



ONE OF A SET OF PORTUGUESE CHAIRS,
INFLUENCED BY THE WILLIAM AND
MARY STYLE

See question: English Style from Portugal

ENGLISH STYLE FROM PORTUGAL

I enclose a photograph of one of a set of a dozen chairs in my possession. They are all side chairs (without arms) and are of walnut. They were bought by my father in London about 1920, and he invariably referred to them as "William and Mary." Many people who have seen them here have been mystified by this description, and I should be most grateful if you could give me your opinion as to their origin.—ROBERT COE, Sur les Ailes, Chemin des Collines, Cannes, AM, France.

This set of chairs appears to be of Portuguese make. Mr. Coe's father was right in thinking that their seats and cabriole legs are strongly influenced by English taste derived from imported English furniture; on the other hand, the elaborate carving on the back, apron and knees shows a Portuguese sense of design and a completely personal and picturesque style. Portuguese chairs were usually made of hard Brazilian wood rather than walnut; in this wood elaborately pierced backs could be made.