

## Book Review

Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware. Volume 1.  
EJNER HANDBERG. The Berkshire Traveller Press, Stockbridge,  
Mass. U.S.A. Rprce 3.95.

In this book the author, a cabinet maker of some fifty years experience, has set out to provide eighty measured drawings and details of pieces of Shaker furniture that have passed through his hands for repair or reproduction. The drawings demonstrate the simplicity of the furniture made by this American religious sect and the details they reveal are very interesting.

For the many people who find it difficult to angle a hanging mirror suspended from the wall in the usual way, the Shaker solution to the problem that he shows is a simple but effective one. A flat board with a channeled member pegged across its base is suspended from the wall. The mirror rests in this and is distanced from the back board by a strap fixed between it and the top of the mirror frame. This simple but ingenious device precludes the use of a frame within which the mirror pivots and its attendant stand, and is indicative of the careful thought that has gone into the construction of this deceptively simple looking furniture.

Elsewhere he shows sections through typical knobs, pulls and wall pegs, the last reminding one of the custom of suspending small pieces of furniture and other household impedimenta from racks of such pegs fixed to the walls of rooms, a custom attested to in numerous 18th and 19th century pictures (c.f. "Blind-Mans Buff" by David Wilkie, R.A.). This practice also explains the numerous random pegs and peg holes that are to be found in the upright wall studs of so many East Anglian houses to the present day.

This collection of drawings, together with those in other volumes of the same series, deserve very close study, not only for the details of Shaker furniture itself but also upon the way it was used about the house.

Lionel Reynolds

#### Publications by members

Victor Chinnery - Regional Oak Furniture.  
Antique Oak and Country Furniture. Supplement to  
The Antique Collector Magazine. October 1985.

This article by a member of R.F.S.G. outlines the problems of research into regional styles and the urgent need for such work in Britain. Seven pieces are discussed individually including pieces from Exeter, South Yorkshire, Westmorland and Warwickshire. The supplement also contains a good range of illustrated advertisements and an index of some dealers in oak and country furniture.