

WILKINSON Plc

Newsletter – August 2017

Skinners Hall Candelabra

This month we worked on restoring a set of 6 candelabra from the Court Room of one of London's oldest Livery companies, The Worshipful Company of Skinners.

Their metalwork had become very tarnished and there were several of the metal castings missing, in addition one leg was being held together with tape! The missing pieces were replaced with new metal castings, made from rubber moulds of the originals and the leg repaired, the metalwork was thoroughly cleaned and any pieces that had lost of their original gilding, were re-plated in antique gilt to blend with

the older pieces.

The wiring on the candelabra was old and very brittle and a majority of the white glass candle tubes were broken, in addition the old rubber bungs holding the lamp holders in place had begun to deteriorate, so the candles and their shades were leaning in a number of directions. The shades were removed and the glass candles and lamp holders replaced with tall French nylon candles which gave the candelabra a much sleeker finish and stood in front of mirrors at Skinner's Hall, they now have much more of a visual impact without their shades.

Firle Place Antique Chandelier

Also completed in August was the restoration of a stunning antique Regency chandelier dating from 1820-1830 belonging to the historic Firle Place Country House. It was in a very poor condition and sadly









about 20% of the original crystal dressings were missing and what remained was barely held together by badly deteriorated metal pins, with many drops being in the incorrect position. Finding replacements from our antique stocks, we were able to re-graduate all the strands of crystals correctly using new strong brass pins and hanging them historically correctly on the restored metal framework.

An original nozzle was broken so we were able to have a grey lead crystal replacement blown and then cut by our skilled glass workers. The chandelier was fully rewired to remove all the old brittle electrical flex and fitted with new energy efficient LED bulbs. It will be re-installed by our team in September in the 15th Century building in Sussex.





