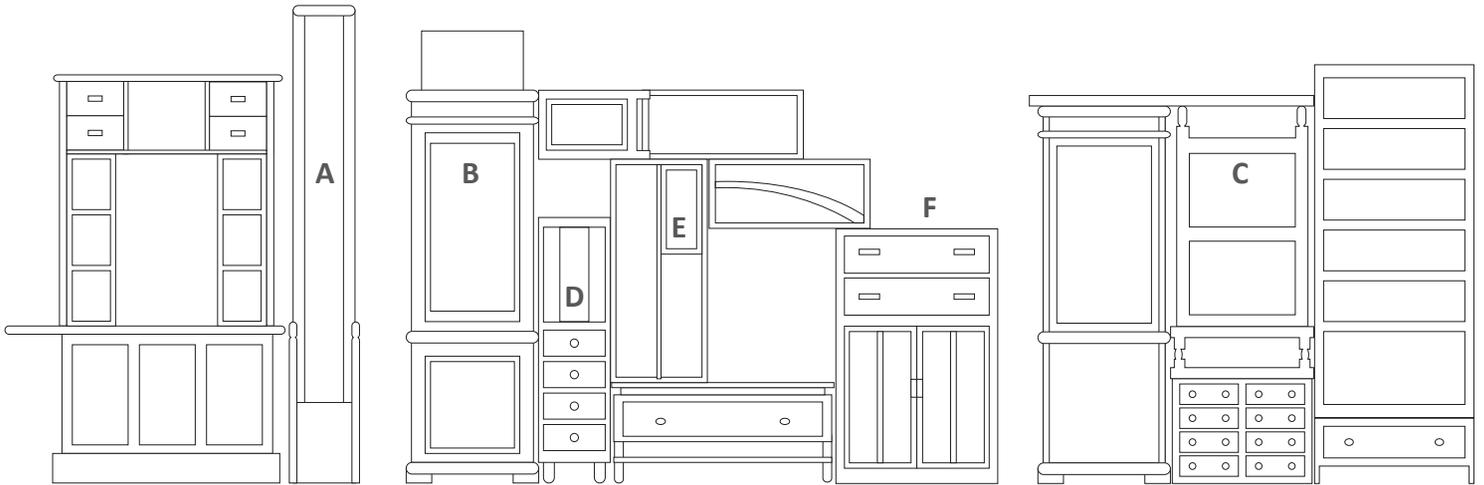


# The Study of Percival Farrington



## The Study of Percival Farrington

A creative reimagining of P. Farrington's Study. All the other pieces in the exhibition are linked to or initially inspired by his work. RD

Percival Farrington (1801-1901). Oldham born Naturalist, correspondent of C. Darwin. Studied Lepidoptera with R.S. Edleston and was mentor of J.W. Tutt. Worked at Henbury Park, Cheshire in the 1870's. Lectured on Natural History in Oldham but was a very private man, he is seldom mentioned in the literature of the period. His wife Margot Farrington was a keen botanist and the couple worked together on classifications of phytophagous insects of the Manchester Area.

### A. The Last Unicorn (A horse with an arrow in it's head?) Or, 'Missing you'

Myths of fantastical beasts have faded. Actual animals are just as, if not more, amazing. It will be a shame when they are all gone.

### B. In Passing Unnoticed (The Wonders Overlooked Beneath Our Feet) Or, 'The Moss Cabinet'

It is not necessary to travel far to encounter the Wonder of Nature and be inspired by the detail,

form and colour of mosses and lichen. A hope that wonder and fascination can spark respect and responsibility for nature and also questions how we preserve, for the future, plants that do not propagate by seed. RD

### C. The Study of a Recurring Necessity (A dead moth told me) Or 'How a camouflaged animal carries a picture of its environment on it's back'

The rise and subsequent demise of the melanic form of the Peppered Moth (*Biston betularia*) is the classic example of evolution observable within a human lifetime. Its colouration was influenced industrial pollution and was researched in Manchester. Michael Majerus predicted that, following 'the clean air act', the melanic form (*carbonaria*) would be lost by 2018. The cryptic moth patterns are derived from the artist designed wallpaper, which is in turn inspired by moss and lichen. RD

Other artworks:

**D. Pointless Device #9 The Dipper** RD

**E. Bird Metronome (01/09/1914)** RD

**F. A Fable of Progress (The Indifference Engine) RD**  
**Infestation** (chair inside the study) JS & RD