



E. W. Godwin. Collinson & Lock a Rare Anglo-Japanese Rosewood Coffee Table

Ref: NPV000463

Price on Application

MAKER	Collinson & Lock
DESIGNER	Edward William Godwin
PERIOD	Aesthetic Movement , 1870-1879
YEAR	1872
STYLE	Anglo-Japanese
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Rosewood
DIMENSIONS	H: 27 in (68.58 cm) W: 16.5 in (41.91 cm) D: 17 in (43.18 cm)
CONDITION	Good

About this piece

This piece is being held for an exhibition dedicated to the furniture designed by E. W. Godwin, to be held at the Bröhan Museum in Berlin next spring.

E. W. Godwin

Collinson & Lock or **Gillows**. An extremely rare Anglo-Japanese rosewood coffee table. To my knowledge, no other rosewood examples of this coffee table exist.

An entry in one of Godwin's cash books reads, "1874 Apr. 10 Coffee Table Grey Towers designed for the sum of 3-3-0" (V&A AAD 4/13-98, fol. 23), indicating that Godwin designed special versions of this type of table for Collinson & Lock in the 1870s, but it also relates to a design he did for Gillow's.

For a sketch for this table, see *Susan Weber Soros, The Secular Furniture of E. W. Godwin*, page 147, illustration 212.1. Collinson & Lock of London 'Art Furnishers', founded with the partnership of F. G. Collinson and G. J. Lock, former employees of Jackson and Graham.

Designers employed by the firm included T. E. Colcutt, the architect of their premises; E. W. Godwin, who was paid a retainer to produce exclusive designs for the company from 1872 to 1874, H. W. Batley, and Stephen Webb. They made furniture for the new Law Courts to designs by G. E. Street, along with Gillows and Holland & Sons, and began decoration of the Savoy Theatre in 1881.

Jackson and Graham was taken over in 1885, at the time when the firm had moved to Oxford Street and begun to focus on expensive commissions for grandiose London houses. The firm was taken over by Gillows in 1897. The firm of Collinson & Lock was established in London in the third quarter of the 19th century and quickly achieved both commercial success and a leading position in the field of design.

In 1871, the firm issued an impressive illustrated catalogue of 'Artistic furniture', with plates by J. Moyar Smith, assistant to Christopher Dresser, and in 1873 was trading from extensive newly built premises in St Bride Street. The firm continued to produce very high-quality items of furniture and soon began to experiment with new materials and designs, becoming especially renowned for their distinctive combinations of rosewood and ivory and their intricate Italianate arabesques, traditional figures, and scrolling foliage.

E. W. Godwin was their most important designer, and so advanced were his designs in the Japanese style.