

**Charles Tracy & Hugh Harrison, *The Choir-Stalls of Amiens Cathedral*, Spire Books, PO Box 2336, Reading, RG4 5WJ, 2006 (£49.95).**

This is a superbly illustrated study of one of the finest examples of monumental joinery and carving in the world. The Amiens stalls date from the early 16th century and are without doubt the finest of their time. In addition to the exquisite flamboyant architecture, they contain a treasury of narrative and decorative carvings.

In this masterly and scholarly work, the authors examine when the stalls were made, who produced them, their iconography and architecture. There is an evaluation of the furniture's crucial art-historical significance, particularly in respect of its unmistakable Italian renaissance influence. Moreover, for the first time, the structure and joinery have been carefully analysed and explained.

Charles Tracy is the leading authority on church furniture in wood and is well known for his publications. Hugh Harrison is the foremost woodwork conservator in Britain who was recently involved in the conservation of the 13th century painted nave ceiling at Peterborough cathedral.

***Colin Piper***