



# From the workbench of...

Shop notes from Volume 2  
of *The Scale Cabinetmaker*

August 1977 to July 1978

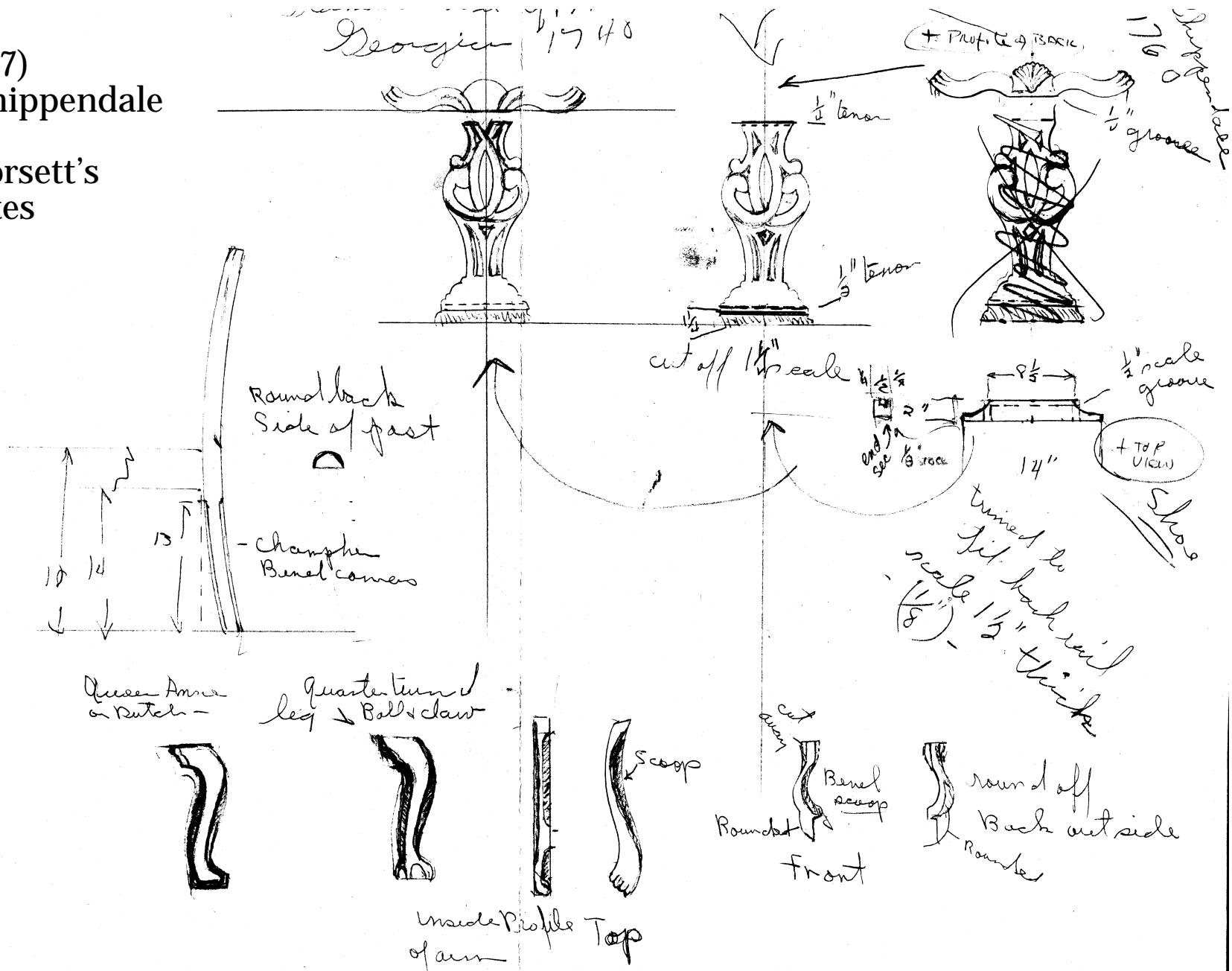
## TSC 2:1

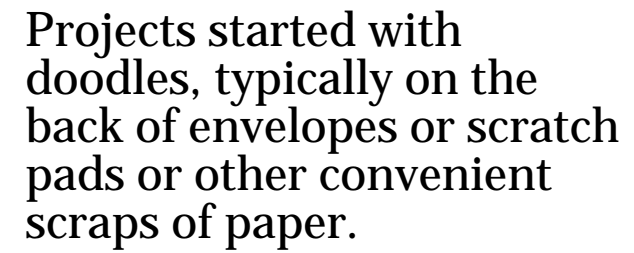
(Fall, 1977)

## 1940's Chippendale

# Helen Dorsett's

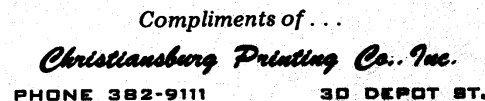
# Shop Notes





Farm Kitchen  
TSC 2:1  
Fall, 1997

Helen Dorsett



Hand-drawn technical drawing of a Night Stand, TSC 2:2, Winter, 1978. The drawing includes a side view, a top view, and a detail view of the corner. The side view shows a rectangular frame with a curved top and a small shelf. Dimensions include 48 inches for the total height, 18 inches for the width, and 16 inches for the depth. The top view shows a square base with a circular cutout in the center. The detail view shows the corner of the frame with a curved top and a small shelf. Annotations include 'VIS. ELEVATION', 'NO FILL (EVEN STR.)', 'KEEP', 'DRAW BRACE BLEND ALSED PIN', 'CIRCLE CLEAR', 'Wash basin hole - 5 1/2 inch radius', 'center - 3/4 inch from sides', '1 1/2 inch from front edge', 'Place ment of drawer divides', and 'FIGURE I'. The drawing is signed 'Helen & Jim Dorsett'.

