

# The History of American Decorative Arts

Hudson Heritage 3  
3/7/16

Christie Borkan



# **VICTORIAN 1830-1900**

**Romanticism of nature, informal gardens, cottages**

**Moral dilemma with exploitation of nature (westward expansion, subjugation of**

**Native Americans, pollution from industry, conspicuous waste**

**Idolized nature to make up for feeling guilty about ruining nature**

**Industrial aristocracy (robber barons), rise of the middle class**

**MACHINERY: technology shows in construction, like circular saw 1830-50**

**Fret machine 1850**

**Carving machines 1851-57**

**Mortising machine 1857**

**Steam powered machines 1861 (including steam bending)**

**TRANSPORTATION: faster transfer of goods 1820's to 30's canal system, 1850->  
railroad**

**Stains, varnishes, masonite as secondary wood**

**Furnishings books, Godey's ladies book, trade catalogs to advertise**

**1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition—display of history of American styles**

**Started a revival period of copying old styles in new technology til 1920's**











Plate 23. Edward L. Henry. *The Parlor on Brooklyn Heights of Mr. and Mrs. John Bullard*. 1872. Oil on panel, 14 $\frac{3}{8}$  in.  $\times$  16 $\frac{7}{8}$  in. (38 cm  $\times$  43 cm). Private collection.

1872 Parlor on Brooklyn Heights, NY  
House of John Bullard (painting)

1859 Morse Libby House music room,  
Portland ME





# GOTHIC REVIVAL 1840-60

Serious furniture (i.e. for libraries) copies 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century styles  
Pointed arches, trefoils, quatrefoils, tracery, crockets, Tudor roses  
Cluster columns bold silhouettes  
woods= walnut, oak

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## Gothic Revival Gallery c1835-50 A J Davis







Desk +Bookcase 1836-50 NY  
J+ JW Meeks



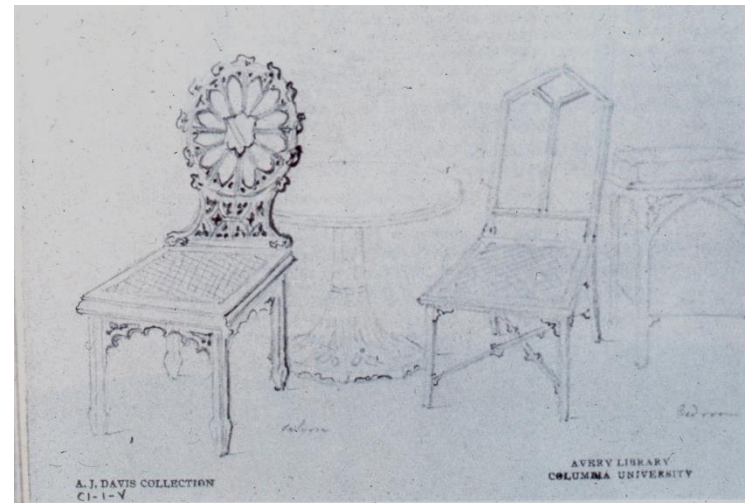
Cheval Glass  
1840-65  
Philadelphia or NY



Hall Mirror and stand  
C 1850 Philadelphia



Side chair c1858  
Alexander Jackson Davis



Designs by A J Davis



Table and chairs (wheelback) c 1841  
For Lyndhurst, Tarrytown NY





1845-60  
NY



# ELIZABETHAN REVIVAL 1850-1915

Ball turnings, carving, high backs





# ROCOCCO REVIVAL

1845-70

Naturalistic C & S scrolls, shells, leaves, flowers, especially roses, acanthus leaf, Cabriole legs, scroll feet, Louis XV



