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A Regency Writing Table, Attributed to George Bullock

REF1157

An Exceptional Regency Writing Table, Attributed to George Bullock

English, circa 1815

The rectangular top veneered in finely figured coromandel wood and bordered with a banding of ebony inlaid with brass in the form of running leaves and with further cross banding. The two drawers to one side and blind simulated drawers to the reverse retaining the original lion's head handles. The two end supports, shaped in the form of lyres, profusely adorned with brass mounts and pierced paterae, raised on finely cast scrolled feet.

H: 29 in (73.5cm), W: 48 in (122cm), D: 27 in (68.5cm)

PROVENANCE

Henry Beresford 2nd Marquess of Waterford

Curraghmore House. Waterford Ireland.

£ 74000

DESCRIPTION

This exceptional writing table, veneered with prized coromandel wood from South East Asia, is exquisitely inlaid with intricate brass detailing and adorned with finely chased gilt bronze mounts. Attributed to the renowned designer George Bullock, it was supplied to the 2nd Marquis of Waterford for his grand estate at Curraghmore House in Waterford, Ireland. The bold contrast of dark wood and fine brass detailing, along with its lyre-carved pedestal supports, evokes the grandeur of the Regency era and remains a symbol of timeless sophistication. Curraghmore House, located near Portlaw in County Waterford, Ireland, dates back to a Norman keep originally from the 12th century. Over the centuries, it was transformed into a grand Georgian estate by the de la Poer family, and later passed to the Beresford's through Lady Catherine de la Poer. The 2nd Marquess of Waterford, Henry de la Poer Beresford (1772–1826), was a prominent figure who expanded the estate and held political influence in Ireland and Britain during the early 19th century.

George Bullock (c. 1777–1818) was one of the most innovative English cabinet makers of the Regency period. Born in Birmingham, he began his career as a sculptor and wax modeller before establishing a furniture business in Liverpool in the early nineteenth century. His talents as a designer, craftsman, and entrepreneur soon earned him a reputation for producing furniture of exceptional quality and originality.

Bullock's work was strongly influenced by classical Greek and Roman art, as well as the fashionable French Empire style. However, unlike many of his contemporaries, he often used native British materials such as oak, yew, holly, larch, and laburnum rather than imported exotic woods. His furniture was distinguished by elegant forms, fine marquetry, brass inlays, and decorative motifs based on British plants and flowers.

In 1812, Bullock moved to London, where he attracted wealthy and influential clients. Among his notable commissions were furnishings for Sir Walter Scott and furniture intended for Napoleon Bonaparte's residence on the island of St Helena. His cabinets, tables, and bookcases combined practicality with artistic beauty and are now regarded as masterpieces of British Regency furniture.

Although Bullock died at a relatively young age in 1818, his contribution to furniture design was significant. Today, historians and collectors admire his creativity, craftsmanship and distinctive use of British materials. His work remains an important part of the history of English decorative arts and cabinet making.