FIGURE I

Helen & Jim Dorsett



# Sheraton Night Stand, TSC 2:2

Winter, 1978

2nd draft

Helen Dorsett

neck-fronts-

Corner Night Table - J. Sheraton - Plan Book  
- Introduction - Sheraton's influence - and last  
of furniture - Jordan 1790 - 1806 - etc -

Bill of materials -

$\frac{1}{16}$ " strip wood - Mahogany, ~~oak~~ wood or  
cane - ~~choice~~ or bass wood.

$\frac{1}{16}$ " bass for drawer -

$\frac{1}{32}$ " Mahogany or bass used for base in  
shelf and top part.

Spindles turned from  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $\frac{3}{16}$ " strip wood -

- Base or carcass - check grain - every thing dimension

3 - triangle (see pattern)  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ " bass wood

17" x  $17\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ " mahogany

- 1 side - vertical grain  $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $18\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ "

17 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $15\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ "

- 1 Bottom  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (pattern) -  $\frac{1}{32}$ " mahogany

- 6 Bracket feet - pattern  $\frac{1}{16}$ " mahogany

- 1 small corner triangle see pattern  $\frac{1}{32}$ " "

- Curved front - (vertical)

1 front  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $27\frac{3}{4}$ " -  $\frac{1}{16}$ " mahogany

1 drawer front -  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $27\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ "

- 1 - drawer guide -  $\frac{1}{16}$ " x  $\frac{1}{16}$ " x  $15\frac{1}{2}$ " -  $\frac{1}{32}$ " scrap.

3 false drawer - front piece  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $27\frac{3}{4}$ "

- Basin shelf unit or top part -

1 triangle shelf -  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " -  $\frac{1}{16}$ " mahogany

19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $19\frac{1}{2}$ " -  $\frac{1}{32}$ "

2 corner brackets -  $\frac{1}{32}$ "

1 small shelf -  $\frac{1}{32}$ "

2 straight aprons -  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $15\frac{3}{4}$ " -  $\frac{1}{16}$ "

1 apron - pattern  $\frac{1}{32}$ "

1 apron - front apron - pattern  $\frac{1}{16}$ " scrap.

3 spindles - Turned  $\frac{3}{16}$ " x  $\frac{3}{16}$ " square stock -

Sheraton Night Stand, TSC 2:2  
Winter, 1978  
3rd draft  
Jim Dorsett

TSC II:2  
WASHSTAND

~~xxxxx Washstands and their place in the history of the toilet~~

If it is true, as Francis Bacon wrote in 1605 in Advancement of Learning, that "cleanness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence to God," then the absence of any widespread regard for personal cleanliness before the 1800's or the facilities to make such possible is a sweeping indictment of the <sup>godlessness of the</sup> American public throughout at least <sup>2/3 of</sup> half of its history.

The simple fact is that before the advent of the modern era with its running water ~~and~~, municipal sewers, ~~its~~ and its notions of public sanitation and hygiene, the American public (as well as its European peers) was part of the "great unwashed." ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ No contemporary

restoration of colonial life at Wethersfield, Salem, or Williamsburg ~~and~~ (in their antiseptic <sup>NEARLY</sup> cleanliness) can ignore that fact without fostering in the visitor a false nostalgia for the past. <sup>AS PAST THAT EVEN MINUTE CHURCHY WOULD BE BOOM</sup>

Charles Francis Adams, Jr., the late 19th century historian and descendant of an illustrious line of American patriots, noted in 1890 that his contemporaries, "if carried back suddenly into the admired existence of the past.....[would] experience an acute and lasting attack of homesickness and disgust." And he concluded that "the earliest times in New England were not pleasant.....the earlier generations were not pleasant to live with."

The ~~xxxxx~~ night table and washstands which first appeared in George Hepplewhite's <sup>s</sup> (in 1794) in The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide and Thomas Sheraton's Drawing Book 1793 are only

<sup>timid</sup> <sup>public</sup> the first timid blush of a ~~timid~~ century-long <sup>process</sup> ~~movement~~ which finally ~~realized~~ the

moved the proper locus of human ablutions from the kitchen ~~and~~ and human elimination from the woods and privy to the modern bathroom. <sup>Privacy + convenience of the</sup> Herbert Cescinsky (in English Furniture) wrote

that "it is notable that Hepplewhite in the "Guide" timidly introduces the washstand as an article of household furniture, but the designs which he illustrates appear to be very inadequate affairs, more in the nature of shaving or powdering stands. It was an age [(ie., 1790's)] when cleanliness may have been next to godliness, but both were far removed from houses, and were not ~~designed~~ catered to by the cabinetmaker." In short, the Sheraton night table, which

# Notes from a kitbash project: TSC 2:2 (Winter, 1978)

This Layout Sheet For Kit 40024 Only **Layout Sheet** 1 Fold This Sheet Over For Kit 40025

