

Now that it has been decided that the Cotton Collection will be established at the Geffrye Museum, the Regional Furniture Museum Trust will be wound up in the next few months. Its assets comprise the archive formerly held by the Regional Furniture Society, a small number of artefacts donated to the Trust, including a collection of eight chairs, and some office equipment, now largely redundant apart from the computer equipment on which the Cotton Collection database has been entered. It is envisaged that all of these assets will be formally transferred to the Geffrye Museum in the coming months.

In giving his collection to the Geffrye, Dr Cotton has placed his faith in the museum's ability to foster the study of British regional furniture. The Geffrye provides a secure institution, supported by central government, to care for the collection in perpetuity and to develop the means to make it accessible. It can work to encourage new research, collate new discoveries and disseminate knowledge. It can produce exhibitions and publications to attract the interest of a wide public, both in the UK and abroad. It can develop education programmes to spark enthusiasm in new generations of students.

There can be little doubt about the potential, and if the cause is right, the funds will surely follow.

*David Dewing, Chairman*