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Irving and Casson

Furniture and Interiors

Much of the original furniture at Lucknow was made by Irving and Casson, including the dining room suite. It is quite possible that the firm crafted the decorative plaster ceiling in the dining room, as well as the elm and oak wood paneling throughout the home's first floor (though this has not been confirmed and research is ongoing). Can you see any evidence that the wood paneling in the home is by the same makers as these furniture pieces?

Right: One of eight chairs included in the Plants' dining suite.

Below: This settee is part of a set of furniture ordered by the Plants from Irving and Casson. The style mimics an 18th century English design



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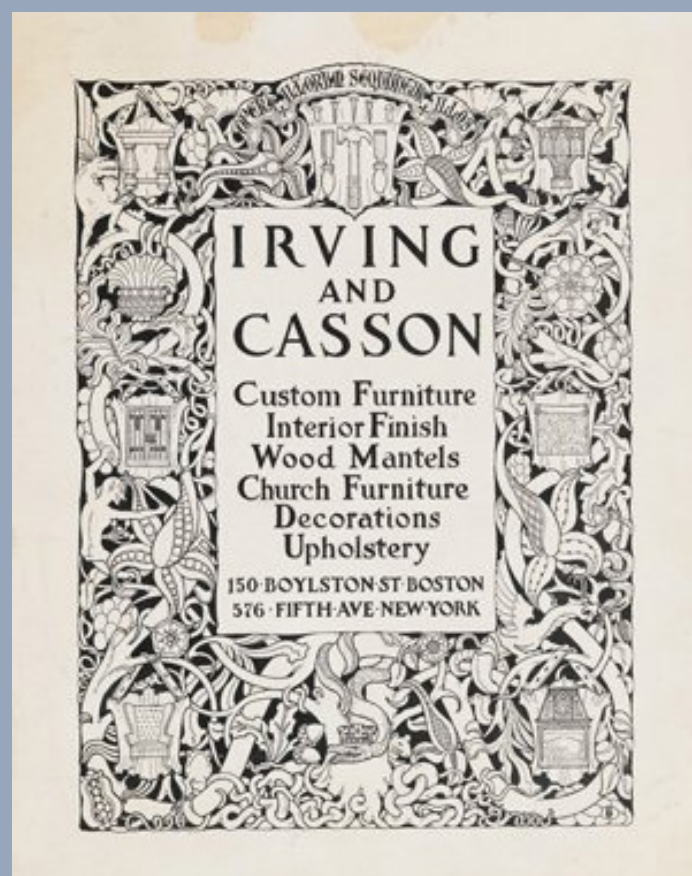
Irving and Casson

Furniture and Interiors

Irving and Casson, late A.H. Davenport Company, was a Boston firm founded by carpenters Charles R. Irving and Robert Casson in 1874. At first, Irving and Casson crafted wood mantels and interior finishes, but later expanded to offer furniture, most of which was designed to mimic 17th and 18th century styles.



The firm's interior designers and furniture makers worked with renowned architects – like Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue, and others – to decorate public buildings, private residences, and the Gothic revival churches that were being built all over New England around the turn of the 20th century. A.H. Davenport shut its doors in 1973.



Lucknow's architect, J. Williams Beal, had no doubt coordinated with Irving and Casson before on church and private residence commissions, and would have been ready to recommend the company's work to Mr. and Mrs. Plant while they were designing their home.

Above: Irving and Casson table in Staircase Hall.

Left: An undated trade card for the Irving and Casson firm. Historic New England.