

English Country Furniture: The National and Regional Vernacular, 1500-1900

David Knell

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David Knell : English Country Furniture: The National and Regional Vernacular, 1500-1900 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised English Country Furniture: The National and Regional Vernacular, 1500-1900:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy ed fulkersonGreat book12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Excellent ReferenceBy David C. BraytonThe book is filled with page after page of pictures of English country furniture. Every type of furniture is covered: beds, tables, washstands, clocks, chairs (lots of chairs), desks, cupboards, sideboards, hutches and lots of other miscellany. The examples are many and they give an excellent feel of the variety and quality of furniture from this period/area. Most of the photos have a brief description which usually includes the type of wood(s) used and some text that puts the piece in context. All of the photos show the date and location of manufacture. The text has a great discussion on construction (dovetails, nails, etc.) but the discussion is general; rarely is there a discussion of joinery techniques regarding a specific piece. Most of the photos are black and white (>80%) with four sections of color plates. There is only one photo of each piece, which is a shame for pieces that have interiors, such as cupboards and sideboards This book gets only four stars because dimensions are not given for any of the furniture. I really wish that dimensions were provided to give a sense of scale.

The literature on English period furniture has largely been dominated by a preoccupation with that of the rich and

upper classes, resulting in a neglect of the humbler pieces used in more ordinary homes over the centuries. This attitude is now regarded as unacceptable, however, and the past everyday furniture of England has accordingly become the focus of intensive research. This book, the first major production of its kind and now a classic reference work, examines the pieces found in humbler urban and rural homes over a span of some four centuries, throwing fresh light on such aspects as regional variations, dating assessment, construction techniques, stylistic influence and context. Each of the many examples illustrated, most of them previously unpublished in book form, is accompanied by a detailed caption giving timber, a realistic date range and an extensive description, including such information as local characteristics, finish, distinctive decorative features and manufacturing methods. In