

## LABELLED FURNITURE FROM HERTFORDSHIRE

I enclose details of a table which recently passed through my auction rooms which members may find of interest.

Enclosed is a photograph of a late Georgian mahogany dining table sold in December by G E Sworder & Sons in their Bishop's Stortford Auction Rooms. The table comprised a drop leaf centre section and a pair of "D" ends on ten turned legs. It had been entered by a vendor in Buntingford, Hertfordshire and had been in their family for some considerable time. Beneath the table was pasted a paper trade label (figure 2) which read "*Matthew Worpell and Sons Carpenters, Joiners and Undertakers, Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers and Paper hangers, Baldock Street, Ware, Herts. NB Furniture Repaired or taken in Exchange*".

Matthew Worpell is recorded as a carpenter and cabinet maker in Water Row, Ware. (nr, Hertford) in 1823 and 1824; Matthew Worpell & Sons are also recorded in Water Row at that time but as auctioneers. Other members of the Worpell family are recorded after this date as carpenters, auctioneers and linen drapers, but there is no further record of Matthew. The family name disappears altogether after 1862.

The address on the table is Baldock Street, Ware. Matthew Worpell and Sons were probably in business at this address before moving to Water Row



Fig. 3 Table



Fig. 2 Label

because; A) The family had the Water Row premises continuously between 1823 to 1862 and B) Many businesses moved up the social ladder from Baldock Street to High Street and Water Row, but none are recorded moving in the opposite direction.

Therefore it is possible to deduce from the label that the table (figure 3) was made before 1823, probably around 1820. This information can be corroborated by the style of the piece which clearly dates it around this time.

If any member has further information of the Worpell family, I should be most grateful to hear from them.

Guy Schooling F.S.V.A.  
For and on behalf of G E Sworder & Sons