



Dyddiad: 18fed ganrif gynnar, o bosib 17eg ganrif

neu'n gynharach fyfth

Lleoliad: gogledd Sir Benfro/Ceredigion

Mae'r enghraifft hynafol a cherfluniol hon wedi'i gwneud o onnen a derw 'traed cathod' ac mae wedi derbyn nifer o atgyweiriadau yn ystod ei bywyd. Y mae ganddi fraich undarn gyflysog anferth, mae wedi'i stampio gyda'r ynydau IT, nod rhestri neu berchnogaeth o bosibl. Mae'r nod yn dynodi pwysigrwydd y gadair neu ei gwerth i rywun ar y pryd ac mae'n ymdebygu i'r nodau a welir ar gelfi derw o'r 16eg a'r 17eg ganrif, ond mae'n anarferol i weld nod o'r fath ar gadair gefn ffyn.

Byddai'r gadair neilltuol hon wedi cael defnydd mawr yn ddi-os, o ystyried y nifer o atgyweiriadau ac addasiadau a dderbyniodd. Gall hyn fod wedi atal nifer o gasglwyr, ond mae ei lliw, ei harwynebedd a'i sglein yn ei gwneud hi'n un o'r goreuon a welwyd gennym.

Prynwyd y gadair hon mewn arwerthiant yng Nghaerfyrddin, credodd yr arwerthrwr y daeth hi o fferm yn Nhreletert, gogledd Sir Benfro. Mae'n debyg mewn arddull i enghreifftiau y gwyddom iddynt gael eu gwneud yng Ngheredigion sy'n lled agos i Dreletert.

Date: Early 18th century, possibly 17th century or even earlier

Location: north Pembrokeshire/Cardiganshire

This ancient and sculptural example is made from ash and burr oak and has many running repairs. It has a huge one piece cruck type arm, stamped with the initials IT, possibly an inventory or ownership mark. The mark indicates the chair's importance or value to someone at the time and is similar to those seen on 16th and 17th century oak furniture but it is unusual to find such a mark on a stick chair.

This extraordinary chair would certainly have been well used, judging by the number of repairs and adaptations it has sustained. This may well have discouraged a number of collectors, but the colour, surface and patination make it one of the best we have seen.

This chair was bought at auction in Carmarthen and the auctioneer believed that it came from a farm in Letterston, north Pembrokeshire. It is similar in type to examples known to have been made in Cardiganshire which is close to Letterston.





Dyddiad: 18fed ganrif hwyr neu ynghynt
Lleoliad: gorllewin Cymru

Dyma enghraifft deircoes, wedi'i gwneud o onnen a derw, mae'n gadair ymddangosiadol syml heb ddim addurn iddi ac sy'n gyntefig ei dyluniad bron. Mae ganddi sedd wedi'i gwneud o ddau ddarn derw wedi'u cysylltu â thyno peg siâp croes. Er bod y math hwn o dyno i'w weld yn lled aml ar gelfi Cymreig ac y'u defnyddid yn benodol er mwyn uno estyll byrddau mawrion, mae ei ddefnydd yma'n dangos bod y gwneuthurwr yn grefftus a gwybodus mewn technegau gwaith coed.

Mae tair coes yn sefydlog ar lawr anwastad bob tro, ble gallai cadair pedair coes simsanu ar lawr llechfaen. Fodd bynnag os byth y ceisiwch chi eistedd ar gadair deircoes fe brofwch fod hyd yn oed ychydig o symudiad yn achosi i'r eisteddwyr foelyd, a dyma paham weithiau y gwelwch chi fod rhai cadeiriau teircoes wedi cael coes arall yn ychwaneg.

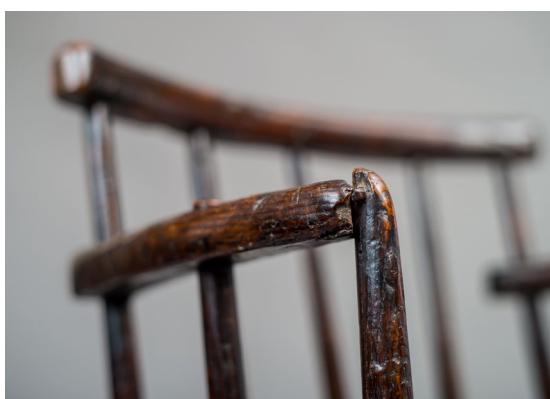
Y mae'r ôl traul a'r sglein ar y toriad sydd ar ran flaen y fraich yn dangos bod y golled hon wedi digwydd flynyddoedd lawer yn ôl, pan syrthiodd rhywun oddi ar y sedd efallai! Y mae'n fwy hynod ei bod wedi dianc rhag yr adnewyddwr ac yn gymaint gwell o'r herwydd.

