

# DRESSER NEWS

## Something special in this edition!

So - in the last few editions we've asked for contributions from our members.... and now we've got something truly amazing to share with you. Lawrence Larose, one of our generous benefactors, and founding member of the Christopher Dresser Society, took us at our word and sent us the photograph below.

He wrote -

*'Attached is a photo of the "Christopher Dresser Salon" that my wife Janet and I built to display our extensive Dresser collection in our newly renovated townhouse in St Petersburg Florida. The collection contains more than 400 pieces designed by Dr Dresser in every medium (even the curtains are an original Dresser design for Templeton's from 1868) and by every known manufacturer (except Old Hall!). We thought that readers of the Dresser Society newsletter might find this interesting.'*



## Interesting?

Interesting? Rather an understatement, Mr Larose! There is so much to unpack in this image I shan't even begin - hopefully you'll be able to zoom in on the photograph on your own device and have a closer look. There are so many pieces there that are familiar to us all, from museums, and books, and if we are lucky, our own personal collections.

However - I asked Lawrence two questions. Firstly, why no Old Hall? He responded -

*'The answer is two-fold. First, while I appreciate that you and many others are quite fond of the Dresser OH designs, purely as a matter of personal taste they do not inspire me in the same way as his designs for Minton or Wedgwood. Second, as a collector and student of the Good Doctor, I believe the OH production came about at a "low point" (at least financially) in his career that may have pushed him to a more "traditional" Victorian design aesthetic to maintain a market following rather than his other more non-traditional production during other periods.'*

I must admit I'd never even thought of those reasons, but they make perfect sense, and when I look at Old Hall again I will bear this in mind.

## My second question - 'Which is your favourite?'

Lawrence replied - *'My favourite piece in the collection is undoubtedly the prototype spherical handle teapot by James Dixon & Sons that we donated to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2021. You can see it here [www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/823191](http://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/823191) We donated the teapot and five other choice pieces to the Met for inclusion in the new British Galleries that opened in the same year after noticing that Dresser was woefully underrepresented. I am proud to say we are now the largest donors to the Met's Dresser collection which now fills its own handsome display case in the British Galleries.'*



Isn't that just amazing? Many, many thanks go to Mr & Mrs Larose for sharing this with us, and for encouraging the visitors of the Metropolitan Museum to 'Discover Dresser.'

## Follow that...

Don't be shy! I bared my all a few months ago with my jigsawed favourite Linthorpe pot, so we've travelled from the ridiculous to the sublime. Let's have some pieces in between!

Contact details below.

## In other news

We mentioned the idea of an Autumn trip to the Midlands - many thanks for your responses, and you will have been contacted individually if you expressed an interest. However, for everyone else, we have decided that April 2026 will be the optimum time for a visit. We are working on this, and will give more details in our next newsletter which will be sent out before Christmas.

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