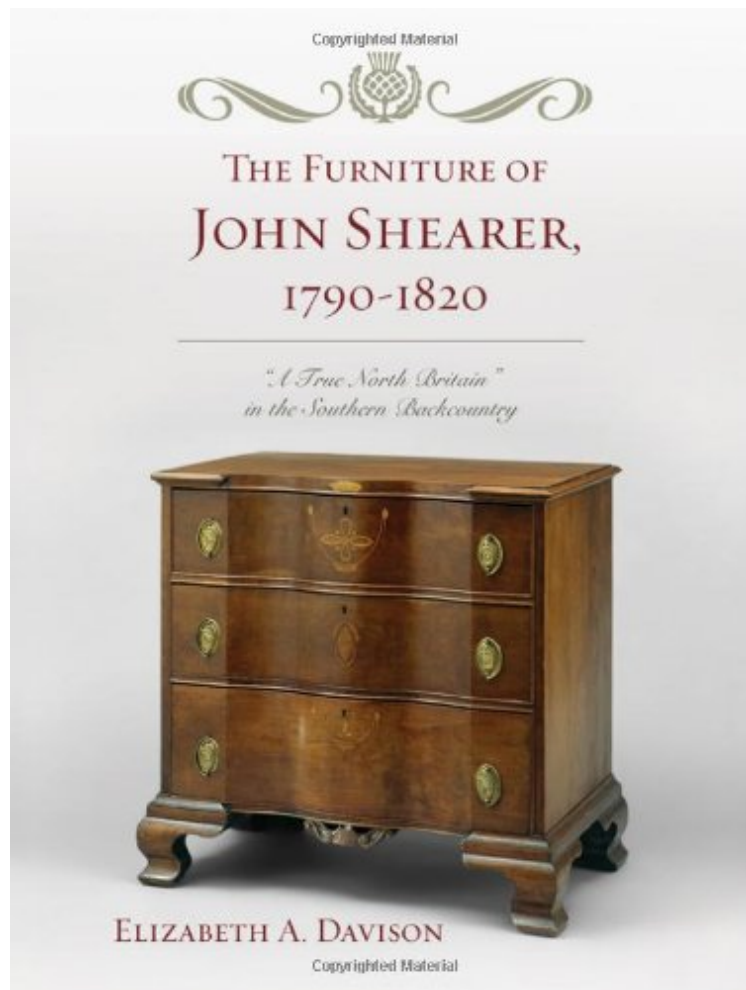


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## The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820: 'A True North Britain' in the Southern Backcountry

Elizabeth A. Davison

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**Elizabeth A. Davison : The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820: 'A True North Britain' in the Southern Backcountry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820: 'A True North Britain' in the Southern Backcountry:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Classic cabinet maker book written from a very different perspective!By VickyThis publication on the furniture of John Shearer has been well researched, is well documented, is well organized, and has fabulous pictures. Ms. Davison, a former student of author and professor Dr. Oscar Fitzgerald, was a technical writer who approaches the furniture of John Shearer with an inquisitive mind. Her writing skills are excellent and the material is presented in a concise and organized way. It is not a another "boring furniture

book" but not only focuses on the characteristics of John Shearer furniture, but on the man, his life and his times. Great reference book and good read! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. MYSTERIOUS SHEARER By Ronald Lewis Napier This is an important reference book. The research was thorough. The descriptions are thorough and detailed. The photographs are superior. If early furniture of the Shenandoah Valley region interests you, you need to have this book in your library.

This book is a full-color catalogue raisonne interprets the distinctive furniture made by John Shearer, one of the most accomplished and intriguing furniture makers during the post-Revolutionary period. Shearer emigrated from Scotland in the late 18th century and retained loyalist sympathies throughout his life, evidenced by the imagery and inscriptions sympathetic to various British causes—such as the suppression of the Irish rebellion in 1798 and the British victory in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805—that he worked into his furniture. Davison provides insight into the furniture's appeal to Anglo-American patrons, not secret loyalists, but men still culturally tied to Great Britain. Shearer's pieces are scattered among various collections, and many of them have been identified only in the last 25 years. This catalog is the only work in which all of Shearer's known pieces of furniture are presented in a single volume.

The curious, message-laden inlays and inscriptions that are almost always found on the furniture of joiner John Shearer make him one of the early South's most fascinating and enigmatic artisans. Scholars have sought the meaning of these words and images for more than thirty years, but with little success. Author Elizabeth Davison has at last cracked the code on Shearer's communiqués, revealing him as a passionate and well informed follower of international events. Her book on the subject will be required reading for any serious student of southern furniture... (Ronald L. Hurst, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation) Iconography is a word that doesn't faze Elizabeth Davison. In *The Furniture of John Shearer, 1790-1820*, her meticulous research records not only what he made, but also unlocks the mind-set of that craftsman in his choice of ornamentation found on so much of his furniture. This is a first-rate study of an aspect of American material culture often neglected, the world of rural craftsmen. (Charles F. Hummel, Winterthur Museum, Garden, Library) The curious, message-laden inlays and inscriptions that are almost always found on the furniture of joiner John Shearer make him one of the early South's most fascinating and enigmatic artisans. Scholars have sought the meaning of these words and images for more than thirty years, but with little success. Author Elizabeth Davison has at last cracked the code on Shearer's communiqués, revealing him as a passionate and well informed follower of international events. Her book on the subject will be required reading for any serious student of southern furniture. (Ronald L. Hurst, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation) About the Author Elizabeth A. Davison is an independent scholar who wrote her masters thesis on John Shearer while pursuing graduate studies in the Smithsonian/Parsons The New School of Design program in the History of Decorative Arts and Design. She speaks on Shearer's message-laden furniture and continues her search for new pieces that might finally reveal this enigmatic craftsman.