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I declare that the work contained in this submission is my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save to the extent that such work has been cited within the text of this submission.

Signed:

Date:



## Principles of Furniture and Joinery Design

Coursework 4: Research the Designer allocated to you

Biedermeier

1815–1848

Germany

Darren Morris

Word count:

## Table of Contents

Introduction	.....	1
History of designer	.....	2
Opinion	.....	9
Sketches/ Images	.....	10
Conclusion	.....	12
Appendix	.....	13

### Introduction:

Within my report will be a discussion on the designer/ period of time Biedermeier for which I will be discussing its furniture and style. The history of Biedermeier will be shown with some of its work and idea of where it comes from. Location of this work will be detailed and shown within this report giving areas this can also be still seen in today's world.

I will give my own opinion of what I think of the Biedermeier furniture and designs in this report with also referenced images of its work.



Image 1: Images shows off some of the Biedermeier period furniture

## History of Designer:

### Biedermeier

Biedermeier period furniture refers to a period that grew through its creativity between the years 1815 (Vienna Congress), the ending of the Napoleonic Wars and 1848 the year of the European revolutions. The Biedermeier furniture and surrounding arts such as literature, music, visual arts all became a growing industry in this time due to the industrialization after the ending of the Napoleonic wars and suited much of the middle class people in that period of time due to little wealth following the wars.

The Biedermeier furniture in this period were suitable in this time due to its simple and homelike designs and its use of inexpensive material to manufacture, these designs were also comfortable. Biedermeier furniture was simplified designs and ideas taking from the French Empire and Directoire style, while others were also taking from 18<sup>th</sup> century style furniture.

### Work History

Some images displaying the Biedermeier furniture below:

Examples of Biedermeier work:



Pair of Biedermeier display cabinets.

Walnut veneer with decorative inlays, ebonized details.

French polish finish.

Austria, c. 1825

Height: 69 inches, Width: 35 inches, Depth: 17 inches



An exceptional Empire bureau-commode with display cabinet.

Carved, gilt and polychrome caryatids with lions paw feet.

Walnut veneer. Ebonized details. French polish finish.

Austria, c. 1820

Commode

Height: 37 3/4 inches, Width: 49 1/4 inches, Depth: 23 1/2 inches

Display cabinet

Height: 41 1/2 inches, Width: 43 3/4 inches, Depth: 10 1/2 inches



An exceptional, rare Biedermeier single drawer writing table. Ebonized details.

Inlays.

Cherry veneer. French polish finish.

Vienna, c. 1825

Height: 32 1/2 inches, Width: 45 inches,

Depth: 27 inches



An elegant Biedermeier mirror.  
Walnut veneer. Ebonized details..  
French polish finish.  
Austria, c. 1825-30  
Height: 57 inches, Width: 23 inches,  
Depth: 1.6 inches



A Biedermeier rare chair.  
Cherry veneer. French polish finish.  
Austria, c. 1825-30



An exquisite Biedermeier Sectaire.

Book matched walnut veneer, ebonized detail.

Brass hardware.

French polish finish.

Austria c. 1825

Height: 65 1/2 inches, Width: 43 inches,

Depth: 20 1/2 inches



A fine Biedermeier sofa.

Mahogany veneer with inlays. French polish finish.

Austria, c. 1825-30

Height: 39 inches, Width: 70 inches,

Depth: 27 inches,

Height: 99 cm. Width: 177 cm.

Depth: 68 cm.

All images above of the Biedermeier furniture and details belonging to each item have been taken from <http://www.biedermeier-vienna.com> website which shows a wide variety of the Biedermeier antique furniture on display at its Chicago and Vienna workshops where such pieces have been restored to museum quality.

### Timber Preferences:

The Biedermeier furniture was mainly manufactured around materials such as cherry, ash and oak timber. Expensive timber such as mahogany was rarely used due to cost and the fact it had to be imported making it heavily taxed to bring in. Most woods used such as the cherry and pear wood would have been stained to give it the mahogany look of being expensive.

Most used wood materials:



Cherry



Ash



Oak

### Styles:

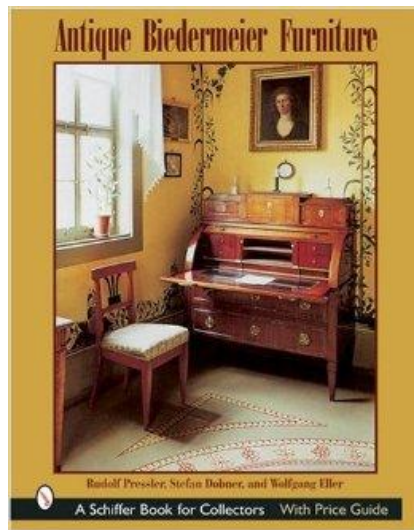
The Biedermeier furniture was designs taken French empire and directoire styles, while there was also 18<sup>th</sup> century English style evident in some of the work. This period of time was known for its simplistic furniture designs.

