

MACKINNON

FINE FURNITURE



Gillows: A George III Mahogany Carlton House Desk

England, circa 1790

One of the earliest references to desks of this type is found in an entry from the Prince of Wales' accounts in the Royal Archives which reveals an insight into a table of this form supplied by John Kerr, a favoured cabinet-maker of the Prince Regent:

'Feb 5 1790

To a Large Elegant Sattinwood Writing table containing 15 Drawers and two Cupboards Top covered with superfine Green Cloth to rise Occasionally the whole Varnish'd and Polish'd Compleat

£20'

The account verifies the existence of such a table in the late 18th century, supplied directly to the Prince for Carlton House prior to the general release of comparative designs such as those in George Hepplewhite's *The Cabinet-Maker's London Book of Prices* and Thomas Sheraton's *The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Drawing Book*. In 1814 Rudolph Ackermann included a French fashioned writing table with rounded cartonnier section in his *Repository of Arts* naming it a 'Carlton House table' and thereby implying its origins.

Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, Devon, now part of The National Trust, is a masterpiece of High Victorian architecture designed by William Burges in 1869.

SOLD

A very fine George III mahogany Carlton House desk, attributed to Gillows

Literature:

H. Roberts, 'The First Carlton House Table?', *Furniture History Journal*, 1995, pp. 124-128.

G. Hepplewhite, *The Cabinet-Maker's London Book of Prices*, 2nd ed., 1793, pl. 21.

T. Sheraton, *The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Drawing Book*, 1793, pl. 60.

P. Agius, *Ackermann's Regency Furniture & Interiors*, Holland, 1984, p. 81, pl. 63.

Height: 3' 3³/₄" in (100.97 cm)

Width: 5' 4" in (162.56 cm)

Depth: 2' 1¹/₄" in (64.14 cm)

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