

## **M Barrington: The Work of The British Antique Furniture Restorers Association (BAFRA) and the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC)**

Michael Barrington (Chairman of BAFRA) gave a detailed account of the works and aims of BAFRA and the UKIC.

The Association was founded in 1978 by students from West Dean, becoming the UKIC's Specialist Furniture Section in 1987.

The objects of the Association are to promote and encourage

1. *The maintenance of high professional standards*
2. *The dissemination of information amongst members*
3. *The provision of advisory and reference services to restorers*
4. *The provision of business and other professional services for members*
5. *The stimulation of public awareness of the Association*

The Association is active on many educational and research fronts. Examples of these include the introduction of NVQ's for restoration/conservation, the investigation and evaluation of the *Thermo Lignum Process* (a heat and humidity controlled process for the eradication of fungal and insect attack); and Passports for Works of Art. This last is a priority project and it is hoped that the use of such passports will make the tracing of stolen works of art easier and guarantee the integrity of the piece. Many problems have to be solved but the ideal is that any piece of importance is recorded in detail - history, restoration work, owners etc. with accompanying photographic and pictorial records.

Amongst the key issues being addressed by the UKIC are the preparation of Code of Ethics, the formulation of a Code of Professional Practice, the development of the Conservation Forum - a means of enabling regular communication between conservation bodies in the UK and Eire, involvement with the MTI (Museums Training Institute) and The Conservation Unit in the establishment of standards and NVQ's.

*BAFRA and UKIC are at 6 Whitehorse Mews, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QD 0171 620 6671/3761*