Woodwork Tools in Early Modern Oxford
Abstract

Oxford apprentices were routinely promised clothes, money or other items on the completion of their apprenticeships. This article focuses on the tools promised to woodworkers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which shed light on working practices. The trades represented included those of carpenter, joiner and cooper, though the range of activities was wider than these terms suggest and even included musical instrument making, an activity which is usually thought of as a specialization. The evidence comes chiefly from apprenticeship enrolment books and is supplemented by wills and inventories.
The early Egyptians also crafted coffins from wood. Early Egyptians invented the art of veneering with the earliest examples being displayed in the tomb of Semehet who died over 5000 years ago. Many of the pharaohs were buried with objects that had African ebony veneer and ivory inlays. According to some scholars, Egyptians were the first to varnish, or "finish" their woodwork, though no one knows the composition of these "finishes". Early Chinese civilizations also promoted the art of woodworking. It's believed that woodworking mushroomed in that country starting around 720 B.C. When that happened, the Chinese developed many sophisticated applications of woodworking, including precise measurements used for making pots, tables, and other pieces of furniture. Sections tackle the knotty issues of translation, the rich range of early modern biblical scholarship, Bible dissemination and circulation, the changing political uses of the Bible, literary appropriations and responses, and the reception of the text across a range of contexts and media. Where existing scholarship focuses, typically, on Tyndale and the King James Bible of 1611, The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in England, c.1530–1700 goes further, tracing the vibrant and shifting landscape of biblical culture in the two centuries following the Reformation. The Bible was, by any measure, the most important book in early modern England. It preoccupied the scholarship of the era, and suffused the idioms of literature and speech. Political ideas rode on its interpretation and deployed its terms.