

AN EDWARDIAN LONGCASE 'GRANDFATHER'
CLOCK BY CHARLES FRODSHAM OF LONDON

Dimensions: H: 99.5 in / 253 cm

9850

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Of classic design, the case constructed of mahogany and decorated with inlaid marquetry throughout, the swan neck pediment surmounted with three decorative finials, below the arched 12-inch brass dial denoting the hours in Roman numeral and minutes in Arabic numerals, with a smaller subsidiary marking the seconds, and a further subsidiary for chime/silent, surrounded by gilt brass decorative spandrels with scrolled ornament, flanked by two fluted columns with classical capitals. The movement inside with jewelled deadbeat escapement and the going train with Harrison's maintaining power allowing for the clock to be wound without stopping the movement. The hours struck on a coiled gong while the quarters are chimed on a tuned four-note comb. With its original wooden rod pendulum and three brass weights which are visible through the glazed trunk door. The dial signed 'Chas. Frodsham / 115 New Bond St W. / No 2044.' With a dedicatory plaque dated September 1902.

English, circa 1902

Literature:

Charles Frodsham & Co

Established in 1834 by master horologist Charles Frodsham, the firm ascended to global preeminence through precision timekeeping and groundbreaking innovations.

Charles succeeded Benjamin Lewis Vulliamy as Keeper of Her Majesty's Clocks at Buckingham Palace in 1854. The enterprise exhibited at all major 19th-century international exhibitions, earning fourteen honor medals. At the 1851 Great Exhibition, Charles showcased a pioneering caliper marine chronometer, later serving as a juror at the 1862 South Kensington exhibition while presenting revolutionary 'Duo-in-uno' balance springs.

Frodshams dominated Royal Observatory trials and supplied sidereal regulators to observatories worldwide, from Sydney to Harvard. Their dedication to mastery culminated in record-breaking Kew Observatory trials in 1907, where Tourbillon No. 09182/11487 achieved the highest marks ever awarded to an English watch.

An exhibition devoted to Frodsham at London's Science Museum tells the story of the pioneering work done by the company and their contribution to horological history.