

Welsh Oak and Pewter together

Welsh Furniture 1250 – 1950 A Cultural History of Craftsmanship and Design in two volumes by Richard Bebb – published by Saer Books with the assistance and support of the National Museum and the National Library of Wales. Saer Books are at 31 -33 Bridge Street Kidwelly Carmarthenshire, UK SA17 4UU www.welshfurniture.com ISBN 978-0-9553773-1-0 World Copyright reserved c 2007 Richard Bebb

In a work published in 2007 Richard Bebb shows clearly that from early times the furniture makers of Wales were able to produce fine work that satisfied their local markets and the needs of the people in those communities who required it. Furniture that was innovative, creative, highly skilled, made to last (as much as possible) and that such work enhanced the respect within the communities for the craftsmen responsible.

This splendid double volume, in about 800 pages and some 1300 illustrations, also shows how good oak furniture and pewter work well together and were an important part of the lives of those communities. Although pewter is mentioned many times, no detail is available as to who supplied the pewter and a thought arises that if such good furniture could be made locally surely good pewter might also have been.

Illustrated throughout both volumes are a number of Oak Dressers dressed with pewter. Towards the end of volume 2 Richard Bebb refers to a competition in 1997 as follows –

Quotes taken from ‘THE BEST DRESSED DRESSER’ chapter 8 volume 2 page 416 and 417

“In 1997 the Welsh language television channel S4C held a competition for ‘the best dressed dresser’ and the response showed that large numbers were still to be found in the homes of the descendants of the original owners”

“The eventual joint winners derived both pride and pleasure from their dressers and contents though they represented quite different tastes –”

“The first, a small fine and early 18th century panelled cupboard-base example from Snowdonia had been purchased locally and decorated with pewter of the period acquired from antique shops and auctions” –

“ – centuries after its emergence, a piece of furniture that had figured prominently in the cegin of each farmhouse continued to provide a focal point in many homes throughout Wales at the start of the 21st century”

This winning dresser is the illustration numbered 590. Several other dressers and furniture dressed with pewter are illustrated (with permission) as taken from the two volumes.



590 - Oak Dresser, Cricieth District, Caernarfonshire c1690 – 1720

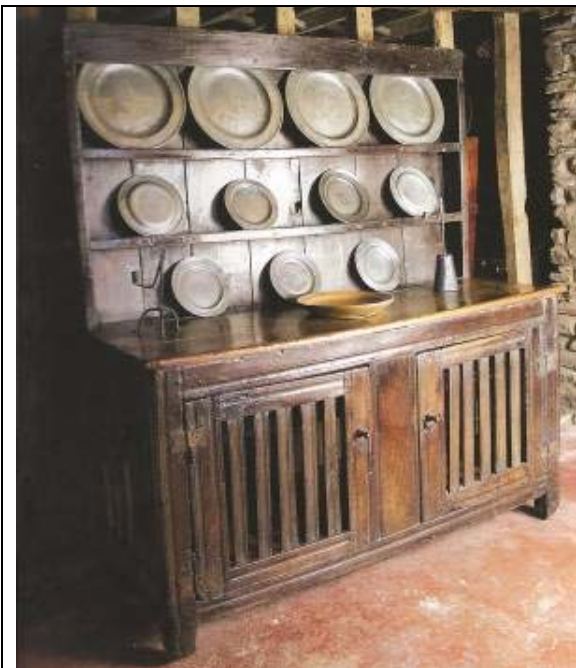


illustration 582 - Oak Dresser. Darowen, Montgomeryshire c 1630 -1660



illustration 583 - Oak dresser, Vale of Ffestiniog, Merioneth, c1670 – 1690



illustration 587 - Oak Dresser, Denbighshire, Merioneth
c 1680 – 1710



illustration 590 - Oak Dresser, Cricieth District, Caernarfonshire c1690 – 1720



illustration 830 - Oak Cwpwrdd tridarn, Conwy Valley initialled and dated 'WRK 1731' (raised R)



illustration 881- Oak Dresser, Tregynon, Montgomeryshire c1720 – 1750