

MACKINNON FINE FURNITURE



GILLOWS: A REGENCY ROSEWOOD SOFA TABLE

England, *circa* 1800

A pair of closely related rosewood sofa tables was supplied by Gillows of Oxford Street to Stephen Tempest of Broughton Hall in 1803. They were invoiced as: '*.....2 large rosewood sofa tables with drawers in do. and on claw & castors 14 gns. 29-8-0d.*'

It was at the beginning of the 19th century that Gillows introduced a new design of table, specifically to be placed besides a sofa. In 1801, they advised their client Lady Gardiner of Clerk Hill '*the most fashionable form now used are what we call sofa tables*', and enclosed a sketch to show how '*the 2 leaves fall down like a Pembroke table*'. In July 1801, Gillows first introduced the sofa table to their *Estimate Sketch Book*. Sofa tables would be adapted to suit many purposes - for example as games, tea and writing tables. The fitted knob handles were supplied either in ivory, exotic wood or brass.

A very fine Regency period rosewood and cross banded sofa table attributed to Gillows of Lancaster and London. Of unusually deep proportions, the timbers retaining magnificent colours and patina. Standing on splayed legs joined by a high arched stretcher, the feet with brass box castors.

Literature:

Susan E. Stuart, *Gillows of Lancaster and London 1730 - 1840*, pp. 264-267

Height: 2' 4³/₈" in (72 cm)
Width: 5' 1³/₈" in (156 cm)
Depth: 2' 9¹/₈" in (84 cm)

Stock Number

R03.43

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