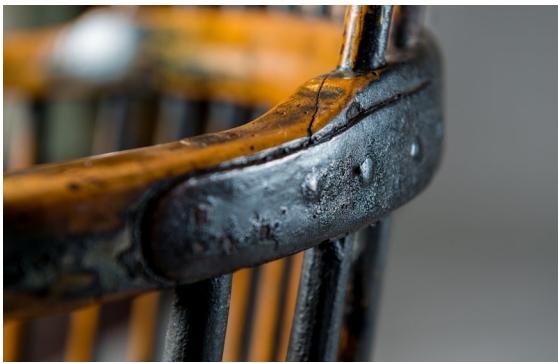
Date: Late 18th century or earlier
Location: west Wales

This small three legged example, made from ash and oak, is an apparently simple chair devoid of decoration and almost primitive in design. It has a two piece oak seat joined by a pegged cross through tenon. Although this type of tenon is found fairly frequently in Welsh furniture and was especially used for joining large table top boards, its use here would indicate that the maker was skilled and knowledgeable in joinery methods.

Three legs are always stable on an uneven floor, whereas a four legged chair might wobble on a flagstone floor. However if you ever try to sit on a three legged chair you will find the slightest movement causes the sitter to topple which is perhaps why you sometimes find that three legged chairs sometimes have an additional leg added.

The wear and patination of the break to the front part of the arm would indicate this loss occurred many years ago, perhaps when someone fell off the seat! It is all the more remarkable that it escaped the restorer and is all the better for it.





Dyddiad: 18fed ganrif hwyr

Lleoliad: rhan uchaf dyffryn Tywi, Sir Gaerfyrddin

Mae'r enghraift wych hon wedi'i chreu o onnen gyda braich undarn a sedd o sycamorwydden. Mae cryn dipyn o'r paent gwreiddiol arni o hyd ynghyd â'r farnais o gyfnod hwyrach, mae ganddi arwynebedd sydd â thraul rhagorol arni oherwydd yr holl ddefnydd a fu ohoni. Mae'r gwrthgyferbyniad rhwng y lliw gloyw'r sycamorwydden a'r farnais sydd â gwead iddo yn ddigon i lonni calon unrhyw gasglwr.

Mae'r olion atgyweirio haearn o waith gof a wnaethpwyd i gefn y fraich yn hynod o hen ac mae wedi cael ei farneisio ar ryw adeg, mae'n ein hatgoffa ni o'rffaith bod y cadeiriau hyn yn gelfi ymarferol a ddefnyddiwyd yn ddyddiol ac felly byddai atgyweirio wrth fynd yn digwydd yn aml o anghenraig ac er mwyn bod yn ddarbodus.

Er mai yng Nghaerfyrddin y prynwyd y gadair hon, mae tarddiad teuluol y gadair hon yn awgrymu mai celfcyn o ffermdy yn ardal Llanymddyfri, Sir Gaerfyrddin ydoedd, yn un o nifer bychan hanfodol o gelfi ar yr aelwyd yno. Bu'r fferm a'i holl eiddo yn yr un teulu am sawl cenhedlaeth, ac ni chawsant eu symud oddi yno hyd nes y 1960au pan werthwyd y fferm. Symudodd y gadair nid nepell o'i chartref gwreiddiol gan aros yn y teulu hyd nes iddi gael ei gwerthu mewn arwerthiant.

