



**A REMARKABLE MATCHED PAIR OF CENTRE
TABLES BY BLAKE OF LONDON**

Dimensions: H: 27 in / 68.5 cm | W: 56.5 in / 143 cm | D: 21.5 in / 54.5 cm

10584



A Remarkable Matched Pair of Centre Tables

By Blake of London

Designed in the Ancien Régime style inspired by [André-Charles Boulle](#), each table employing finely marked amaranth, tulipwood and [kingwood](#), extensively adorned with fine quality bronze mounts and delicate floral marquetry within bold interlaced strapwork inlay work; of bow ended and shaped rectangular form, each rising from six swept cabriole legs dressed with foliate espagnolettes, with gilt sabots to the toes, and conjoined by stylised 'H' form stretchers, centred with a gilt bronze waisted and swagged urn. The shaped aprons house mahogany lined drawers in each end, and having concealed red velvet writing slides to the fascia; the platforms having extensive marquetry inlays, housed within a running stiff leaf gilt bronze guard trim. The maker's marque de fer 'C. Blake' is to be found on the underframe of one table, and having an old paper inventory label bearing the legend 'HJHE' in one drawer (see below).

English, circa 1865

Published in 'British Furniture 1820 to 1920' by Christopher Payne, 2023, p. 245, illustrated fig 5.46a-c.

The Blake Family of London Cabinetmakers

The Dictionary of English Furniture published by the Furniture History Society, published 1986, lists Robert Blake at 8 Stephen Street, Tottenham Court Road in 1820. By 1843 the premises housed he and his four sons, Charles (b1814), Henry, George and James. By 1860, only Charles was at the address, until his death in 1879. Edward Holmes Baldock (1777-1845) one of the 'leading antique and ornamental furniture dealers' (as stated on his trade card) was in nearby Hanway Street, and is known to have employed the Blakes, as their very distinctive marquetry work was of the of the highest quality and delicacy. A pair of commodes were made by Blake (now in the Frick Collection, having been sold by Lord Duveen of Millbank in 1916) copying the André Charles Boulle originals made for Louis XIV's Trianon.