



Regency Furniture (1811-1830) 19th Century

Regency (1811-1830)

- Regency followed a style in France after the coronation of Napoleon as Emperor (Empire Style).
- During this period the middle class became richer after the war and furniture was bought as a fashion.
- Brass decoration was popular about 1805 but by 1820 brass inlay had been replaced by boxwood, ebony etc.
- Wood used Mahogany, rosewood & Ebony
- Prince George became Regent from 1811-1820 this was a period of classical furniture. He led a full scale revival of Louis XIV & Louis XV especially the Boulle work.
- Fashion was to copy actual furniture of the classical Roman and Greek times. If they were not identically copied, they were made as close as possible to the classical decoration forms.

Regency (1811-1820)

- Winged Griffins, lions heads, animal legs, Roman Gods: anything that was popular in ancient Rome, Egypt or Greece.
- Furniture had moved from natural evolution to return to Classical form. The settee returned to a couch with scrolled ends supported by sphinx heads on lions legs.
- Designers who distinguished themselves in this period were Henry Holland, Thomas Hope and George Smith.
- George IV had a large influence over the craftsmen of the time. In 1815, George commissioned John Nash to transform his large house to the mosque like building that it is today. This gave work to lots of local tradesmen.

The Royal Pavilion at Brighton

- Home to Prince George Regent



- <https://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion/history/short-history-of-the-royal-pavilion/>

Features of Regency Furniture

- Commode was replaced by the chiffonier – straight front low cupboard
- Cheaper pieces sometimes painted with black lacquer -revival of japanning
- The current fashion was for decorating walls with paintings which led to lower pieces.
- Tallboys disappeared and bookcases and cabinets became smaller.
- Wide use of metal mounts, lion paw feet, fretted brass grilles cover glass doors, pierced galleries, supports for shelves.
- Ormolu – imitation gold.



Features of Regency Furniture

- Carry out a quick Internet search to see if you can find the following
- Trafalgar chair
- Sphinx head
- Caryatid
- Sabre shape legs
- Reeding
- Brass inlay
- Brass boss
- Canterbury
- Whatnot
- Davenport
- Sofa Table
- Pembroke Table
- Kilsmos Chair

Features of Regency Furniture

- Chest with front pilasters of classic forms, sphinx head on animal legs or caryatid – female figure.
- Scrolled end couches. Wooden frame often gilded.
- Circular tables, some with marble tops, stood on plinth base with animal feet.
- Sabre shape legs decorated with reeding or brass inlay.
- Brass boss used at junction of leg and rail.
- Novelties – Canterbury to carry music or plates
- Whatnot to display small pieces.
- Davenport small writing desk.
- Sofa Tables – long narrow table with a drop leaf at each end and two drawers.

Features of Regency Furniture

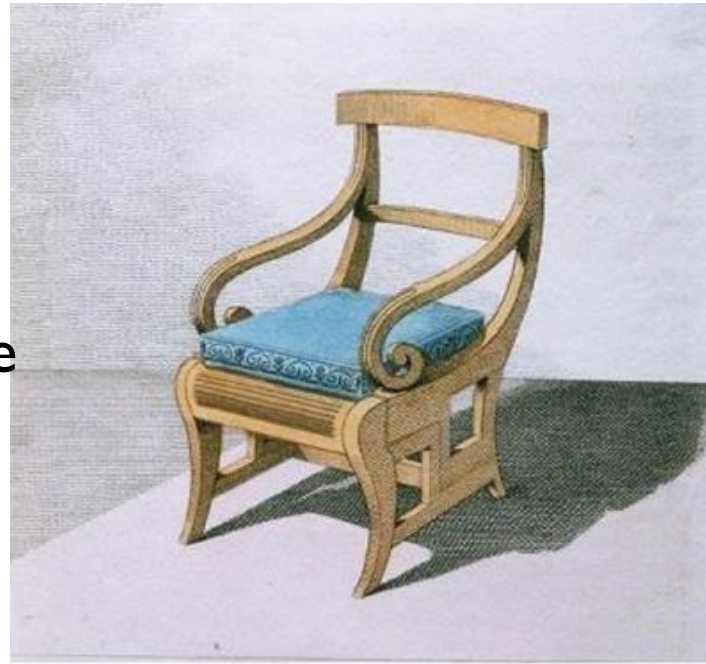
- Brass inlays were longer lasting than marquetry and this led to the revival of French Boulle decorations.



- Sabre Leg
- Metal Grille
- <https://www.sellingantiques.co.uk/t/antique-regency-furniture>

Regency Style

- Trafalgar chair used in mourning the death of Nelson.



The Repository, ca 1811. Chair by Morgan and Sanders.

Trafalgar Chair at the V&A Museum



DFS Trafalgar Chair

<http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O52959/trafalgar-chair-unknown/>

Regency Style

- Caryatid Female figure serving as a support column



Pembroke Table



Regency Sofa Table

Regency Style



Reeding



Rosewood side cabinet with gilt features and silk lined grille doors



Scroll end sofa with gold satin stripe
Images courtesy of Georgian regency interiors

Regency Style



Rosewood Canterbury

Rosewood whatnot



Davenport



Klismos Chair