

## STOOL FROM BECKFORD'S TOWER DISCOVERED

It is likely that this stool originally formed part of the suite from the Crimson Drawing Room, with a combination of visual characteristics and contemporary auction records leading to this exciting attribution.



The stool can be directly compared to the example exhibited in 2001 at the *William Beckford: Eye for the Magnificent* exhibition (and illustrated along with a chair on pages 401-402 of the accompanying catalogue) and to the drawing of the room from Edmund English's *Views of Lansdown Tower* (1844).

The auction of Beckford's effects started on 20 November 1845; by the sixth day the contents of the

Crimson Drawing Room were sold. It is plausible that lots 386, 387 or 388 contained this stool, the descriptions read:

385. *Four Ebonised chairs, Fonthill pattern, seat and backs, covered in crimson cloth, with silk lace bullion fringes, gilt annulets and nails.*

386. *Two stools to match*

387. *Two ditto*

388. *Two ditto.*

The stool has now been recovered in accordance with the description, with a wool crimson cloth and finished with a handmade silk bullion fringe, and is now offered for sale.

PAUL SHUTLER

For more information contact Paul Shutler on 07748 407162 or [paul@pashutler.org.uk](mailto:paul@pashutler.org.uk) or visit [www.invest-in-design.com](http://www.invest-in-design.com)