

George Shillibear's Chair — further comment

The coat of arms is fanciful in the best tradition of vernacular art. The 'horse' might be a rampant lion. Were the thistle and rose added long after 1685? And are the occupational emblems those of a blacksmith? The trade tools of an adze and tack hammers could be consistent with cooperage. An anvil? To me it resembles an adze. There were presumably plenty of coopers in Plymouth (and Exeter). However, the crossed objects remain difficult. Bellows is a good idea but perhaps there are other options.

Stephen Jackson

Ed: if anyone else has any thoughts on this please do send them in.



Detail of armchair showing the medallion. The Burrell Collection (I4.I17). © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection