The Mao Era in Objects

Chairs And Stools: Image Of The '36 Feet'



Everyday Furniture Drawings Collection (changyong jiaju tuji 常用家具图集)

DATE

1974-07

CREATOR

Beijing Municipal Timber Industry Research Institute (Beijing shi mucai gongye yanjiusuo北 京市木材工业研究所)

PUBLISHER

Nongye chubanshe, 1974

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DESCRIPTION

This image features on the first page of an 84-page collection of technical drawings. It depicts nine furniture items. Together, they make up the '36 feet': a wardrobe, a chest of drawers, a bed, a bedside table, a dining table, and four stools. The room is nicely furnished, with nice bedlinen, a blanket, a toy, some books, a clock, and a radio: all objects that indicate a desirable level of comfort. The image connects comfort and the Chinese Communist Party by showing a copy of the *People's Daily* (*Renmin Ribao* 人民日报) lying on the table and the colour of the book spines on top of the chest of drawers - which are red - suggest that these include official party works and likely a copy of the works of Chairman Mao.