

**LITTLE BOOK ABOUT OLD
FURNITURE. ENGLISH
FURNITURE. THE PERIOD
OF QUEEN ANNE. VOL II**

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Little book about old furniture. English furniture. The period of Queen Anne. Vol II by J. P. Blake & A. E. Reveirs-Hopkins

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J. P. BLAKE & A. E. REVEIRS-HOPKINS

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OF QUEEN ANNE. VOL II**



QUEEN ANNE WALNUT TALLBOY AND STOOL
(EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY).

LITTLE BOOKS ABOUT OLD FURNITURE
ENGLISH FURNITURE : BY J. P. BLAKE
& A. E. REVEIRS-HOPKINS. VOLUME II

THE PERIOD OF QUEEN ANNE



NEW EDITION

ILLUSTRATED

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WILLIAM HEINEMANN

INTRODUCTION

THE sovereigns of England, unlike those of France, have seldom taken to themselves the task of acting as patrons of the fine arts. Therefore when we write of the "Queen Anne period" we do not refer to the influence of the undistinguished lady who for twelve years occupied the throne of England. The term is merely convenient for the purpose of classification, embracing, as it does, the period from William and Mary to George I. during which the furniture had a strong family likeness and shows a development very much on the same line. The change, at the last quarter of the seventeenth century, from the Jacobean models to the Dutch, was probably the most important change that has come over English furniture. It was a change which strongly influenced Chippendale and his school, and remains with us to this day.

The period from William and Mary to George I. covered nearly forty years, during which the fashionable furniture was generally made from walnut-wood. No doubt walnut was used before the time of William and Mary, notably in the making of the well-known Stuart chairs with their caned backs and seats, but it did not come into general use until the time of William. It continued in fashion

until the discovery of its liability to the attacks of the worm, combined with the advent of mahogany, removed it from public favour. Walnut nevertheless remains a beautiful and interesting wood, and in the old examples the colour effects are probably unsurpassed in English furniture. Its liability to "worming" is probably exaggerated, and in the event of an attack generally yields to a treatment with paraffin. Certainly the furniture of what is termed the "Queen Anne period" is in great request at the present day, and as the period was so short during which it was made, the supply is necessarily limited.

