

*“Dictionary of British & Irish Furniture-makers (“DBIFM”)*

“The BIFMO editors (Dr Lindey and Clarissa Ward) created 124 new biographical accounts and developed a further 1,273 existing entries. Members may enjoy reading some of these, for example, those of two of Charles II’s upholsterers, Jean Poictevin (Paudevin) and Richard Bealing—both illustrated with appropriate images. In addition, the entries for the Crampton family (who worked for Dryad Furniture), and Frederick Stuttgart, a wood carver in the trade and teacher at the L.C.C. Central School of Arts & Crafts, repay examination.

“During the year, the majority of BIFMO’s efforts was spent on three externally funded projects: first, the records of The Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society (‘ACES’) (funded by the Albert Dawson Educational Trust); second, a project named ‘Migration and Craftsmanship’ looking at records of craftspeople who migrated to North America in the long 18th century (financed by a Dean F Failey grant from the Decorative Arts Trust); and, third, examination of The Graham Gadd Archive at National Museums Scotland (funded by Worshipful Company of Art Scholars). Hundreds of records of English chair-makers were updated with references to the monumental Bernard and Geraldine Cotton Archive at the Regional Furniture Society.

*“Finance*

“The Society received three grants from the US to support work on BIFMO. Two financed editorial work being \$10,000 from the Canaday Foundation and \$1,000 from the Abrams Foundation enabling the ongoing revision of entries. In addition, BIFMO received a three-year grant from the Iris Foundation of \$5,000 per annum for digital research projects.

“BIFMO’s finances are underpinned by grants and donations such as those outlined above as well as an annual draw-down of up to £12,000 from the Society’s own resources via the Anniversary fund. In addition, the surplus generated by BIFMO’s outreach activities also makes an essential contribution.

*“Online activity*

“The database attracted over 58,000 readers in the 12 months to 30 June 2024 (2023: c. 53,000), the greater part new to the site. The transcriptions of the ACES material were the most frequently viewed. The majority of the readers was from English-speaking countries, particularly the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, Ireland, and Canada, with the remainder based in countries across continental Europe as well as Japan, South Africa, and the Philippines. The Editors are always pleased to hear of new sources of material particularly that relating to family firms.