





## Cover Picture

*Interior with Women at a Linen Cupboard.* 1663. Pieter de Hooch (1629–c. 1684). Oil on canvas, (Acc No. SK-C-1191). Courtesy of Rijksmuseum; on loan from the City of Amsterdam.

Seventeenth-century Dutch painting is famous for scenes of domestic life and this painting by Pieter de Hooch, done during his 'Amsterdam period', is a fine example. It is of particular interest to the Regional Furniture Society as it shows a linen cupboard, or *kast*, in use in its original domestic setting and similar to one that those who went to Amsterdam saw in the Rijksmuseum in March.

The picture shows the interior of one of the narrow, canal-side Amsterdam houses possibly off one of the lesser canals. Two women, probably mother and daughter to judge from the clothes and jewellery that the younger woman is wearing, are putting away folded table linens into a fine decorative *kast*. The cupboard is almost certainly made of oak with ebony highlights to the raised mouldings and with typical, large-scale ebonised bun-feet; the pale oak colour of the carcass is of interest. Note the decorative key in the door and the blue and white bowls set on top of the cupboard. Set by the stairs is a black, rush-seated chair with its turned legs, low back and embroidered cushion. Notice too, the diaper pattern wickerwork basket, so like a modern dirty-washing basket, and a slope-sided tray or voider leaning against it.

The little girl plays with a small ball and 'kolfstok'; seventeenth century kolf was an early game related to modern golf. Beyond the girl one can see across the narrow canal to the houses on the other side.