



Jenny Lind



## Cover illustration:

*Welsh Peasants Reading the Franchise Bill*, oil, by Jenny Bond, 1884.

Jenny Bond was one of a number of artists that settled in Betws-y-Coed in the Conwy valley in the second half of the 19th century. She made a speciality of depicting various activities in domestic interiors, and this painting used the viewpoint favoured by many artists, looking towards the hearth which dominated the living room of rural homes. The newspaper being consulted was the radical weekly, *Y Genedl Gymreig*, and the subject matter - electoral reform - would have been of major concern to members of the community.

The picture shows a longcase clock with brass dial; round table of stick construction; joined chair of late 17th century type; stool; suspended shelf above the hearth; wall-hanging cupboard; joined chair or perhaps settle; and a three-legged stick chair. The last is interesting because the arms are fixed to the outside rear uprights, rather than being continuous around the back. This is the usual design on Irish chairs but is not normal on Welsh chairs, although a number of provenanced examples have been identified from different parts of north Wales.

*From Welsh Furniture 1250-1950: A Cultural History of Craftsmanship and Design* by Richard Bebb (see p.16).