



**BUTCHOFF**  
LONDON

XVIII-XIX CENTURY  
FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS



**A FINE PAIR OF FORMOLU-MOUNTED OPEN  
BIBLIOTHÈQUES**

**Dimensions: H: 36 in / 91 cm | W: 30.5 in / 77.5 cm | D: 21 in / 53.5 cm**

**10038**

Butchoff Antiques, 154 Kensington Church Street, London, W8 4BN  
T: 00 44 (0) 20 7221 8174 info@butchoff.com www.butchoff.com



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A Fine Pair of Ormolu-Mounted Open Bibliothèques  
By François Linke

Constructed from bookmatched kingwood and bois satiné, each open bookcase with an adjustable shelf and decorated with matching chased ormolu mounts, the tops and sides inlaid with panels of floral marquetry, the apron centred by a distinctive crab-like acanthus mounts. Signed 'Linke' in the ormolu and the back stamped with the foundry mark 'FL 4702.'

French, circa 1910

**Literature:**

François Linke (1855-1946) was a renowned French ébéniste, or cabinetmaker, who gained significant prominence during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in Pankraz, Bohemia, Linke moved to Paris in 1875, where he established independent workshops. By 1881, he had set up his primary workshop at 170 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine, and later expanded to 26 Place Vendôme, arguably the capital's most fashionable address.

Linke's craftsmanship and artistic innovations in furniture design earned him international acclaim,



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particularly highlighted at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle. He became widely recognized for his ability to create high-quality, individualistic pieces that often blended traditional styles with contemporary influences. Specialising in the style of the ancien regime, Linke modified the proportions of the eighteenth century pieces to suit the smaller Parisian apartments.

Collaborating frequently with the sculptor Léon Messagé, Linke's work often featured a combination of the Louis XV style and the emerging Art Nouveau movement. His success at the 1900 exhibition provided him with financial stability, allowing him to participate in subsequent international fairs and expand his market.

In recognition of his contributions, Linke was appointed Officier de L'Instruction Publique in 1904 and served on the Jury of the Liège exhibition in 1905. Following his exhibitions in St. Louis (U.S.A.) in 1904 and Liège in 1905, Linke was awarded the Croix de la Légion d'Honneur, the highest French decoration, on October 11, 1906.