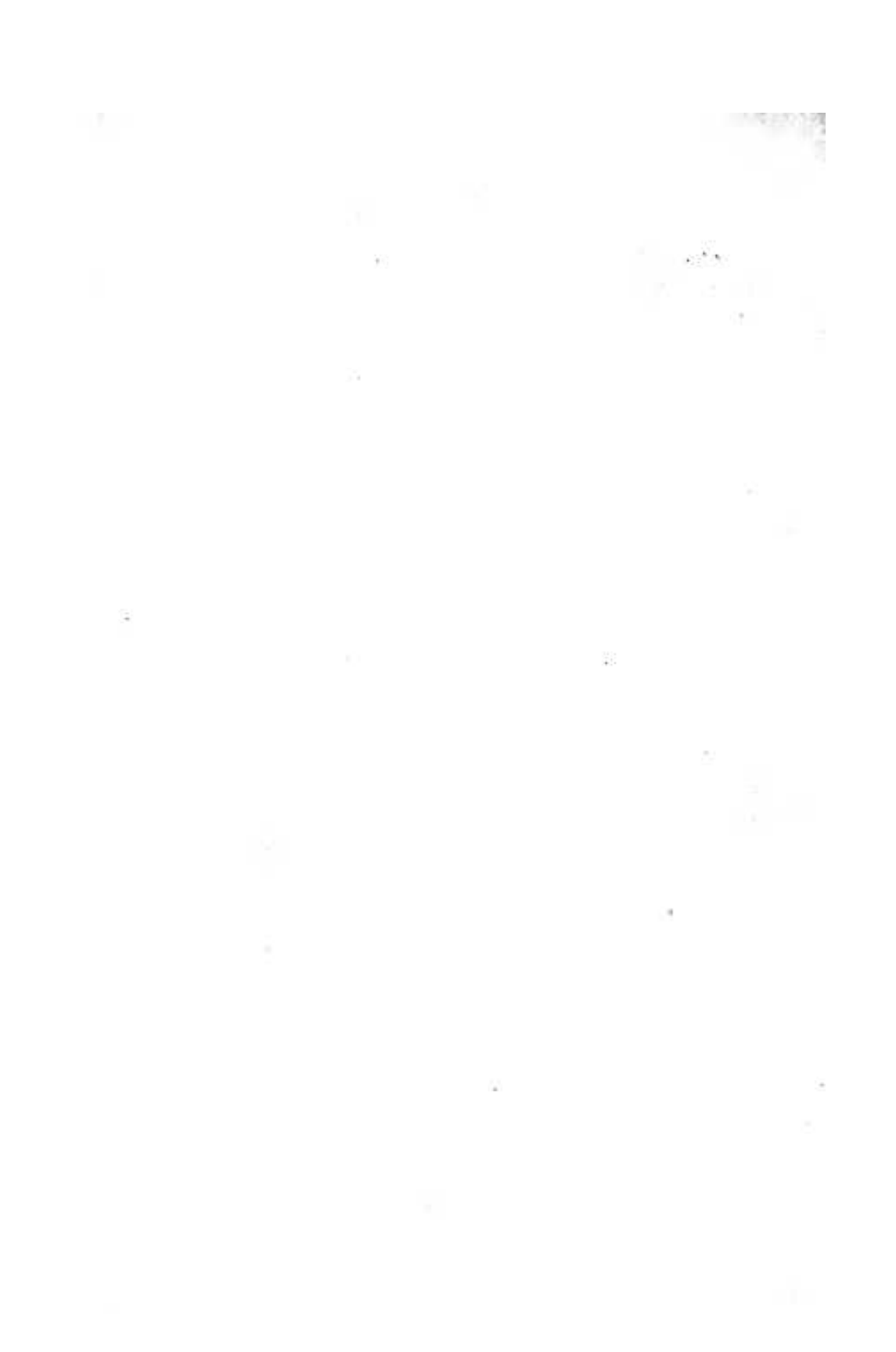
We referred in the introduction to the first volume to the fact that the present series does not in any sense pretend to exhaust what is practically an inexhaustible subject. The series is merely intended to act as an introduction to the study of old English furniture, and to provide handbooks for collectors of moderate means. The many admirable books which have been already written on this subject seem to appeal mostly to persons who start collecting with that useful but not indispensable asset—a large income. In the present volume, although rare and expensive pieces are shown for historical reasons and to suggest standards of taste, a large number of interesting examples are also

shown and described which are within the reach of persons of moderate incomes, and frequently an approximate price at which they should be acquired is indicated.

In collecting the photographs necessary for this volume we are indebted to the Director and Secretary of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London, for placing the various exhibits at our disposal and particularly for causing a number of new exhibits to be specially photographed. However good a photograph may be, it can only be a ghost of the original, which should always, if possible, be examined. We would therefore strongly recommend readers when possible to examine the museum objects for themselves. The South Kensington collection, admirable as it is, is still far from complete, and increased public interest should contribute to its improvement. For the further loan of photographs we are also indebted to Mr. F. W. Phillips, of the Manor House, Hitchin, Herts; also to Mr. J. H. Springett, High Street, Rochester; Messrs. Mawer and Stevenson Ltd., 221 Fulham Road, London, and others to whom we acknowledge our indebtedness in the text.

J. P. BLAKE

A. E. REVEIRS-HOPKINS



CHAPTERS

| | PAGE |
|---|------|
| I. THE QUEEN ANNE PERIOD | I |
| II. SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN AND GRIN- LING GIBBON | 18 |
| III. MIRRORS, STOOLS, AND SOME NOTES ON A QUEEN ANNE BEDROOM | 34 |
| IV. CHAIRS AND TABLES | 47 |
| V. CHESTS OF DRAWERS, TALLBOYS, CABINETS AND CHINA CABINETS | 65 |
| VI. SECRETAIRES, BUREAUX, AND WRITING-TABLES | 76 |
| VII. CLOCKS AND CLOCK-CASES | 82 |
| VIII. LACQUERED FURNITURE | 95 |