



pursuits, mainly written by anonymous ladies, which were backed up by art shops and stationers who could supply the necessary materials. Lamp black was a key element in painting in the prepared design, with ink being used for fine detail. Watercolour was a well-established medium that was varnished after being sized for stability.

The book then turns to the objects themselves and illustrates many of them throughout, both in colour and in black and white. Further examination of designs and shapes and their sources occupy two chapters before chinoiserie and flowers are given comprehensive coverage. Extreme sophistication was achieved in the best examples and the visual impact could be striking. This is an extremely professional, comprehensive and historical coverage of a specialised branch of the decorative arts that drew on a wide range of cultural sources for its inspiration.

geographically wide-ranging and statistically literate book, he introduces the nature of the global art market before individual experts cover 43 countries in individual essays of astonishing detail. The fact that in Argentina there are approximately 40 art exhibition openings per week may be set against Venezuela's Iboamerican art fair in Caracas and the turnover of Norwegian art galleries. There is comprehensive coverage of the UK, USA, Russia, China and other key places in the global scramble. It is, as stated in the foreword by Lord Gowrie, a 'fascinating cabinet of curiosities in respect of the art market worldwide'.

The explosion in the modern art market is not a response to identifiable laws that govern such markets, and this book does not attempt to establish any. Art of a certain kind may have been a good investment over certain periods and there is plenty of information on what has happened and the structure of the market in each case. As a starting point in the understanding of the complexity and scope of the world's art markets the book is very good indeed. From tax matters to the Internet, from auctioneers to dealers, fairs and museums, the coverage is extensive. What does the new art investor do once the availability of such knowledge is at hand and a course of action is to be embarked upon? The book has advice from Lord Gowrie as well as specialist art consultants on that, too.

The International Art Markets

The essential guide for collectors and investors

Consultant Editor: James Goodwin

Kogan Page

£55

James Goodwin is known to these pages as a writer and lecturer on the art and antiques market, with Maastricht and City Universities, Christie's and several economic newspapers and journals as his forum. In this

BOOK REVIEWS

Scottish Vernacular Furniture

by Bernard D. Cotton

Thames & Hudson

£48

Dr Cotton, who produced *The English Regional Chair*

barrels, aumries, presses and more conventional pieces of shelving, dressers, cupboards, drawers, tables and washstands. As might be expected, there is then a larger, comprehensive section on seating, in which stools such as the low creeper, intended to keep the sitter's nostrils below the hanging smoke level caused by a central floor fire that filled the ceiling with fumes, is well illustrated. More conventional robust and stylistically derivative chairs and settles follow, including the local versions of Windsors and Chippendale designs – after all, Chippendale's partner was Scottish. Fans will be pleased that the Orkney, Shetland and Fair Isle

Château Cour

