

Glossary

Cabinet Maker – A craftsman who makes decorative and sophisticated furniture.

Carving – A process of using tools to remove wood to leave behind a decorative pattern. (See carving fact sheet for further information).

Chippendale – Thomas Chippendale (Senior or the Elder). Born 1718 in Otley and died 1778. Chippendale was a brilliant furniture maker and designer who made pieces for some of the most important houses of the Georgian period.

Chippendale the Younger or Chippendale Junior – Thomas Chippendale's eldest son was also called Thomas Chippendale. He was born in 1749 and was trained by his father. He continued his father's furniture making business even after his bankruptcy in 1804 and eventually died in 1823.

Clothes Press – Similar to a wardrobe but had shelves rather than a hanging rail. In the Georgian period clothes were laid flat to be stored not hung on hangers.

Furniture Designer – A craftsman who designs furniture but doesn't necessarily make it. Thomas **Chippendale** was skilled in making furniture but had a large workshop where the furniture was actually produced.

Chippendale spent more of his time designing furniture rather than making it.

Gilding – Using very thin layers of gold leaf to decorate the surface of furniture, frames etc. A technique that was specialised and expensive. (See gilding fact sheet for further information)

Joiner – Someone who makes basic furniture using 'joints' but limited decorative features.

Mahogany – A type of wood used regularly by Thomas **Chippendale** and other makers of the period. It has a dark reddish, brown appearance and has a very tight grain so it can be **carved** very finely. It was imported from the West Indies and Central America.

Marquetry – Is a process of cutting out very fine and intricate pieces of wood know as **veneers** which were then stuck together to form a decorative feature on a piece of furniture. (See marquetry fact sheet for further information).

Motif – A specific decoration used by designers to decorate their furniture. They were often repeated to build up symmetry or pattern. (See sheet of Chippendale motifs for ones that he typically used).



The Director – In 1754 **Chippendale** published the first edition of *'The Gentleman and Cabinet Maker's Director'*. This was the first ever catalogue of furniture designs and proved to be very popular. There was a second edition published in 1755 and a third edition printed in 1762.

Veneer – A fine, thin piece of wood available in a wide range of colours that was cut into shapes to make decorative features on pieces of furniture. (See **Marquetry**)

Writing Table – Similar to a desk but more highly decorated than the modern kind!

Upholstery – Fabric fixed to a piece of furniture for comfort and decoration: for example and seat on a chair.