

Yvonne Jones, *Japanned Papier Mâché and Tinware c. 1740-1940*

Antique Collectors' Club, 2012 (£45).

While the subject of this book may not have obvious relevance to regional furniture, it has a claim to our interest because it not only embraces particular forms of furniture but also production processes largely carried on in specific areas of Britain and elsewhere. We have been hungry for it for a long time, and members of the RFS have been among those who encouraged the author in differing ways along the precarious path towards publication. Our belief in the project has been triumphantly justified.

Meticulous research combined with a thorough understanding of technical processes underpins the work, and a potentially baffling range of material has been organised into coherent sections, with well-placed illustrations and helpful cross-referencing. So there are chapters on the origins of japanning in the West, the history of tinplate working, the development of the papier mâché trade, the separate japanning industries of the West Midlands and those of other European centres. Details of individual makers and their products, from chairs, tables and cabinets to trays, snuff boxes and bottle stands are examined; all sections are generously illustrated.

There can hardly be a household that does not contain at least a few examples of japanned papier mâché or tinware, and this exhaustive study will be an invaluable tool in identifying not only where a piece was made and when, but in understanding the processes of its manufacture.

Noël Riley