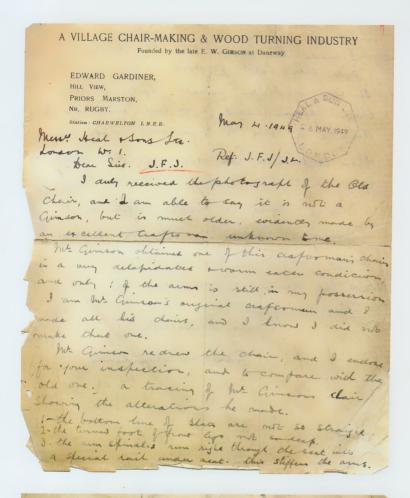
Letter from Edward Gardiner, 4 May 1949

This is an incomplete snippet of history which I pass on in case it may provide some clues to help the broader picture. The letter from Edward Gardiner is addressed to J. F. J. at Heal's and it came to me some years ago with some other old papers rescued from Heal's by an ex-employee, probably in the 1960s.

J. F. Johnson was the furniture buyer at Heal's for many years and in his old age seems to have continued to run the antiques department. Johnson evidently had sent Gardiner a photo of an old chair asking if it was one of Gimson's. Gardiner replies in the negative suggesting it is 'much older'. He implies that Gimson's version of the chair was based on a very dilapidated version of the same chair that Johnson is enquiring about, 'made by an excellent craftsman unknown to me' and he then continues to list the alterations Gimson made to the design as follows:



Photograph of the chair sent by Johnson to Gardiner



I made two chains like this recently and they: Cost \$7-10-0

If you want an exact offy fryome chair please send life singe arawings of details of 1 + 2 overleaf, and any other differences you may notice between you chair from son's drawing.

I also send a photograph of Common's Chair it has a very large seat by the way.

Note > the drawing must come by Sefarate post.

Jones faithfully

Edward Gardine.

- 1. the bottom line of slats are not so straight.
- 2. the turned foot of front legs not so deep.
- 3. the arm spindles run right through the seat into a special rail under the seat. This stiffens the arms.

Gardiner says, 'I am Mr Gimson's original craftsman and I made all his chairs' and says he will enclose a tracing of the Gimson chair showing these alterations. 'I made two chairs like this recently and they cost £7 10s 0d'. However, he ends the letter by saying the drawing must come by separate post but encloses a photograph of the chair. Sadly, the drawing was not with the letter when it came to me but the photograph was.

Oliver Heal

Letter, Edward Gardiner to J. F. Johnson, 4 May 1949