Forms: tete a tete, etagere

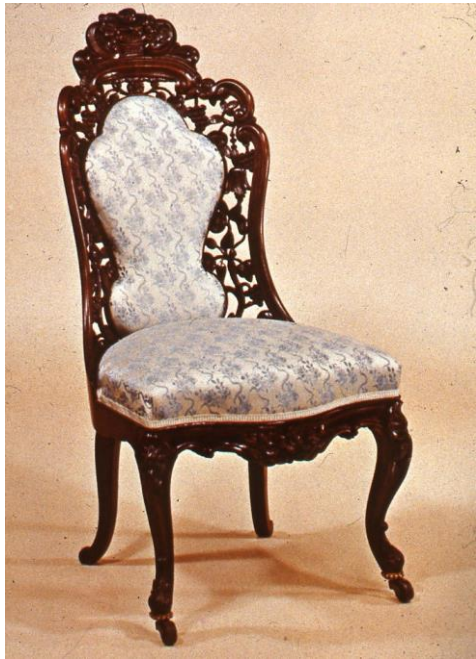
Makers: John Henry Belter in NY =  
laminated

Meeks in NY









Side Chair , high back  
c 1850 Belter school  
Laminated rosewood







**WAGNER & HIGGINS,**  
Wholesale Manufacturers of  
FINE ROSEWOOD, WALNUT & MAHOGANY  
Tete-Tete,  
Sweep Back, Gothic and other Rich  
ANTIQUE AND MODERN  
**FURNITURE,**  
Store, 208 Bowery, N. York.  
Factory, Nos. 94, 96 & 98 Attorney-st.







Chest w/ Mirror c1850  
NYC, J+JW Meeks





## LOUIS XVI REVIVAL 1850-1914

- Rectangles outlined, ovals and arches
- Marquetry inlay of porcelain or ivory
- Lots of gold leaf on brown and black



Cabinet c 1866 NY (Alexander Roux) Met  
Rosewood, marquetry, porcelain





Cabinet +  
pedestals  
A Roux  
NY



Center Table 1870 Grand Rapids MI  
Berkey+Gay





# RENAISSANCE REVIVAL

1850-1880

Architectural motifs, prominent upholstery, burlled panels







Sofa 1870  
Indianapolis IN



Loveseat c. 1870



Bed, c 1875



Armchair c 1870  
Newark NJ John Jelliff





Bed Brooklyn NY  
*Thomas Brooks*



Center Table 1870  
Brooklyn NY  
*Brooks*



Dressing bureau c 1860  
Cincinnati OH Mitchell &  
Rammelsberg



Mirror 1866-76  
Philadelphia (Arch St)  
attr D. Pabst





Sideboard c 1855 Philadelphia, possibly Joseph A Bailly

# EGYPTIAN REVIVAL 1865-90

Lotus, winged orbs, sphinxes, palmetto, obelisks, zig zag



Chairs, pedestal c 1850-75



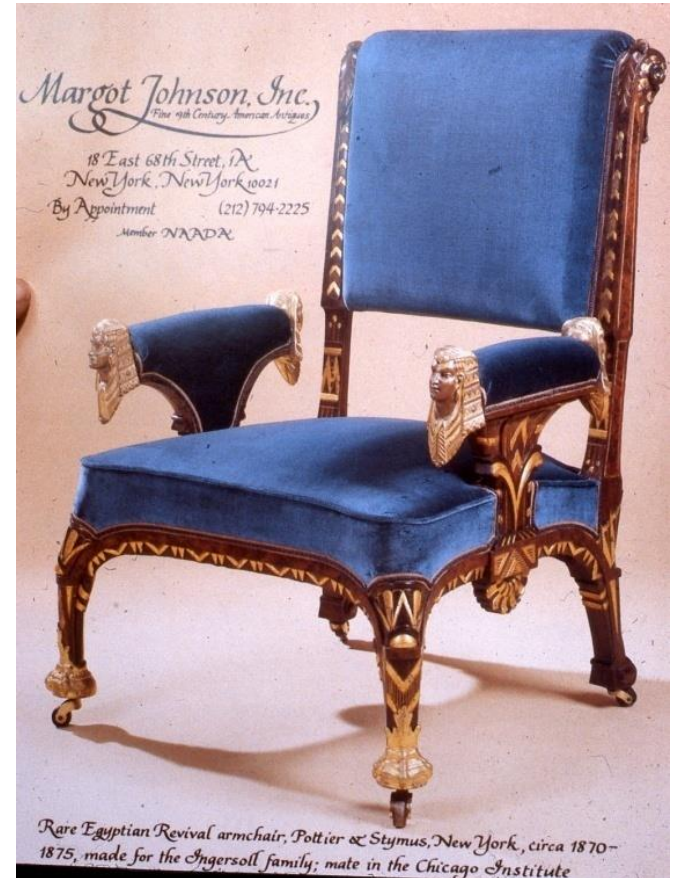
Pedestal 1865-75 NYC  
Kimbel & Cabus



Egyptian Revival armchairs c 1870-75  
Pottier & Stymus, NY



Cabinet



*Margot Johnson, Inc.*  
*Fine 19th Century American Antiques*

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Rare Egyptian Revival armchair, Pottier & Stymus, New York, circa 1870-1875, made for the Angersoll family; mate in the Chicago Institute



