

Swedish Modern

One of a few pieces of furniture I brought to Channing House from my home of 45 years was this midcentury-modern coffee table.



It's looking a little bit dry now, clearly it is time to give it a rub with teak oil. The last time I oiled it was when I moved here in 2019.

The table was Marian's, one of a few pieces she brought from her previous apartment when we moved into our house. I would guess she bought it sometime in the 1960s.

It was the anchor of our living room cozy-corner, filling the angle between a sofa and a comfy chair, supporting our main reading light and — until we gave up smoking in the 1980s — carrying our big ashtray. We'd sit and read (and smoke), one in the chair and one on the end of the sofa, feet together on a shared hassock. There's still a small black scar where a cigarette fell out of the ashtray once.

Until I sat down to write this, it had never occurred to me to wonder if there was any kind of maker's mark on the piece. Today for the first time I crawled under and looked at the bottom and by golly, there is!



It says IMPORTED ORIGINAL, DUX, MADE IN SWEDEN. Duxiana is still a major Swedish furniture maker, although their current website only shows steel and glass tables, no wooden one. So Marian with her usual good taste, had bought a quality piece for herself.

Anyway it anchors the 45-degree-angle arrangement of my apartment and I treasure it.