

REGIONAL LINING PAPERS

John Boram's description in the last newsletter (No. 10) of a deed box lined with sheets from the Salisbury Journal has reminded me of a chest which I found many years ago lined with advertising broadsheets of a tea dealer in Lynn. Figs. I and II. The chest is of pine covered with a reddish brown paint or stain/varnish. On the lid, just above the lock, are scratched the initials and date J.B.1777. The iron carrying handles on each end are Nineteenth Century additions. The R.Eagleton who advertises himself on the papers appears in a local King's Lynn directory of 1854 as Robert Eagleton, Grocer and Tea Dealer, at 34, St. James' Street. His name does not appear in the directories for 1845 or 1864. One may assume therefore that the broadsheets became redundant and were used as lining papers some time between 1860 and 1870. Although this is nearly a century after the original date of the chest, I believe the social and geographical mobility of pine furniture during that period was as limited as that of its owners, and one may reasonably infer that this piece is of East Anglian origin - in spite of the fact that it was bought in a Dorchester (Dorset) saleroom in 1967.

Many thanks to the Borough Librarian, King's Lynn, for information re: R. Eagleton.

Gabriel Olive



Fig. I

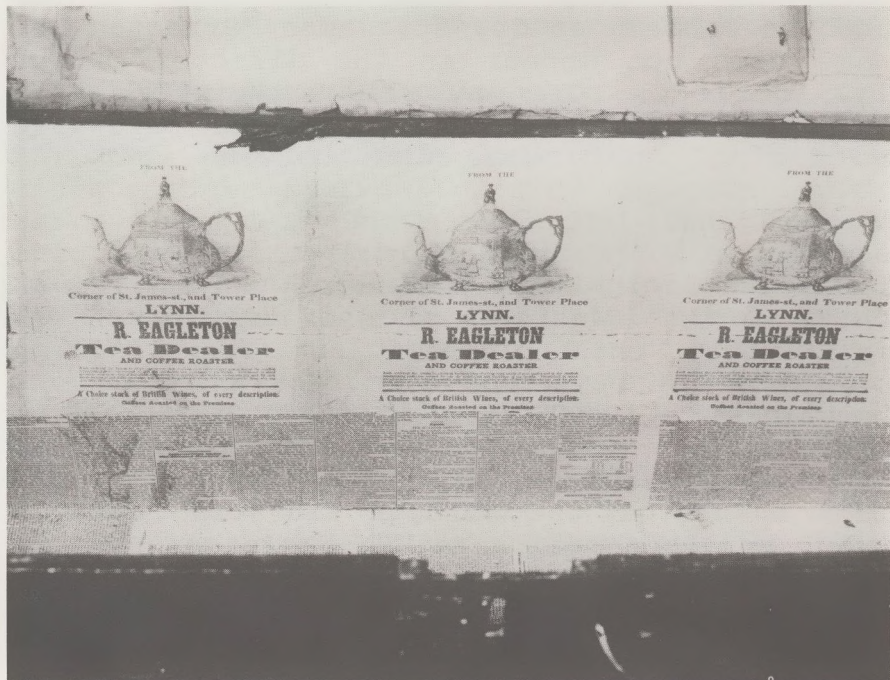


Fig. II