



Biedermeier



Hepplewhite



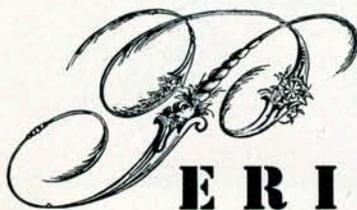
Colonial American



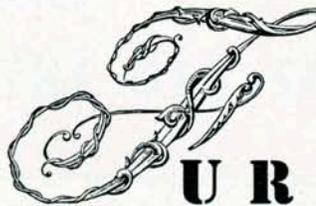
Federal American

Mahogany Assn. Inc.

HOW TO KNOW



PERIOD



FURNITURE

WHETHER you're furnishing your new home—having an antique reupholstered, or visiting in a friend's home, you'll find it a real source of pleasure if you can recognize the major periods of furniture. For instance, in furnishing your own home you'll know which periods may be combined for the most charming effect. By knowing furniture well, you may suddenly realize that great grandmother's little chair in the attic will be lovely at your tiny desk. Or you may simply call upon your "furniture sense" and exclaim to your friend in her home "what an exquisite Duncan Phyfe!"—and be cocksure that the chair is a Duncan Phyfe.

Whatever are the reasons why you would like to know your period furniture, here is a short and easy index

to the chronological periods of furniture styles. Since chairs are best known and the most distinctive index to furniture periods, they are used as guides. If you are already well versed in furniture periods, why not test yourself by seeing if you can name each chair pictured—and we hope you score 100%.

(1) Queen Anne, 1700-1714. While Queen Anne's reign was short, the style named for her persisted another decade. This was the first English furniture to combine beauty with comfort. Chair arms and backs were curved to fit the body. Carved decorations on the club foot and cabriole legs mark this example as a "Decorated Queen Anne."

(2) Thomas Chippendale, 1718-1779. Leading fashionable cabinet-maker of London was Chippendale.

His chairs are soundly yet spiritedly designed with crisp and exquisite carvings. The former fiddle shaped splat becomes a delicate ribbon back.

(3) George Hepplewhite, 1720-1786. Hepplewhite was a practical cabinet maker and designer. He avoided massiveness in design and reduced the size of chairs without impairing usefulness or beauty—the use of light toned wood developed at this time, due to changing taste, so Hepplewhite used light toned Mahogany to create a more subtle contrast. The shield-back chair is his best known.

(4) Thomas Sheraton, 1751-1806. Sheraton was a cabinet maker by trade but a designer and writer by profession. His furniture is essentially feminine in appearance, but structurally strong and durable. He favored

the oval, lyre, latticework and slender arms in back of chairs.

(5) Biedermeier, 1820-1830. There is much controversy as to the origin of the Biedermeier period. The name appears to be that of a German character from cartoons of the day, much as some writer might term our times as the "Andy Gump" period. At its best, Biedermeier is a refined and graceful Empire.

(6) Colonial American, Pre-Revolutionary. Prior to 1700, Colonial American furniture was of two types—First, the primitive type made by local carpenters from woods at hand—substantial and functional. After 1700 enough expert cabinet makers had come to America to compete with the work of those in England. In general, the Colonial styles followed those in vogue in England, but

frequently with interesting and beautiful variations.

(7) Duncan Phyfe, 1768-1854. Duncan Phyfe was the first outstanding furniture designer in America. His furniture has balance, structural integrity and economy in construction. His use of the lyre back and Pompiion designs are best known. His name, by the way, was originally Duncon Fife until he prospered.

(8) Federal American, 1775-1830. This is one of the celebrated Chippendale mahogany wing chairs of which there are five known. Such famous American craftsmen as Samuel McIntire, John Goddard, William Savery and John Gillingham were operating during this time.

(9) 19th Century Styles, 1830-1910. This long period was not productive of much that was worthy of note, as

it introduced machine-made furniture which restricted originality in design. Most of the pieces retained the quaintness of Victorian without its absurdity in line and decoration. In general, America was too busy building a nation. The greatest contribution from this era was the great advances made in woodworking machinery.

(10) Contemporary, 1910-1940. During the last quarter of a century a new style in architecture and decoration has been developing concurrently with a great return to faithful reproductions of the 18th century masterpieces. Traditional furniture is widely accepted. On the other hand modern is making noteworthy progress. It is characterized by sheer surfaces and concealed structural parts of plain design.



Duncan Phyfe



Sheraton



Queen Anne



19th Century



Chippendale



Contemporary