

REVIEW

GREEN WOODWORK

by Mike Abbott

Published by The Guild of Master Craftsman Publications. Price: £12.50.

Those who attended the construction weekend in 1989 will well remember the expertise energy and enthusiasm displayed by Mike Abbott and these same characteristics are clearly evident to readers of this recently published book. They should not expect to find details of techniques applicable to power tools, Mike eschews such restrictive devices. Nor will they find reference to forms of furniture other than chairs and stools although obviously similar techniques apply to simple tables, etc..

What Mike gives us is a comprehensive description of his way of working with green wood (with a strong bias towards the pole lathe) in easily understood detail with ample illustrations. His considerable experience of teaching this neglected subject must have been of great benefit in dispelling any reservations the beginner might experience. He explains in great detail not only how but also why he employs particular methods and follows given sequences.

Of further encouragement to the beginner is his emphasis on simple low cost equipment much of it home made (in itself a most satisfying exercise). My only criticism is the omission of dividers in the list of measuring tools, I find them invaluable at the marking out stage especially for three legged stools.

In addition to chairmaking readers will find several other green wood projects covered, these include bowl turning, spoon carving, fencing and rake making, of necessity some of these descriptions are rather brief.

That being said, the coverage of timber utilisation and technology is of particular value especially to the beginner.

With this excellent book Mike has produced a work long overdue and I thoroughly recommend it to anyone wishing to try their hand at country chair making, perhaps it should carry a health warning "THIS BOOK IS LIKELY TO CAUSE OBSESSIONS".

David Bennett