Presidential Dining Chair
- Designed by Hans Wegner
- Mid Century Modern Era

Many of the world’s most famous furniture designs, including furniture used in ancient Greece and Rome, can be traced to King Tutankhamen (King Tut) whose tomb was opened by English archaeologist Howard Carter on November 29, 1922 in the Valley of the Kings, near Thebes, Egypt. The tomb was so dense with antiquities, it took Carter eight years to empty due to his meticulous recording technique.

Furniture Eras
King Tut rules Egypt thousands of years ago. Remarkably, even though his tomb was not opened until 1922, design elements borrowed from his furniture can be seen in nearly all of the furniture eras:
• Ancient - China, Egypt, Persia, Greece, Rome
• Medieval - 15th Century
• Early Georgian - early 18th Century
• Georgian - mid to late 18th Century
• Regency - early 19th Century
• Victorian - 19th Century
• Arts and Crafts Movement - early 20th Century
• Mid-Century Modern - mid 20th Century

Examples include cabriole legs with carved lion’s paws that can be seen on a child’s chair found in the tomb, bronze hinges that can be seen in gateleg tables of the Eighteenth Century as well as a mortise and tenon joint that indicates the use of lathes.

Hans Wegner
As a pioneer behind modern Danish furniture in the 1950’s and 1960’s, Hans J. Wegner was a creative force within the Mid Century era, with a career that includes more than 1000 designs. His most notable designs were his chairs earning him his title “the Master of the Chair.”

Wegner had a simplistic minimalist approach for integrating perfectly executed joints with refined shapes. He combined this approach with a consistent enthusiasm for wood and its natural characteristics. His iconic pieces include the Wishbone chair, Shell Chair, Plank Chair and The Papa Bear Chair.

Originally trained as a cabinetmaker, Hans J. Wegner is considered one of the most creative and productive Danish furniture designers of all time. He earned the Lunning Prize in 1951 and The 8th International Design Award in 1997.

A Hans Wegner chair became famous when it appeared in the televised debate between Richard Nixon and John F. Kennedy in 1960 and later became known as the “Presidential Chair.”

The first televised U.S. presidential debate was filmed in a Chicago TV studio on September 26, 1960. About 40% of the nation’s 180 million people watched a series of four debates.

Reproduction from Modway, "Presidential Dining Armchair,” Dimensions: 21.5"L x 25.5"W x 30"H, $226