

DESCRIPTION OF ID 499 PROJECT

by Kathleen Wittkamper

Independent Study
Miss Ellen Lacey
Spring Quarter, 1976

SpColl
Thesis
LP
2489
74
1976
W58

Because I wanted to do a project of practical application rather than a paper, and because I was interested in refinishing furniture but had no previous experience; I chose to restore a solid walnut dresser which has been in my mother's family for about five generations.

Work on the dresser began last June with a preliminary inspection of the piece by my supervising instructor. At her recommendation the dresser was transported to a professional who stripped several layers of paint from it, and repaired broken and missing parts by hand.

It has since taken nearly a year to complete the sanding and refinishing of the dresser. A three-step oil-base kit was used to finish the wood. It is a low-luster protective finish, but is not plasticized and so looks very natural.

The cost of the professional stripping and repair work and the complete refinishing kit was \$72.35. Approximately 108 work hours (excluding the professional work and drying time for coats of wet finish) were expended on the project.

The accompanying pictures show the dresser before any restoration; after stripping, repairing and sanding; and completed.

The process was indeed a learning experience and self-satisfying. The product is a valuable one, of which I am proud and which will continue to be a treasured family heirloom.

