GODSON & COLES

FINE ART & ANTIQUE FURNITURE

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A George III Period Marquetry Demi Lune Side Table, Attributed to William Gates

REF1108

A George III Period Marquetry Demi Lune Side Table

Attributed to William Gates

English, circa 1763

The demi lune marquetry top with gently curved back, veneered with an elaborate design of a central urn with rams heads, with scrolling acanthus foliage, husks, anthemion and bell flowers.

All executed in the finest marquetry of harewood, holly, fiddleback sycamore, ebony and boxwood, crossbanded in tulipwood.

The frieze similarly decorated with marquetry panels of scrolling acanthus, anthemion and paterae, raised upon tapering legs, similarly inlaid and terminating in spade feet.

Height: 35 in (89cm), Width: 40 in (103 cm), Depth: 22 in (55cm)

PROVENANCE

Sir Anthony Cecil Capel Miers (1906-1985)

The marquetry on this table bears remarkable similarity to the tops on a pair of marquetry tables with gilt wood bases by Thomas Chippendale, supplied to Edwin Lascelles at Harewood House in Yorkshire.

What makes this table exceptional, is the untouched condition which has resulted in an outstanding surface and patina.

£ 32000

LITERATURE

William Gates

William Gates was a cabinet maker who specialised in fine inlay and engraved woodwork. He succeeded John Bradburn as a tradesman to the Great Wardrobe, his warrant from George III being dated July 1777. Gates's first recorded commission from the Royal Household came in 1778 when he supplied ‘a very neat mahogany cistern’ for the dining room of the Queen's residence, St James's Park, at a cost of £8 10s.

Two seminal pieces in Gates's oeuvre are a pair of ‘Sattinwood inlaid commode tables…with semi-circular fronts’; supplied to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, for his apartments in Buckingham Palace, where they remain today.

Their curved tops, closely resembling our example, feature urns at the centre with Neo-classical floral scrolls emerging from the base. By placing each urn against a contrasting background on an apparently receding plinth, Gates creates a subtle pictorial illusion not generally seen in the work of rival marqueteurs suggesting, a continental, specifically French, influence.

DESCRIPTION

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Sir Anthony Cecil Miers (1906-1085)

Sir Anthony Miers was born in Inverness, Scotland on 11th November 1906. Miers joined the navy in 1925 as a special-entry cadet, aged 19. Three years later he entered the submarine service and quickly grew in rank. In 1941, he launched a commando raid from HMS Torbay which targeted the headquarters of the German Commander in North Africa – General Rommel. For his involvement Miers was awarded a Bar to his DSO.

In 1942 he was invested with the Victoria Cross by King George VI, for his many successful submarine patrols in HMS Torbay in the Mediterranean theatre.

His impressive medal group include the VC, KBE, CB, DSO and Bar, and Legion of Merit (USA) were obtained privately by Michael Ashcroft in November 2010. They are now displayed in the Ashcroft Gallery, Imperial War Museum.