Murphy Chair Company Furniture is furniture produced by the American manufacturer the Murphy Chair Company.

Description

Murphy Chair Company was formed when the company C. H. Dunks of Detroit, was bought up by Michael Joseph (M.J) Murphy, a Canadian, in 1872. Dunks had been a mattress manufacturer. The company relocated to Owensboro, Kentucky, in 1919.

From it's beginnings as a small shop with only five employees, it grew to employ over a thousand people, and was known as the world's largest manufacturer of chairs. By 1935 the company was making 123 types of chairs, including children's rockers.

Most of the wood used was pecan, oak, and maple. A specialty was to use "quarter-sawn" oak, a method of cutting the wood which produces a "tiger's eye" effect, known as tiger oak.

Guide For Collectors

Ins appraisal is a website which has a page giving general information on the company, as well as having a forum for the exchange of information between collectors.

The Antique Shop website has a forum for the exchange of information between collectors, and discussions on Murphy chairs.

Genuine Murphy pieces carry a black label on the base of each chair. The logo reads Murphy in white on a black background.

There are also many comments and discussions on the subject of Murphy chairs, which can be found using google search.

Value

Prices paid for Murphy chairs vary widely.

Offered for sale by Antiques On Hanover Street in February 2012 were a set of twelve oak arm chairs, for dining or conferences, for the price of $3850

A set of eight Murphy signed Victorian oak chairs were sold in March 2006 by TW Conroy, LLC for $340

A signed set of eight Murphy Antique Mahogany arm chairs were sold in November 2008 by TW Conroy, LLC for $120

A signed set of six Murphy antique Mahogony arm chairs was sold in November 2008 by TW Conroy, LLC for $40