Foreword

Lonn Taylor and David Warren approached me a few years ago with their vision for a long-awaited sequel to the classic *Texas Furniture: The Cabinetmakers and Their Work, 1840–1880*. That book, universally recognized as the authoritative publication on the subject of nineteenth-century handmade Texas furniture, has become a collector’s item. Lonn and David wanted to do more than simply reissue the original book; they also wanted to include additional pieces that they had encountered in their subsequent years of scholarship.

I was immediately an enthusiastic supporter of the idea. As a history research center, the Briscoe Center’s mission is to sponsor projects based on our collections to further scholarship and deepen our understanding of the past. Given their position as *the* foremost experts on Texas furniture, I was confident that Lonn and David would create yet another boon to our understanding of Texas history and culture, bringing the expertise, meticulous attention to detail, and rich cultural understanding that made the first book a landmark piece of scholarship.

Certainly a reissue of the first volume would provide access to our collections, given that it relied heavily on Miss Ima Hogg’s Winedale collections, now an integral part of the Briscoe Center’s holdings. But I was particularly intrigued by the “new” discoveries Lonn and David sought

to document—examples of handmade furniture scattered throughout private collections and homes across the state. The authors have spent many years identifying the best possible examples of the types and forms of furniture produced by the hundreds of local cabinetmakers who worked in Texas. In order to populate the new version of the book, they would locate, document, catalogue, and photograph dozens of artifacts, gathering a huge amount of information about these rare objects into a single research project. The opportunity to facilitate and sponsor new research, and to have the records of that work become a permanent part of the Briscoe Center’s archival holdings, was too great of an opportunity to pass up.

Lonn and David’s project appealed to us for another reason. The Briscoe Center’s collections philosophy is based on the belief that everything belongs to history and that everything has a history. Accordingly, we believe sound historical research requires a thorough review of all relevant potential sources no matter the shape, size, format, or medium. That is why the Center’s collections include not only traditional primary sources such as manuscript documents, newspapers, and maps, but also diverse holdings of artifacts, ranging from coins to historic houses. The Center’s Winedale division, in particular, houses a wide range of artifacts document-

ing material culture and aspects of the built environment. Among Winedale's most valuable holdings for historical research are its collections of quilts, decorative arts, and furniture. It was obvious that Lonn and David's new research and publications project would bring more visibility to a significant component of our Winedale collections and encourage others to use those resources for their own work.

As the project continued and research trips across the state yielded notable results, it quickly became apparent that the results of Lonn and David's new findings were of such significance to merit another volume. We're grateful to our friends at the University of Texas Press for their support and enthusiasm for this project, especially their willingness to create two books: a reissue of Volume 1, and this book, a second volume to accommodate the new scholarship and findings.

The book you now hold is certainly a great accomplishment, and one that makes the importance of furniture as historical evidence accessible to many. Moreover, Lonn and David's work will now be available to researchers, a wonderful compliment to the material culture evidence the Briscoe Center preserves. The Briscoe Center is honored to have sponsored their work, and I want to extend my gratitude to the many donors who provided financial support to this worthwhile effort.

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