

A FINE SATINWOOD CONSOLE TABLE
ATTRIBUTED TO WRIGHT AND MANSFIELD

Dimensions: H: 36 in / 91.5 cm | W: 36 in / 91.5 cm | D: 15.5 in / 39.5 cm

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A Fine Satinwood Console Table Attributed to Wright and Mansfield

A superb example of the neoclassical revival attributed to the esteemed makers Wright and Mansfield, this console table is crafted in satinwood, having a shaped top intricately inlaid with floral swags centred upon a classical urn. The frieze, adorned with three disguised drawers, is veneered in fine harewood with contrasting inlays interspersed with fan paterae, set above a central arch flanked by two small cupboards. Each cupboard door features an oval panel exquisitely painted with a cherub, framed in rich mahogany and surrounded by floral marquetry swags and pendant husks. The table is supported by six square-section tapering legs.

English, circa 1880

Published in 'British Furniture 1820 to 1920' by Christopher Payne, 2023, p. 318 & illus. p. 321.

Literature:

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Payne, Christopher. British Furniture 1820 to 1920: The Luxury Market. ACC Art Books 2023, p. 321, illustrating the console table.

Wright & Mansfield

Wright & Mansfield, a renowned British furniture making firm, operated from 1861 to 1884. Founded by Alfred Thomas Wright and George Needham Mansfield, the company quickly rose to prominence after winning awards at the 1862 London International Exhibition. They were known for their high-quality reproductions and original pieces inspired by 18th-century designs, often incorporating Wedgwood plaques, intricate marquetry, and fine wood veneers. Wright & Mansfield's most notable commissions included furnishing Guisachan House, Brook House in London, and Haddo House in Aberdeenshire. The firm's exceptional craftsmanship was recognized internationally, winning the only gold medal for art furniture awarded to a British firm at the 1867 Paris Universal Exhibition.

Despite their success and royal patronage, Wright & Mansfield faced challenges due to the expensive nature of their wares and their small output. The partnership dissolved in 1884, likely due to Alfred Wright's failing health, and the firm's valuable stock was dispersed in sales in 1886 and 1887. Although the business closed, Wright & Mansfield's legacy lives on through their pieces in museums like the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and in private collections. Their work at Haddo House remains their only complete interior decoration scheme still in existence.