



**DOERR DALLAS
VALUATIONS**



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BROWN AND OUT?

'The confusing world of antique furniture in 2022'

In the world of antique furniture, there is nothing that raises temperatures, or gives a better reason for an argument than the rather broad term of brown furniture, but what does it actually mean and is the market for such items truly as doomed as many people would want you to believe?

Firstly, lets back track about 23 years. The 1990s were coming to a close, Lovejoy had been cancelled, Ikea was becoming a love/hate word in the English vocabulary and traditional antique furniture that had been the mainstay of the collectible and usable market had started to hit hard times. The re-discovery of mid-century modern furniture had started to fit with people's lifestyles and the necessity for a Victorian gentleman's compactum had waned.

At this stage, demand had simply dropped and by the 2010s one could buy a Victorian chest of drawers, built by a craftsman, from a fine imported mahogany for pretty much the same as a cardboard box full of Swedish chipboard that you would have to spent hours putting together yourself – it just doesn't seem right, does it?

However 'Brown furniture' isn't simply the row of beaten-up Edwardian sideboards in a local auction house, it includes some of the most glorious items ever made as functional pieces – and to place all items of furniture into a single category, just because they are made from wood seems a little absurd.

The market today for fine antique furniture is perhaps not as strong as it was in those days when anyone would pay at least a £1000 for something that started with "Georgian" but looking at retail markets now, there are fine and rare pieces available for well in excess of what many people would give them credit for.

So what does the future hold for the 'Brown Furniture' market?

Let us not kid ourselves, do we really think that the modern, almost disposable lifestyles that people live in 2022 are going to ever need a chest of drawers with a brushing slide? Do we think that suddenly every house will need a drop leaf bureau and that writing letters will suddenly become popular again?

Of course, the answer to both of these questions is no, but – the market for customers that actually do desire these items will only go up as the collectors market still strives to own the best, and only the best.

Call us today to enquire about an appointment on **01883 722736** or email **enquiries@doerrvaluations.co.uk** or visit our website **www.doerrvaluations.co.uk**

So when your clients say “we have some brown furniture, but it's not really worth anything anymore” it might be worth getting it looked at...



William & Mary Burr Elm Chest on stand £25,000



Regency Mahogany dressing mirror - £8000



Regency Ebonised and Brass desk chair - £15,000

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