Center Table 1865-70 NYC  
Rosewood + marble, gilt

Mantel Set 1885 NYC  
Tiffany +Co



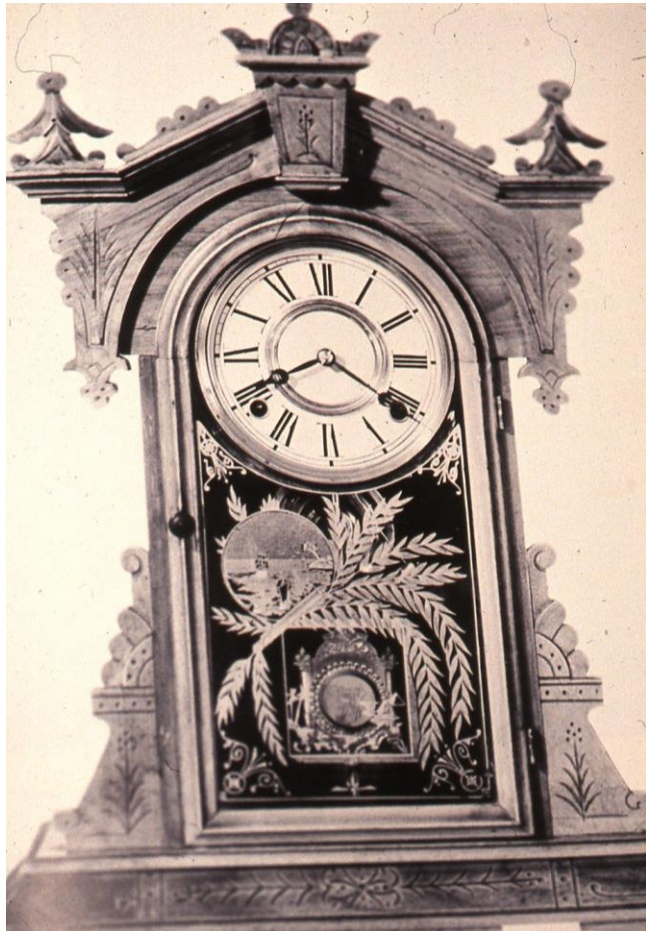
509. Center table, rosewood and marble, probably New York City, 1865-1870. Finials, large boss, and feet are ebonized; gilt incised lines; polychrome porcelain plaque. W. 46 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

510. Stool, labeled by Alexander Roux, New York City, about 1865. Decoration in umber, red, black, and gilt. W. 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". The Metropolitan Museum of Art.



## **EASTLAKE 1870-90**

**Charles Locke Eastlake, English design reform movement  
Has incised grooves and dots, spindles, cheap end**



Shelf Clock 1880s Forestville CT (*EN Welch Co*)





Bookcase



# ART FURNITURE

1875-1914

- Especially 1890's Near East, Moorish, Japanese
- designed by artists or architects
- ebonized woods, lacquer, bamboo
- Makers: Herter Bros, Tiffany studios

Cabinet 1884 NY *Charles Tisch*  
rosewood, inlay







Armoire c 1880 NYC

Side Chair c  
1880 NYC  
Herter Bros.  
Ebonized  
cherry



Bedroom suite 1877-82  
NY Herter Bros.



