

Expert confirms that the:

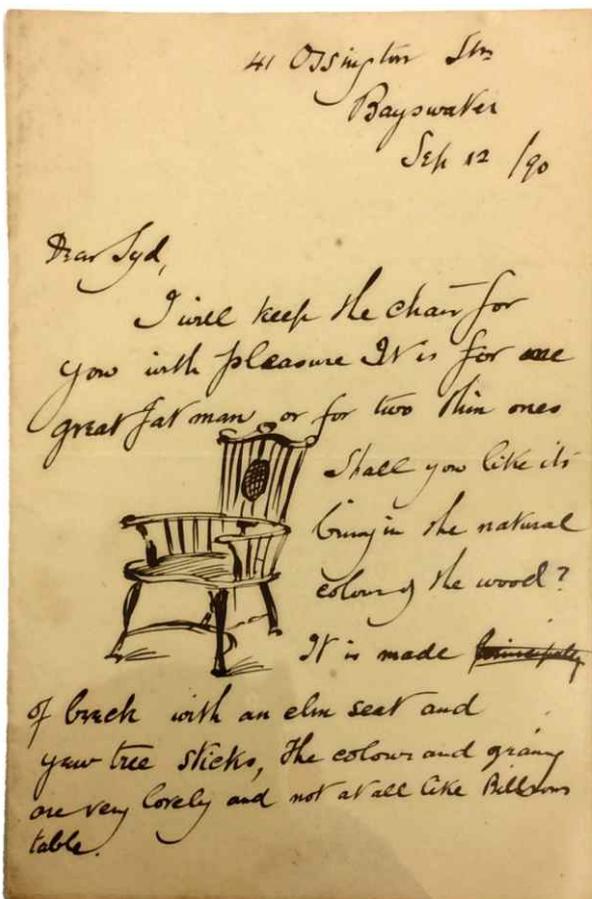
Sydney Gimson Chair is also an Ernest Gimson Chair

Mary Greensted, the leading authority on Ernest Gimson, has confirmed that the chair pictured on the right is an early piece of Ernest Gimson's work. The chair has always been referred to by Society members as the Gimson chair. However it was thought that it was so called because the long-standing president, Sydney Gimson, used it at meetings. It turns out that it was designed by his brother Ernest, who was a pioneering architect and designer.

Mary Greensted has seen it and says it was the first piece of furniture exhibited by Gimson at the 1890 Arts & Crafts exhibition in London. It is a complex design and very different to his later chairs. It was made by J. Britnell. She is sure that it is the same chair referred to in a letter to Sydney Gimson dated 12.9.1890:

'I will keep the chair for you with pleasure. It is for one great fat man or two thin ones. Shall you like its being the natural colour of the wood? It is made of beech with an elm seat and yew tree sticks, the colour and graining are very lovely and not at all like Billson's table.'

The table mentioned in the letter is stored at the Secular Hall and was the speakers' table in the Lecture Hall before it became a ballroom.



Above: Ernest's letter. Right: Walter Crane's design for the exhibition where the chair was exhibited