

2. A name stamp is not always that of the maker!

Since the chair with the stamp of John Robinson of Preston came to light, (see Newsletter 34) a further stamped chair from the North West of England has been discovered by our member Phil Holland, who lives in Cheshire. His letter to me told me that the low armed rocking chair, which he found in an antiques shop, has a clear stamp on a front leg, H.Y. BOYLE and the number 272. He checked the maker index in *'The English Regional Chair'*, without success, and he queried the absence of this maker. His question raises an important issue about name stamps; which is that, on occasion, these may be applied by furniture retailers, as is the case here.

Harry Boyle of 80, King Street Blackburn, is shown, in

an 1899 Trades Directory, to be a retail Cabinet Maker, House Furnisher, Upholsterer, and Bed & Mattress Maker. He was not recorded at all in the 1888 Directory.

In Kelly's directory of 1918, Harry Boyle Ltd is recorded as furniture brokers and dealers at 70 and 80 King Street and 6 Salford Street.

This is an important piece of evidence, too, since it provides information about the way some chairs were retailed, and implies that this chair is probably a regional style to Blackburn; although it does have general similarities with other late 19th century chairs attributed to Ormskirk and elsewhere in the North West. Retailers are not included in our centralised maker index, but it is worth checking with us to see if we have a record, if no maker information is found.

B.D. Cotton.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10