

A MARQUETRY INLAID WALNUT WRITING TABLE
BY GILLOWS

Dimensions: H: 29 in / 74 cm | W: 52.5 in / 133 cm | D: 29.5 in / 74 cm

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A Marquetry Inlaid Walnut Writing Table
By Gillows of London & Lancaster

Designed in the Louis XV manner, constructed using a finely grained Circassian burr walnut with sycamore cross banding and finely executed marquetry designs in the top. The cabriole shaped legs dressed with foliate gilt bronze sabots, and female espagnolettes of varying design, the shaped top with a central gilt-tooled maroon leather writing surface surrounded by marquetry floral sprays and bouquets retaining their original shading and detail. The drawers stamped 'Gillow.'
English, circa 1860

Literature:

Gillows of London & Lancaster

The founder of the Gillows dynasty, Robert (1704-1772) rose from humble beginnings as a provincial joiner, and evolved into a consummate businessman following a pursuit of excellence throughout

his life.

Founding his business in 1730 he expanded his furniture making activities to include the direct import of quality West Indian timbers especially the finest mahogany. His talents as both a cabinetmaker as well as innovative designer brought him early success, and, bringing his two sons, Richard & Robert, into the business, he expanded his Lancaster showroom, to include another in London's Oxford Street. The clientele now included the Government, the aristocracy and the burgeoning middle classes. His furniture had gained its' reputation for excellence of workmanship, and materials employed, and coupled with his insistence on being at the cutting edge of design kept the company to the fore throughout its' one hundred and seventy year history from 1730 until its' amalgamation with Messrs S.J. Waring in 1900. Throughout this period it was the largest manufactory of furniture in England. The fortuitous survival of the Gillows records in their Estimate Sketch Books show over 20,000 designs and are preserved in the City of Westminster Library. Furniture made by Gillows is to be found in Royal collections and museums throughout the world. The recent publication of Susan E. Stuart's scholarly and invaluable study on the company, published by the Antique Collectors Club is a masterpiece of its type, and a wonderful exegesis of the company.