Date: Late 18th century

Location: upper Tywi valley, Carmarthenshire

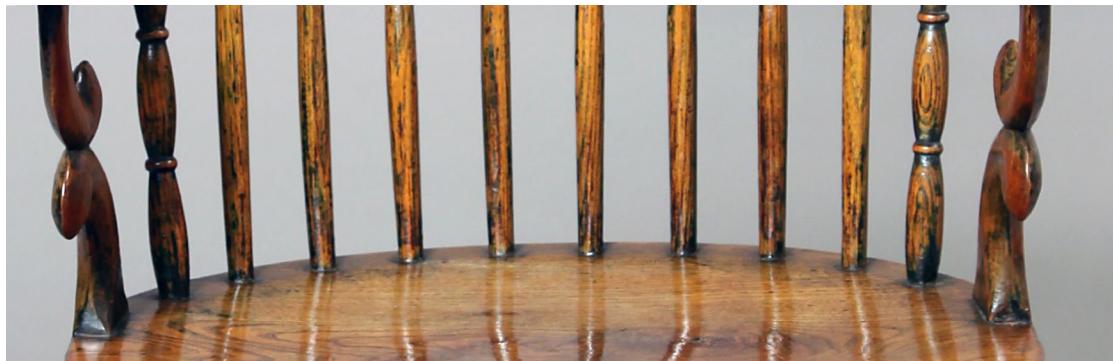
This magnificent example is made from ash with a one piece sycamore arm and seat. It retains much of the original paint and later varnish, which through use, has given it a wonderful worn surface. The contrast between the burnished sycamore and the dark textured varnish is a collector's dream.

The iron 'blacksmith' repair to the back of the arm is very old and has been varnished over at some point, a reminder these chairs were a functional every-day item of furniture and running repairs were often carried out from necessity and economy.

Although purchased in Carmarthen, family provenance suggests that it was one of the few key pieces of furniture that occupied a farm in the Llandovery area of Carmarthenshire. The farm and its chattels had been in the same family for many generations and were only moved in the 1960s when the farm was sold. The chair moved a short distance but remained in the family until it was sold at auction.



4, 5, 6



Dyddiad: 18fed ganrif hwyr

Lleoliad: Sir Gaerfyrddin fwy na thebyg

Mae cadair 4, ynghyd â chadair 5 a 6, yn ffurio grŵp bychan oherwydd eu bod yn hynod o debyg i'w gilydd, rhaid eu bod wedi'u gwneud gan yr un gwneuthurwr medrus neu o fewn yr un gweithdy. Mae'r tair wedi'u gwneud yn gyfan gwbl o bren onnen ac wedi'u saernio yn y dull arferol ar gyfer cadeiriau cefn ffyn, ble mae'r ffyn fertigol ar y rhan uchaf a'r coesau, oll yn dod o'r sedd. Mae natur fwy soffistigedig i'r cadeiriau hyn gyda'u cynalbrennau braich anarferol o addurnedig troell siâp-C dwbl, eu rheiliau crib a'r defnydd o waith turnio. Mae olion amrywiol o'r paent gwyrdd gwreiddiol ar y tair cadair. Mae gan bob un ohonynt seddi trwchus wedi'u cerfio a'u siapio'n hardd.

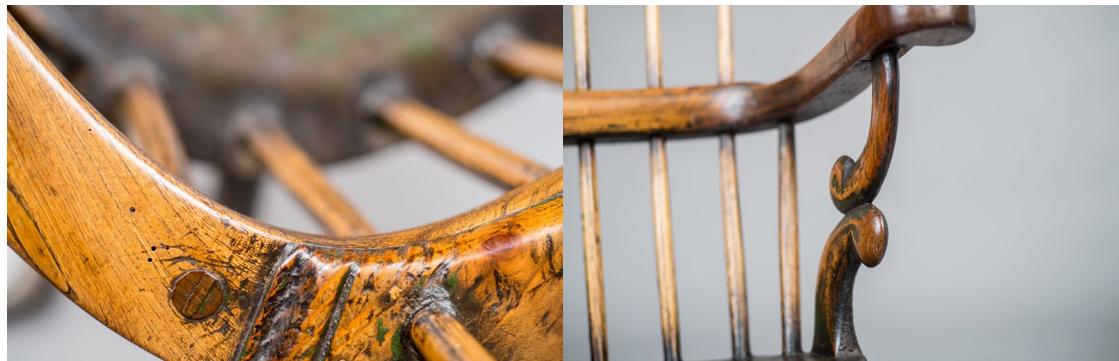
Fodd bynnag, y mae un gwahaniaeth yn y dull o wneud y cadeiriau. Mae gan gadair 4 goesau sydd wedi'u turnio. Mae coesau cadair 5 yn rhai plaen a heb eu turnio. Tra bod coesau cadair rhif 6 yn ymddangos eu bod nhw wedi'u turnio, hyd nes i chi graffu'n agosach a gweld y cerfiwyd rhan isaf y coesau er mwyn ymdebygu i waith turnio. Mae hyn yn awgrymu bod cadair 5 yn dod o gyfnod cynharaf na'r lleill a bod y gwneuthurwr wedi symud i ffwrdd o ddefnyddio cyllell dynnu i ddefnyddio turniwr polyn. Mae'n amlwg fod y

gwneuthurwr yn defnyddio dulliau soffistigedig wrth greu'r elfennau addurniadol ar bob un o'r tair cadair, felly mae'n ddirgelwch pam y gwnaethpwyd y coesau gan ddefnyddio technegau gwahanol.

