



**A PAIR OF HALL BENCHES BY JAMES SHOOLBRED  
& CO**

**Dimensions: H: 25.5 in / 64 cm | W: 22 in / 55.5 cm | D: 13 in / 33 cm**

**9778**



A Pair of Hall Benches in the Japanese Aesthetic Manner  
retailed by James Shoolbred & Co

Constructed in [oak](#) with brass foliate ornamentation, the sabre form addorsed legs conjoined with a stretcher, and centred round a dished circular boss with a 'mon', the Japanese chrysanthemum motif of the Emperor. Between, the plank seats have turned spindle backrails, the end supports with anthemion carving at each end, with the curved arms sweeping over the lower boss, and having leaf form [brassware](#). stamped with the diamond-shaped 'Kite' registration mark from the British Patent Office

Circa 1885

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The Kite mark can be deciphered, allowing us to determine the design was registered on

13 December 1883.

According to Christopher Payne, [a] range of hall stands and seat furniture in the Japonisme and 'Art Botanical' taste espoused by Christopher Dresser appeared in the 1875 and 1876 Shoolbred catalogues."

James Shoolbred and Company

[Shoolbred & Co](#) had their premises on Tottenham Court Road, and evolved into one of the first great department stores. Although the firm expanded rapidly, it was not until the 1870's that they turned to manufacturing their own high quality furniture. From around 1874 Shoolbred decided to identify itself with high quality furniture employing freelance designers not only to ensure the quality of their furniture but also to build and enhance their reputation.

Comparative Literature:

Christopher Payne, *British Furniture 1820 to 1920: The Luxury Market*, Antique Collectors' Club, 2023, p. 287 (illus. fig. 6.5), showing a stool of identical design.