engaged in a reconstruction of the seventeenth-century kitchen at Ham House, Richmond, the lavish home of Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart, who married the Duke of Lauderdale in 1672. And the museum has issued an appeal to the public to help in the search for suitable items that it might acquire by gift, loan or purchase or information on the whereabouts of good surviving

examples that modern craftsmen could copy.

The project is under the enthusiastic direction of Caroline Davidson whose history of housework in the British Isles, 1650 to 1950, *A Woman's Work Is Never Done*, was published last year. The exercise is already shedding fascinating new light on equipment in a seventeenth-century kitchen, albeit an exceptionally rich and modern establishment, the coal-burning "open" range and the stewing stove were both 50 years or more ahead of their time, according to Miss Davidson.

The information that she has discovered on the contents of the Ham kitchen provides the collector with an important new checklist which he may use to

further his own collection or that of Ham House as he pleases. She has drawn up one list of objects in the kitchen at Ham by collating the inventories taken in 1677, 1679 and 1683. A second list of items too modest to be included in the inventories was culled from the Ham House account books, itemizing weekly expenditure, which she discovered in the strongroom of Buckminster Park in Lincolnshire, where the descendants of Elizabeth, Countess of Dysart, by her first husband, Sir Lionel Tollemache, now live.

Kitchen items in the inventories of 1677, 1679 and 1683

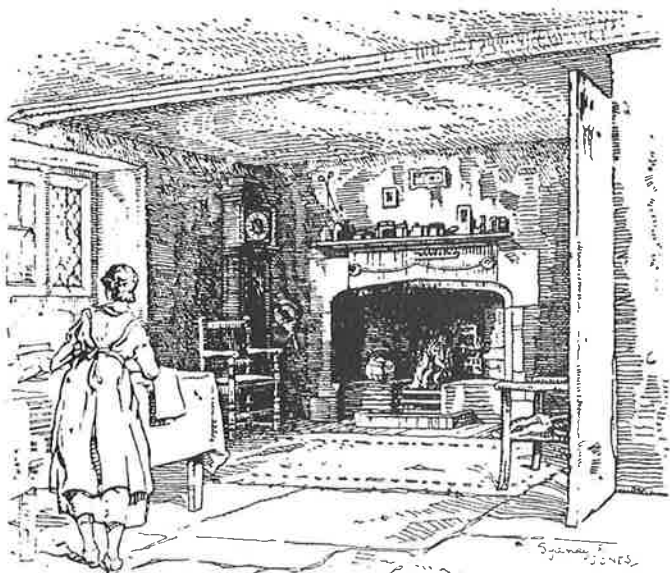
- 1 tin apple roaster; 1 coal basket; 1 copper basket; 1 copper basin; 1

- pair of bellows; 1 flour box; 1 spice box; 2 iron candlesticks; 3 chairs; 1 leather chair; 2 cleavers; 2 colanders (at least 1 of which is brass); 1 copper to boil meat; iron serving dishes; 7 stewing dishes; 4 brass dishes for servants' meat; 2 copper dishes for meat; 2 tin dressing boxes (ie dreggers); 4 dresser-boards; 1 tender; 1 fire fork; 1 flesh or beef fork; 1 form; 1 iron grate with sliding cheek; 1 tin grater; 2 gridirons; 1 jack with three chairs; 1 brass water kettle; 1 fish kettle and false bottom; 2 chopping knives; 3 mincing knives; 1 brass basting ladle; 1 brass ladle; 12 brass larding pins; 1 brass mortar with an iron pestle; 2 marble mortars with wooden pestle; 1 stone mortar with wooden pestle; 1 brass pail; 1 pairing shovel; 1 large carp pan and cover with false bottom; 2 iron dripping pans; 3 trying pans; 9 saucepans; 6 stewing pans; 4 patty pans with 3 covers and 2 sets

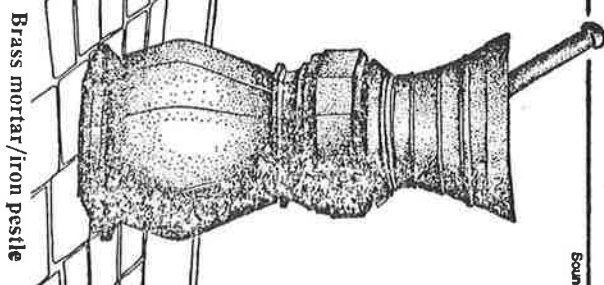
- of patty pans; 12 patties; 2 pastry (peels); 2 pot hooks; 5 brass pots and 4 covers; 1 pair iron racks (ie jack racks); 2 iron rings; 1 rolling pin; 2 shavers; 1 fire shovel; 2 skimmers; 6 spits; 9 lark spits; 1 brass spoon; 1 iron stand; 1 toasting iron; tongs; 1 wooden tray; 9 iron trivets; tubs (for rinsing and 1 for salt and 1 for flour).

"Can you explain what a pairing shovel is or what patties are? Or draw an apple roaster?", Caroline Davidson asks. Among the lesser items whose purchase is recorded in the account books are: two cabbage nets, 12 galley pots and wrings, one quire of kitchen paper, one mouse-trap, two pigpens and eight turkens (for potage).

Geraldine Norman

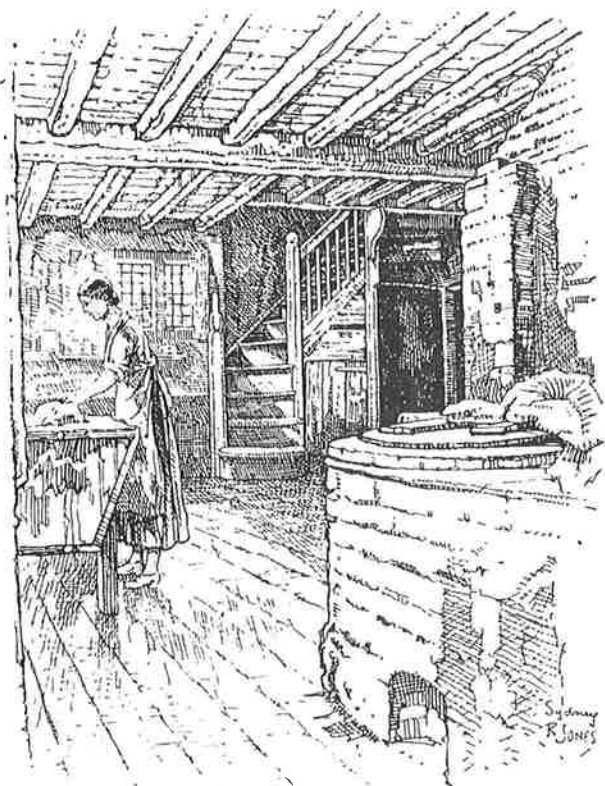


STONE FIREPLACE, CHIPPING CAMPDEN



Brass mortar/iron pestle

Scout



BACK KITCHEN, HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN