

EDITORIAL

Regional Furniture has now marked its first decade in print. Membership of the Society is higher than ever and this means that the Journal has a very wide readership in the UK and further afield. It is intriguing to learn that *Regional Furniture* is now read in India and Japan, and that its informative issues will now be found in the libraries of such institutions as the University of Budapest and the Open Air Ethnographic Museums in Lviv and Kiev. But the readership is not just international; one of its greatest strengths is in the range of different interests and professions it represents. The authors reflect this range. This volume, for example, contains contributions by academics, a dealer, a restorer, a collector and most importantly, by students of furniture history. In the first ten years, six students have found their first opportunity to publish research in *Regional Furniture* and this is inspiring. The Society, whilst maintaining scholarly independence and having formal links with no institutions or centre of study, positively encourages young researchers to use the journal as a platform for their work. This policy is underpinned by our bursary scheme, which will continue to offer financial assistance, on a competitive basis, towards the undertaking of original research.

Looking to the future, the Journal remains committed to the publication of articles on the regional furniture of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and everywhere in the world where these traditions have made an impact. *Regional Furniture* will continue to publish important source material, such as the chair makers' price books re-printed in the 1995 issue, and we shall continue to explore new aspects of the subject, such as the regional personality of fashionable furniture. This area, for example, will be given detailed attention in a keynote volume devoted to Gillow of Lancaster, which is planned for 1998.

This number contains two handsome colour reproductions. For financial assistance towards these we are very grateful indeed to Andrew Jenkins Esq. of Avon Antiques, Bradford on Avon.