

AN ORKNEY CHAIR

This robust old pine chair (Fig. III) recently appeared in Herefordshire, a long way from its traditional Orkney home.

It is similar to chair (Fig. IV) which can be seen in the museum at Kirkwall, Orkney. Mr. Bruyce Wilson, Museums Officer, stated that the chair in the museum came from a house in Birksay and originally had a coat of cream paint.

The "coopered" construction of the curved high back has been completely achieved, the narrow planks or staves finely graduating towards the boxed in seat.

Mr. Ross Noble, curator of the Highland Folk Museum commented that there were high-backed wooden chairs in Shetland, lower panel-back chairs in both Orkney and Shetland, as well as the better known straw-back variety. The links between the two groups of islands in terms of furniture history have not been investigated in any real depth.

Barbara Pearce



Fig. III



Fig. IV