

# BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

Est.1964



## A ROYAL TABLE MADE BY MOREL & SEDDON FOR WINDSOR CASTLE

MOREL & SEDDON

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H: 30.5 in / 77 cm | W: 43 in / 108 cm | D: 22.5 in / 57 cm

A Highly Important & Rare Royal Table made by Morel & Seddon for the Windsor Castle Commission, commanded by George IV

Constructed in Amboyna, with ormoilu gilt bronze mounts, having highlights in parcel gilt; rising from ormoilu scroll feet cast with lotus decoration, housing its original castors, the parcel gilt end supports carved with a stiff leaf adornments, with the block end platforms conjoined by an upholstered footrest of rectangular form which also serves as a stretcher; the rectangular top edged with a berried leaf ormoilu band, and housing a drawer in the frieze: the interior back rail bearing paper inventory labels, 'Windsor Castle Room 236, No.4 1866' another '235' and two other labels, 'R235' & '21'; branded with a marqde de fer under the front rail 'V.R. 1866, Windsor Castle, Room 235', and having a pencil notation to the underside 'Room 235, York \*\*\*'. Circa July 1828

**Provenance:**

Windsor Castle, Berkshire, originally situated in Room 243, subsequently moved to Rooms 235 & then 236, as recorded in the Royal Inventory of 1866. Other pieces of furniture provenanced to Windsor Castle have passed through our hands over the years.

### **Literature:**

The faithful and detailed recording of Morel & Seddon's Accounts by Hugh Roberts in his wonderful study, 'For the King's Pleasure', published by Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd. 2001, pp 356 et seq. provides a makers report of our table.

### **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.