Mae darlun o gadair 4 yn y gyfrol *Welsh Stick Chairs* gan John Brown (Cyhoeddiadau Abercastle, 1990) ar dudalen 26:

Dyma'r enghraift orau o'r gadair Gymreig i'r awdur ei gweld. Er gwaethaf y sedd hynod drom sydd i'r gadair hon, y mae hi'n hynod osgeiddig ei golwg. Mae gwaith turnio cynnil iawn ac onglau cywir i'r coesau. Mae'r ffyn â diweddiadau sy'n gogwyddo am allan mewn modd cynnil ac sy'n gorffen mewn crib luniaidd. Mae'r cerfiadau ar bostyn y brechiau, y mymryn rhandoriad o dan y sedd, a therfynnau'r brechiau, oll yn cyfuno i wneud y gadair hon yn enghraift ardderchog o'r gadair gefn ffyn Gymreig.

Roedd cadair 4 yn eiddo i'r deliwr hen bethau adnabyddus, Gerald Oliver o Hwlfordd. Mae cadair 5 yn eiddo i Chris Jones Antiques o Gaerfyrddin. Prynwyd cadair 6 yn Llandeilo.



Date: Late 18th century

Location: probably Carmarthenshire

Chair 4, along with 5 and 6, form a small group which because of their almost identical appearance, must have been made by the same skilled maker or within the same workshop.

All three are made entirely from ash and in the usual stick chair construction where the uprights and legs all come from the seat. There is more sophistication in these chairs with their unusually decorative double C-scroll arm supports, shaped and carved crest rail and the use of turnery. All three chairs have varying traces of original green paint. They all have beautifully carved and shaped thick seats.

However, there is one difference in the method of the making of the legs. Chair 4 has turned legs. The legs of chair 5 are plain and unturned. Whilst the legs of chair 6 appear to also have been turned, on closer inspection, the decoration on the lower part of the legs is carved to resemble turning. This may suggest that chair 5 is earlier than the others and that the maker progressed from a draw knife to the pole lathe. The maker obviously had sophisticated techniques in making the various decorative elements of all three chairs, so it is a mystery

why the legs are made with different techniques.

Chair 4 is illustrated in *Welsh Stick Chairs* by John Brown (Abercastle Publications, 1990) page 26:

This is the finest Welsh chair known to the author. In spite of an extremely heavy seat the chair has great elegance. The legs have restrained turnings and correct angle. The sticks have a subtle out-splay ending in a well shaped comb. The arm post carvings, the slight cut-away under the seat, and arm terminals, all combine to make his chair a fine example of the Welsh stick chair.

Chair 4 belonged to the renowned antique dealer Gerald Oliver of Haverfordwest. Chair 5 belongs to Chris Jones Antiques from Carmarthen. Chair 6 was bought in Llandeilo.





5





6





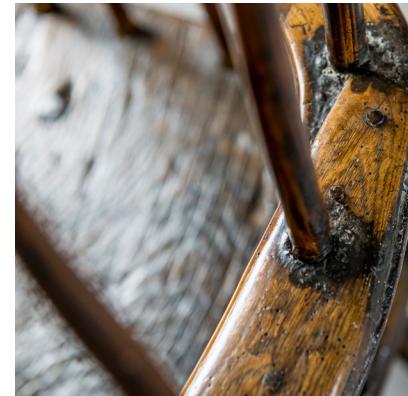
Dyddiad: 18fed ganrif
Lleoliad: gorllewin Cymru

