

'Improvements in the Manufacture of Ordinary Chairs, Railway and Steam Boat Chairs, Seats, and other Furniture, in Upholstering, Stoving, and Gimping the same, and in Machinery and Apparatus Connected therewith.

JAMES REILLY Pomona, Cornbrook Road Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, Chair Manufacturer, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:
....made of Mahogany or other woods, or wood and metal combined... and for destroying Moths, Grubs and other vermin... For cutting and Stamping Chair Gimp from wood metal or Fibre indenting and raised ornamental decorations on the same.

One would hardly expect that the inventive genius of James Reilly would have been content with the prevalent upholstery methods of his time. In 1887 he applied for a patent. No. 12,790 which was accepted in Dec. 1888,
First. *The Public has for years had their Homes made very uncomfortable by the breeding of Moths, Grubs, and all other sorts of vermin, in consequence of the filthy sorts of materials, which has been used for inside stuffing of middle and other Class of Furniture, this sort of material is principally old Rags, Flocks and other rubbishy materials, gathered from all parts of the Country ground up and carrying sickness and even Death to many Homes.*

Second. *To do away with this....I take a Railway or Steamboat Chair....instead of making the frame in the ordinary way I make the seat frame or other rails one, two or more inches deeper and brace the same with iron braces, or build upchairs to the same depth of frame with wood. I round the top edges so that it will not damage the upholstery when sitting on the seat...*

Third. *I do away with the ordinary fibre webbing and substitute thin steel, 30 to 36 Birmingham wire gauge. For the first covering I use a bare covering of Sacking or strong Carpet stretched tightly on the frame with strips of India rubber nailed to the Top edges..... I also cover with strong Sacking stretched tightly....in one, two or more thicknesses and cover the same with morocco leather, hair seating, damask, Utrecht velvet or any other kinds of material used in upholsteryI put between the thicknesses of Sacking a little sawdust, hair or other stuffing.... the Furniture is made in parts and bolted together when upholstered.'*

Reilly also describes a machine for making new forms of gimp, as follows:

'I allude to my improvements in Metal upholstery Gimp. From thin sheets of metal I cut strips the width of gimp. With two level edge circular cutters fastened on two adjustable spindles.....two disc rollers. On the periphery is the he and she worked pattern to be roller impressed on the thin strips of Metal Gimp, the nail holes punched at the same time. In the combination of Wood and Fibre gimp I take thin knife cut veneers crossed re-crossed and glued and pressed together... plain or with pattern on the edge'.

The two diagrams make these inventions plain. Sheet 5, Figs 6 and 7 show a side-chair; the section through the rails shows Reilly's raised edge, rounded on the outside to give an 'upholstered' profile, and on the inside to save wear, covered with the type of thin steel -sup-

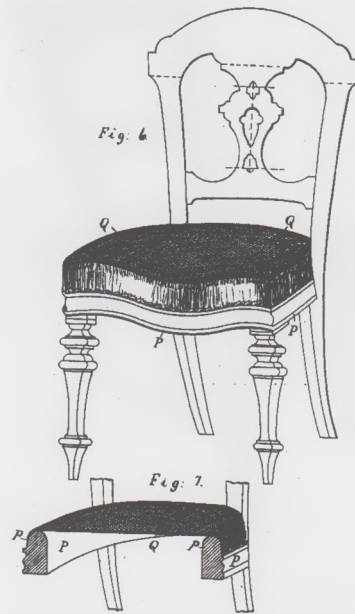
ported layers of material that he describes.

Sheet 6, Fig.12 shows his machine, driven by power (belt-drive wheel, V) or by hand. On the right, two shearing cutters 't' cut the sheet metal into strips. It is then embossed between the rollers 'U' which carry the pattern to be used, such as is seen in Sheet 6 figures 10 and 11. Wire patterns were made by flattening wire coils between the rollers for effects as shown in Sheet 6 Figs. 8 and 8a, while the Sheet 6 Fig. 9 pattern was formed by passing wire between toothed rollers, presumably 'u' and 'u' on the diagram.

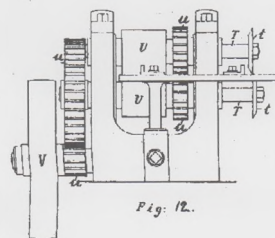
It would be extremely interesting to know if an RFS member has seen these methods of upholstery on a chair or seat of any kind. At one point, Reilly refers to their use on 'future' seats, so it does not necessarily follow that these ideas were successful or even used at all. It would be good to know.

By way of a finale to the submission, Reilly mentions his method of staining chairs, as follows:
'Furniture that requires to have a dark stain I stove with burning sawdust in a stove similar to that used by provision marchants for stoving or smoking hog products or in the process of curing dried fish'.

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James Reilly's
 Patent Sheet No. 5



James Reilly's
 Patent Sheet No. 6

