



Cover Picture

Interior of a Welsh kitchen with a man seated by an open fire, watercolour over pencil, 7 in × 10¼ in, David Cox (1783–1859). Courtesy of the Martyn Gregory Gallery, 34 Bury St, London SW1Y 6AU.

This interesting little watercolour was seen at last summer's Masterpiece Exhibition in London.

It shows what may have been a South Wales cottage possibly in the Valleys; certainly it is set on a hillside. If one looks out of the main door it is possible to see down onto the roof of the neighbouring houses. The house has a central stack that contains the fireplace that dominates the picture; a pot-crane hangs above the large fire-basket with two candlesticks on the shelf above.

Another aspect that could imply a South Walian origin for the picture is that the chair that the old man is sitting in looks very similar to those illustrated in Luke Millar's article, 'Late Georgian Wooden-bottomed chairs in South Wales' in *Regional Furniture*, 1991. The low round table is interesting as is the joined table set against the wall with its bold, turned legs. Philip Havard has suggested that the shape, with its projecting upper collar, was popular in Wales but was not exclusively Welsh. The small flagged stone floor, robust ledged door and latch all make for an interesting Welsh vernacular interior c. 1810–15.

David Cox (1783–1859) was a well thought of artist in the first half of the 19th century mostly working in watercolour and only later in his life using oil. Born in Birmingham he moved between London and the Midlands painting and teaching. Cox visited Wales many times throughout his long life.

Treve Rosoman