Yn aml, caiff y gadair gefn ffyn Gymreig ei chategoreiddio fel celfcyn sydd â saerniâeth a chynllun cyntefig ac ar yr olwg gyntaf mae'n bur debyg y byddai'r gadair hon yn perthyn i'r grŵp hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, o'i hastudio'n fanwl, mae'n amlwg bod gan ei gwneuthurwr hi yr hyder, yr wybodaeth a'r ddealltwriaeth ynglŷn â sut i gael y gorau allan o'r pren, gan weithio gyda'r siâp naturiol. Mae pob dim am y gadair hon yn dangos y gwnaethpwyd hi'n y gwnaethpwyd hi'n gyfan gwbl o onnen, ar frys a chyda sicrwyd llaw gwneuthurwr oedd yn meddu ar hir brofiad. Gwnaethpwyd y fraich deuddarn o ddarn unigol crwm naturiol o onnen, a holtwyd a dal y darnau ynghyd gyda phegau pren neu hoelion coed. Ymddengys nad yw'r gwneuthurwr wedi rhoi braidd dim ystyriaeth i addurn a golwg y gadair, gan adael y rhisgl ar y fraich hyd yn oed. Mae'r dull a ddefnyddiwyd wrth wneud y fraich yn debyg i'r arfer hynafol a geir mewn nenffyrch cyplau to sydd i'w gweld mewn bythynnod a ffermdai brodorol.

Mae'r sedd chweochrog yn debyg mewn siâp i'r rhai hynny a welir ar stolion teircoes o orllewin Cymru, o ran yffaith nad oes ymgais i lyfnhau'r

ymylon neu i gynnig esmwythder i'r eisteddwr. Tynhawyd ffyn y grib wrth iddyn nhw fynd drwy'r breichiau gan ddefnyddio talpiau pren bychain. Mae un o'r coesau'n edrych fel petai'n hofran yn yr awyr. Mae'n debyg fod hyn am fod y gadair wedi eistedd ar lawr anwastad am nifer o flynyddoedd ac yn ddiddorol ddigon mae'r goes hon yn edrych fel petai hi mewn man ychydig yn wahanol. Er bod y goes hon yn wreiddiol, mae'n dangos effalai yr achoswyd ei gwahaniaeth hi naill ai gan ei hamgylchedd yn y gorffennol, neu y gallai fod ei dod yn rhydd rhywbryd yn y gorffennol ac wedi cael ei gosod yn ei hôl a'i thynhau ar ongl wahanol. Ni werthfawrogwyd y gadair hon ddigon yn ei dydd, er gwaethaf yffaith ei bod hi'n sigledig wrth eistedd arni – gall fod darn o bren defnyddiol gerllaw i'w osod o dan y goes, neu fat cwrw wedi'i blygu – ac felly chafodd hi mo'i hadnewyddu, sy'n ei gwneud hi'n fwy diddorol fyth.

Mae'n anodd lleoli'r gadair hon mewn sir neu ardal benodol, mae pob dim amdani, gan gynnwys lleoliad yr arwerthiant yn Sir Gaerfyrddin ble y'i prynwyd hi, yn awgrymu ei bod hi'n dod yn wreiddiol o orllewin Cymru.



Date: 18th century
Location: west Wales

The Welsh stick chair is often categorised as being of primitive construction and design and at first glance this chair would seem to fit into that group. However, when studied closely, it is evident that its maker had the confidence, knowledge and understanding of how to get the best from the timber, working with its natural shape. Everything about this chair, made entirely from ash, indicates that it was made at speed and with the assurance of a maker of long experience. The two part arm has been made from a single piece of naturally curved ash, which has been split and held together with the use of wooden pegs or tree nails. The maker would appear to have given little consideration to decoration and appearance, even leaving the bark on the arm. The method used in the making of this arm is similar to the ancient practice seen in cruck roof trusses found in vernacular cottages and farmhouses.

The six sided seat is similar in shape to those seen in many three legged stools found across west Wales in that there is no attempt to round the edges or give comfort to the sitter. The comb sticks as they pass through the arms, have been

tightened with the use of small wedges.

One of the legs appears to hover in the air. This is probably due to the chair having sat on an uneven floor for many years and interestingly this leg also appears to be at a slightly different position. Although this leg is original, it perhaps indicates that its difference was caused either by its past environment, or that it might have come loose over time and been put back and tightened at a different angle. This chair, despite the fact that it rocks when sat on – could there have been a handy wedge nearby to place under the leg, perhaps a folded beer-mat – was never valued enough to have been 'restored', which makes it all the more interesting.

It is difficult to place this chair to a specific county or area, everything about it, including the auction in Carmarthenshire where the chair was bought, would indicate a west Wales provenance.