Cabinet late 1870s NY *Herter Brothers*

Firescreen NY  
*Herter Brothers*







Bedroom Suite c 1885 NY maple  
imitating bamboo



Desk + Chair 1875  
Philadelphia  
*Frank Furness*



Cabinet c 1875 Philadelphia  
*Daniel Pabst*



Group of Tiffany products 1890-1905 NYC

Tiffany Studios NYC



Tall Clock c1880 NYC teak

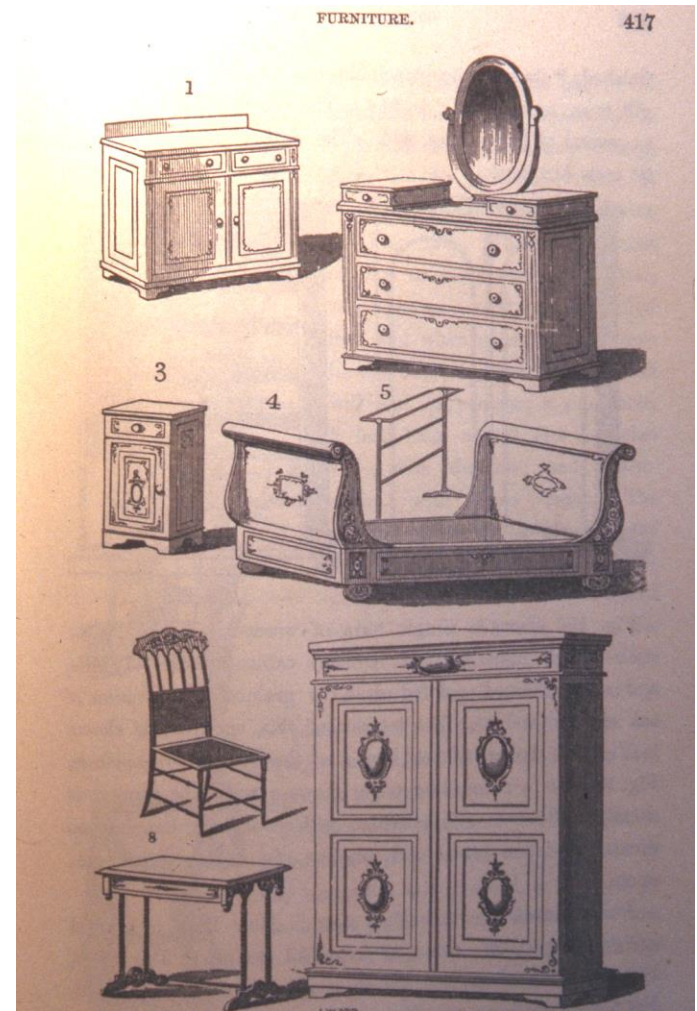


Case Clock 1880s NY



# COTTAGE FURNITURE

painted , split spindles, flowery pastel





Bedroom suite c1850 Wellington OH  
*Couch Furniture Co, paint by A. Willard*



# RUSTIC FURNITURE

crudely built, late 19c,  
often outdoor furniture  
Includes hickory furniture  
and horn furniture



Rocking Armchair, c 1880-90 San Antonio TX (Wenzel Friedrich)



**WICKER** late 19<sup>th</sup> c

Rattan, cane, main  
manufacturer= Wakefield

Rattan Co., and

Heywood Brothers, later

Heywood Wakefield Rattan

Co. Gardner MA



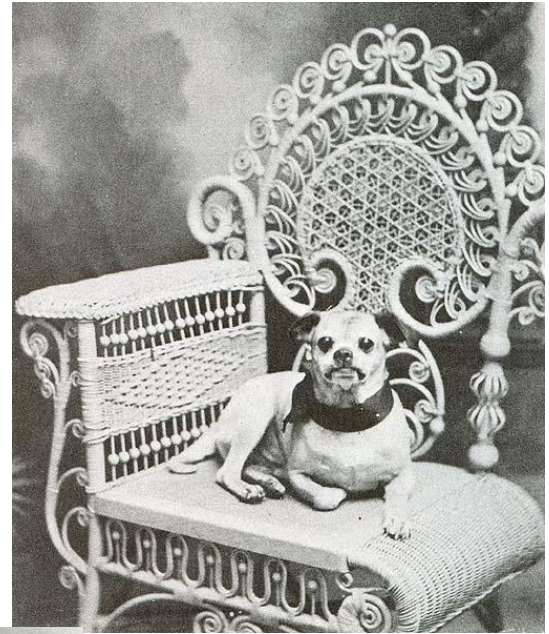
Rocking Armchair 1870-75  
Gardner MA *Heywood Bros*







Photographer's Chair 1890  
Heywood Brothers Wakefield  
Co , Gardner MA





Platform Rocker 1890 from Vt.



