

MACKINNON

FINE FURNITURE



KNOLE PARK, KENT

England, *circa* 1780

This outstanding transitional table displays the very best features of English and French furniture designs of the period combined. It is a highly refined example of the successful union of the anglicised Louis XV style and the contemporaneous neoclassical revival occurring in England. It is one of a very select group pieces of marquetry furniture that can be confidently attributed to John Cobb and his workshop. They are all designed in the 'French' taste and made primarily of satinwood, having central panels of marquetry flowers or fruits to the top. They also share the distinctive crossbanded outlines in contrasting timbers and similar neo-classical inlay.

A lavishly inlaid *bombé* commode, with a pair of torcheres *en suite*, is recorded as having been supplied by Cobb in 1772 to Paul Methuen at Corsham Court in Wiltshire. A bill survives at Corsham which describes it as an 'extra neat inlaid commode' and this has become the point of reference for subsequent attributions. A strikingly similar table formerly in the Tweedmouth Collection is now in the Victoria & Albert Museum.

Our table is known to have come from the collections of Lady Sackville at Knole Park, Kent. Knole is one the great English country houses famed for it evocative interiors and wonderful collections, particularly of 17th and early 18th century furniture.

From the collections of the Sackvilles of Knole Park

Attributed to Royal cabinet-maker John Cobb

An exceptional George III satinwood and marquetry neo-classical serpentine side table in the French

taste, the top crossbanded with tulipwood and inlaid to the centre with a large ribbon tied bouquet of flowers within an oval panel with broad rosewood border inlaid with interlaced roundels and floral motifs. The shaped frieze with central urn at the front flanked by paterae and with sunflowers at the sides, all draped with swags of husks, raised on particularly elegant tapering cabriole legs crossbanded with rosewood and ending in ormolu sabots.

Exhibitions

"The Daily Telegraph" Exhibition of Antiques and Works of Art, Olympia, London, July 19th - August 1st, 1928, with Gill & Reigate, Ltd. of London, stands 38 and 39.

Literature:

Advertised in *The Sphere*, 14 July 1928, p 94 (with Gill & Reigate Ltd.)

"The Daily Telegraph" Exhibition of Antiques and Works of Art, Olympia, London, July 19th - August 1st, 1928 Catalogue, p. 270

Mallett, *Fine Furniture - A Timeline in Woods*, 2007, pp. 100, 102-103

J. de Serre, *Country Life*, 5 February 1927, 'An Inlaid Satinwood Table'

C. Streeter, 'Marquetry Tables from Cobb's Workshop', *The Journal of the Furniture History Society*, 1974, pl. 30b and pp. 52-53

Height: 2' 9¹/₂" in (84 cm)
Width: 4' 9¹/₂" in (145 cm)
Depth: 2' 4" in (71 cm)

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AD.364

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