

BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

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A MAGNIFICENT LIBRARY CENTRE TABLE OF EXHIBITION QUALITY OF THE GEORGE IVTH PERIOD, IN THE MANNER OF MOREL & SEDDON

MOREL & SEDDON

H: 28.5 in / 72 cm | W: 56.5 in / 143 cm | D: 27 in / 68 cm

Constructed in amboyna, with holly and specimen woods used in the inlays; rich and extensive employment of carving and gilding of exceptional quality; the table of end support form, conjoined by an addorsed tapering ring turned stretcher, carved with lobes; the end supports of triangulated form, rising from platforms supported by winged claw feet, carved with gilded foliates and acanthus leaves, with a stylised thyrus staff issuing leaves and tendrils, inlaid in Holly; the sides sumptuously carved with gilded foliates; the serpentine top having pendant teardrop gilded finials at the angles; the thumbnail moulded edge gilded, having a running band of holly inlaid flowering anthemion in the outer reserve, and an exuberantly inlaid marquetry posy of spring flowers, in exotic woods to the centre.

Circa 1830

Literature:

The Dictionary of English Furniture makers 1660-1840, published Furniture History Society 1986

'George IVth and the Furnishing of Windsor Castle, de Bellaigue & Kirkham, published Furniture History Society

1972

John Pollard Seddon, 'Memoirs', published 1858

'For the King's Pleasure' Hugh Roberts 2001

'Sophie in London' Sophie Von La Roche 1786

Artist description:

The partnership of Nicholas Morel, who had formerly worked for the Prince of Wales, later George IVth, on his residences at Carlton House and the Brighton Pavilion since the cusp of the 18th/19th Centuries, and George Seddon, of the large and established cabinet makers Seddon and Sons of Aldersgate Street came into being in 1827, when Morel, of French extraction, was awarded by George IVth the monumental task of refurbishing the apartments at Windsor Castle; his partner of choice was Seddon, whose expertise was coupled with a large workforce, as they were noted as the largest cabinet makers in London in the 18th Century, thus having the capacity to process large orders. The Windsor Castle commission was worth almost £200,000 to the company. Hugh Roberts book, 'For the King's Pleasure', published by Royal Collection Enterprises in 2001 illustrates many of the pieces made for the commission, and concordances may be noted between these, and our Library Table. The firm seemed to have had the Crown as their main clients, with further work being carried out for William IVth, although a large commission was carried out for the Marquess of Stafford in 1830 worth £15,000. Morel's name disappears from the records in 1831, and the company of G & T Seddon, although awarded the Royal Warrant in 1832, had great difficulty in extracting the £200,000 from the Crown for the Windsor commission, which led to a near bankruptcy in 1840. The firm eventually closed in 1868.