Stool 1890





## **GARDEN FURNITURE 1800-1914**

**Cast iron in catalogs 1840's forward  
Earliest=windsors, follows style of  
current furniture in wood**







Cast iron fountain  
Cincinnati OH



Armchair c 1850-1900  
twigs



Side Chair  
1850  
Cast iron  
rococco  
revival





Cast iron bench c 1895  
Brooklyn NY *Peter Timmes*





# INNOVATIVE FURNITURE



Platform Rocker



Hunzinger Chair C 1869

Thonet  
Bentwood  
chairs







Wooton Desk 1878  
Indianapolis IN  
*Moore*







## **ARTS & CRAFTS 1885-1915** **also Prairie 1900-1920**

Recilinear, form follows function [Craftsman, Prairie, Mission] oak

Rebel against machine—in England William Morris began movement

In US leaders were Frank Lloyd Wright, Greene & Greene in Pasadena CA, Roycroft Colony in upstate NY, Gustav Stickley (The Craftsman Magazine);

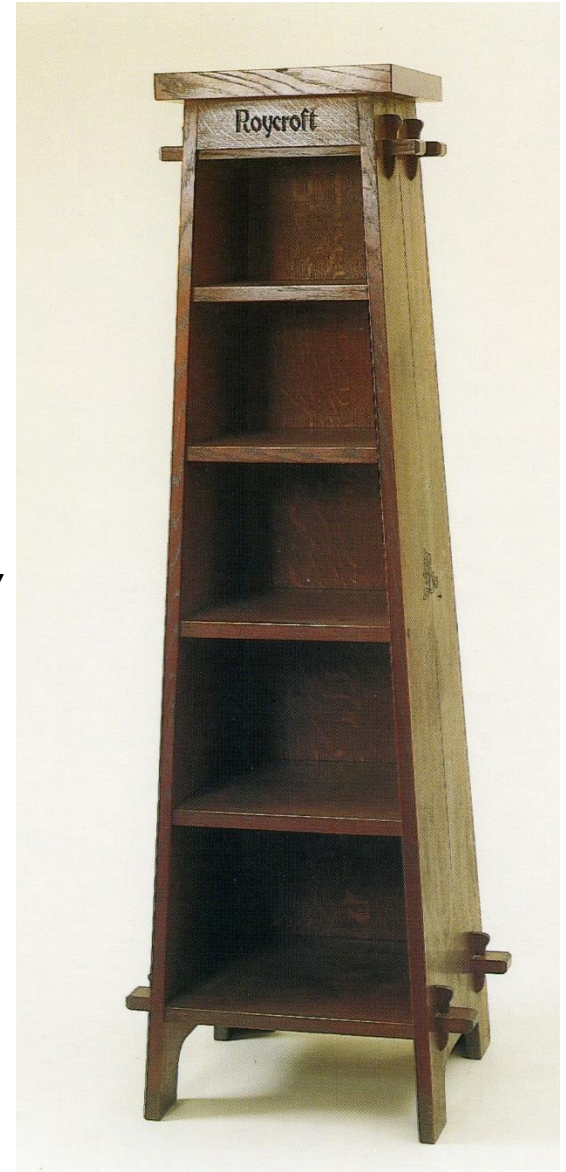
hammered iron and Copper hardware, through tenons extend







Armchair 1912-13  
Elmslie, Purcell



Book Shelf  
Roycrofters  
E. Auburn NY



Roycroft Inn  
Morris Chair  
1 of 4



**ROYCROFTER INN  
FURNITURE  
EAST AURORA NY  
C 1900**







Craftsman Furniture Group  
1898-1900 Eastwood NY  
*Gustav Stickley*



Gamble House 1908 Pasadena CA  
Greene & Greene

FRANK LLOYD  
WRIGHT



Desk



Dining Table + Chairs 1904



Side Chair c1903-08

Dining room in  
Robie House,  
1908-09 Chicago