Example of the Directoire and 18<sup>th</sup> century English style furniture:



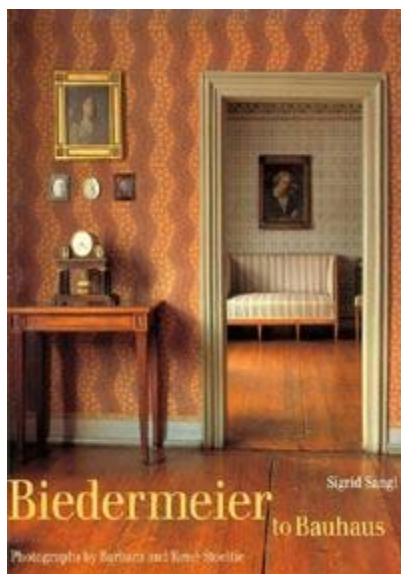
Books:

Some books showing off Biedermeier furniture and designs:



Antique Biedermeier Furniture

Rudolf Pressler (Author), Stefan Dbner (Author), Wolfgang Eller (Author)



Biedermeier to Bauhaus: Authentic German Decor

Sigrid Sangl (Author), Niccola Shearman (Translator)

*Furniture on display:*

There is a wide variety of Biedermeier furniture currently on display on websites located on the internet. Currently available online is a showcase of Biedermeier furniture on show in Chicago and Vienna with the following website displaying such material: <http://www.biedermeier-vienna.com/>.

Available on this site is a wide range of Biedermeier antique furniture to view giving detail in which it is crafted. There is a fine collection of Biedermeier furniture available through this website, most of its material and furniture is imported 1815 – 1830.

Within this company they also restore fine Biedermeier furniture inside there Viennese workshop and restore the furniture and pieces to fine museum quality ready for show. There fine collection of Biedermeier furniture consists of commodes, tables, chairs, sofas, vitrines, armoires, etc.

<http://www.biedermeier-vienna.com/>

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Also online is another shop that provides a service up displaying and also within its shop restores fine Biedermeier furniture to museum standards and sells them to the correct buyer.

This shop restores the Biedermeier furniture using only aged timber to resemble the same original material that the piece was made from.

The website itself provides the user with an online catalogue to view each piece of Biedermeier furniture available to buy with detail of its wood material and finish and approximate year it was made. This shop is situated in Germany which takes in old fine looking antique furniture and restores the pieces back to its former glory.

<mailto:nfo@biedermeier.com>

*My opinion on Biedermeier furniture:*

Personally from studying Biedermeier furniture in that period I quiet like and prefer its style and designs to any other designer. I like the Biedermeier furniture due it simplicity of design and its elegance throughout.

The fact that during the time Biedermeier furniture was crafted, most of its pieces were made from ash, oak and cherry for which I personally like myself as the other types of timber such as mahogany and walnut were relatively a lot more expensive to purchase as it had to be imported in. for this reason I prefer the Biedermeier furniture as its design look quite expensive although they are made from cheap timber but look and express themselves as fine art of this time.

From studying this furniture within this time I enjoyed looking at its designs as I myself prefer the more traditional and simple looks as appose to the more complicated over designed pieces of furniture. The biggest prospect I like about Biedermeier furniture is its polished finished of its pieces, it just shows off the fine art and sculptured work of the cabinetmakers in this time, while also shows off the fine use of veneering used in this type of furniture.

Overall if I were to design or reproduce a piece of furniture I would choose Biedermeier furniture as I personally enjoy looking at this work and would use similar designs and finishes to my work.

*Sketches/ Images of Biedermeier furniture:*

A pair of Biedermeier display cabinets



An elegant Biedermeier armoire



An exceptional, rare Biedermeier single drawer writing table



Example of a Biedermeier room layout of furniture:



### Conclusion:

Within this report I have discussed my research on a designer from the Biedermeier period for which its furniture was built and designed with the timeline of 1815 – 1848. I have given brief history of this period whereby its furniture was built and examples of its work are shown within this report. I have covered all aspects of the Biedermeier furniture period within my report.

Works Cited:

[commons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)

1. The **Directoire** or Directory style takes its name from the period 1795–1799 when France was ruled by a government of Directors – the Directory. Directory style was not so much an independent style in itself, but rather a transitional style between that of Louis XVI and the Consular and Empire styles.

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/napoleon/art-and-design/directoire-style>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biedermeier>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/64810/Biedermeier-style>

<https://www.1stdibs.com/collections/biedermeier-furniture/>

<http://www.biedermeier-vienna.com/>

<https://www.onekingslane.com/info/home/biedermeier-style-1815-1830/#.VSkV2WjF-So>