

GRDM EXHIBITION OPENING EXTENDED

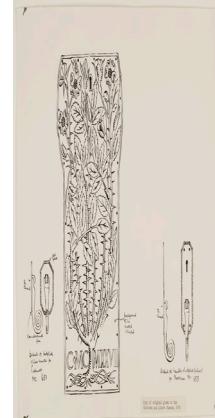
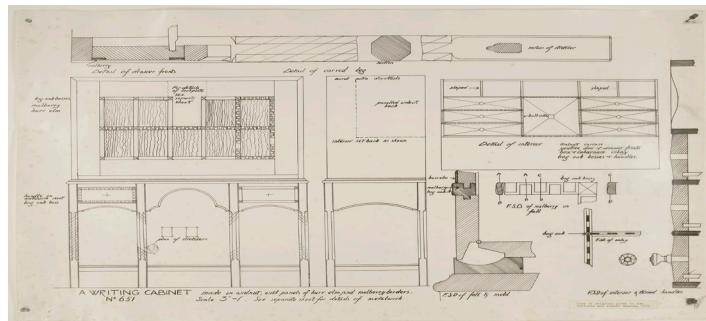
Thanks to the generosity of the lenders the GRDM has extended the run of its current exhibition, 'Teaching the Machine Manners. Making in the Modern Age', to 15th August. This will enable visitors to see both this show and the complementary exhibition at nearby Compton Verney.



GORDON RUSSELL ON LOAN TO COMPTON VERNEY EXHIBITION

An early Gordon Russell cabinet (design no.651) has been lent by the V&A Museum for 'The Arts and Crafts House: Then and Now' exhibition at Compton Verney. Pannelled with burr elm and inlaid mulberry, this writing cabinet has a silver lock plate and bog oak bosses.

The GRDM has lent Gordon Russell's design drawings for display alongside the finished piece.



Images courtesy of Gordon Russell Trust

REPORTS ON TALKS IN THE UPSTAIRS GALLERY



Craft in the Digital Age

Former GR craftsman, and museum volunteer, Martin Blakeman was in the audience on Monday 22nd June when Barnaby Scott gave a presentation on the use of CNC technology. Martin remembered when Gordon Russell's craftsmen had first used CNC at Broadway in the 1980s. In those days machines worked in 2D but this still speeded up the production process and the repetitive accuracy but it could only be afforded by the bigger factories. In his talk, and the exhibits he had lent to the museum's exhibition, Barnaby Scott demonstrated how, his company used the 3D CNC technology in small and one-off projects, greatly enhancing the possibilities for the designers-makers.

Martin added that students from the Royal Leamington Spa College School of Arts, and a group from Peter Sefton workshop at Upton, attended this talk and a talk by Amber Bailey on marquetry techniques, as used by Gordon Russell in his design of a cigarette box lent to the GRDM exhibition. Her own portfolio of work was quite amazing to see and the students were riveted by both presentations. *I am sure Gordon would have loved it*, added Martin.

Gordon Russell: a living legacy from the Cotswolds to contemporary design



On Monday 6th July design activist and author Jeremy Myerson visited the GRDM to talk about Gordon Russell's legacy. A high octane review of award winning designs, chosen by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers' Guild Mark Committee, clearly exemplified the on-going spirit of Gordon Russell: outstanding design, honesty of materials, fine finish.

He then considered five distinct chapters of Gordon Russell's life, from his Arts & Crafts origins, his influence as an international designer, his appointment of his younger brother Dick as Head of Design, his wartime management of the Utility furniture programme, and finally his post-war roles in leading events like the Festival of Britain, Director of the new Design Council and ultimately an ambassador for British design.

In response to questions Jeremy explained that Gordon passed on the role to his brother Dick because, with his training at the Architectural Association, he was more in tune with the Art Deco ethos of the 1930s. In the 1970s, following his retirement, Gordon returned to designing furniture and showed that he still favoured Arts & Crafts design.

Jeremy delivered a brilliant synopsis and I only wished I had heard it when I first joined the museum. The discussion continued over a very enjoyable dinner at Russells which had formerly been the Gordon Russell company headquarters.

Richard Paice

GORDON RUSSELL AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Gordon Russell/Rycotewood Furniture Centre Design Prize

The 2015 Gordon Russell/Rycotewood Furniture Centre Design Prize, sponsored by Hands of Wycombe and The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers was awarded to Chris Maffey. The judges felt that he had demonstrated the concept and level of innovation, the quality of making and use of materials and the relevance of the solution as set out in the brief. His butterfly display cabinet was made in English sycamore with a fluted surround to the case, which extended down the legs. The secret compartment, as specified in the brief, was contained in a sliding base to the cabinet.

The winner with the judges: *I to r Robert Hamilton, the winner Chris Maffey, Ray Leigh, Trevor Chinn, Tom Rawlings and Wade Dunford.*



Michael Russell Memorial Prize

In memory of his father, and Gordon Russell's eldest son Michael, David Russell provided a prize of £500 for the student who the judges felt had shown the best piece of furniture at this year's Rycotewood Summer Exhibition. The students had set themselves challenging projects to demonstrate the culmination of three years' study at Rycotewood.

The high level of design and quality in the sixty pieces on display impressed the judges, Tony Smart for The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers, Ray Leigh and Trevor Chinn for the Gordon Russell Trust, and they found it very encouraging that young designers and makers demonstrated such a high level of skill and ability. After much deliberation the judges eventually awarded the prize to Jan Waterson for his remarkable cabinet made in solid and veneered oak. The sculptured doors and the method of hinging are a unique feature of this piece when viewed from any angle.

The judges thanked the dedicated team of tutors, led by Joe Bray. Their enthusiasm and dedication in supporting and challenging the students is central to the achievements so evident in the work shown at this year's exhibition. Rycotewood College is a hive of energy and creativity.



GRDM Award to Royal Leamington Spa College

The Trustees instituted a new award this year for the most outstanding furniture student at Royal Leamington Spa College. The successful candidate was Philipp Stummer. His course work projects were challenging and excelled with imaginative and creative solutions to the design brief. His careful and considered use of the materials, and the use of sustainable and renewable materials, including locally sourced hardwood. Contrasting timbers provided aesthetic and functionally pleasing solutions, and the attention to detail in the construction and jointing techniques comparable to a professional level provided a very satisfactory result. The surface finish reflected consideration to the timber and practically of the item of furniture.

Philip Stummer with Sean Feeney, GRDM Trustee



Broadway & TowerView Playgroup visit the GRDM

The children from Broadway & Towerview Playgroup recently visited the Museum. The museum's education team talked about some of the furniture, then asked the children to look at the chairs and decide which one was the biggest, which medium sized and lastly the baby size chair. The children had lots to say and one little girl said she would go home and draw a picture of all the furniture and all the people she saw on their visit.

One of the museum's volunteers, Sue Gavin, said that 'it would be nice to think that we have sown the seeds to encourage a new generation of furniture designers'.



A Gem of British Furniture History

When furniture and filmmaker Jeremy Broun visited the GRDM recently, to hear Barnaby Scott's talk, he took the opportunity to make a short video about the museum. The GR Chairman, Richard Paice, gives a brief tour highlighting key items, and Jeremy Broun adds his voice about Russell's vision about handskill and machines. See: <https://youtu.be/nLcCRrql94U>



CORRECTION: Please note that the link for the Crafts Study Centre at Farnham is <http://www.csc.ucreative.ac.uk/> and not the one given in GRDM newsletter 22