

Hampshire Antique Restoration

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01489 893632

OBJECT: 18th century Boulle marquetry clock case

OBJECT NUMBER: 6743 - 07 - F

OWNER: Confidential

DATE RECEIVED: 12/03/2009

CONSERVATOR: David Burton

DATE EXAMINED: 23/04/2009

DIMENSIONS

H: 77cm

W: 48cm

D: 34cm

DESCRIPTION:

An 18th century Boulle style marquetry bracket clock case, veneered in tortoiseshell and engraved brass on a stained oak substrate, heavily mounted with ormolu bearing a duty stamp for 1740^(supplementary pic 1).

The ormolu framed main door opening to reveal the movement (removed for the purposes of clarity), with opening rear door to allow access to the rear of movement, surmounted by a removable section containing the striking bell (removed for the purposes of clarity).



CONDITION:

Evidence of previous restorations to both brass and tortoiseshell areas. Heavily accreted (tortoiseshell) with significant corrosion products on brass areas¹. Around 25% loss of brass marquetry,² around 10% loss of tortoiseshell³ with significant cleavage of brass from substrate⁴ (approximately 75%).⁵

Extensive oil staining to the baseboard⁶ causing significant cleavage, shrinkage to oak substrate on rear door. Extensive cleavage and losses to brass edge strips.⁷

Lock missing from PLHS frame and damage to brass keep on ormolu door.

¹ Door
² PLHS upper
³ PRHS upper
⁴ PLHS lower
⁵ PRHS lower
⁶ Base board
⁷ PR front

PROPOSED TREATMENT:

- Loose areas of oak substrate will be re-glued using hot hide glue
- Surface accretions will be removed from tortoiseshell.
- All remaining brass will be lifted, corrosion products removed re-attached with fish glue.
- Missing sections of brass will be cut from brass sheet, engraved and fitted where necessary
- Missing sections of tortoiseshell will be replaced using epoxy resin pigmented with earth pigment and laid over a barrier coat of fish glue

ESTIMATED COST:

ACCEPTED BY:

(SIGNATURE)

DATE:

Hampshire Antique Restoration

w w w . h a m p s h i r e - a n t i q u e - r e s t o r a t i o n . c o . u k

0 1 4 8 9 8 9 3 6 3 2

OBJECT: 18th century Boulle marquetry clock case

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OWNER: Confidential

DATE COMPLETED: 28/06/09

DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT:

The surface was treated in sections, with any loose areas of brass inlay being removed, the ground and brass sections cleaned using laponite to dissolve old glue deposits.⁸ the cleaned sections of brass had any corrosion products removed from the reverse mechanically before being glued back into place using fish glue as an adhesive.⁹ The fish glue was carefully massaged into all areas to ensure any cleaved areas of Shell were re-adhered at this stage.

In some areas where the oak substrate had become separated from the carcass further dismantling was necessary.¹⁰ Bespoke clamping blocks were cast from plaster of paris to facilitate even clamping pressure on the curved surfaces.¹¹

After the previously mentioned consolidation rubbings were taken from the shell to allow cutting of replacement brass inlay where necessary.^{12, 13}

The replaced areas of brass were distressed to match the pitting and damage to surrounding areas before being coloured with Tourmaline and polished to match the surrounding areas.¹⁴

The keep was repaired by soft soldering in a new section of brass and shaping it in situ¹⁵, a new lock was fabricated from brass and mild steel using period styles of construction (riveting, annealing and hand drilling), sympathetically driven by supporting evidence gained from keep and keyhole positions.¹⁶ After testing the lock was aged using tourmaline brown and lubricated before final fitting.¹⁷

Finally the marquetry surface was treated with proprietary beeswax to inhibit further tarnishing of the brass.

CONSERVATOR:

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

⁸ PR front

⁹ Door

¹⁰ Removal

¹¹ Casting blocks

¹² Replacements

¹³ Replacements

¹⁴ Toning

¹⁵ Repaired Keep

¹⁶ New lock

¹⁷ Fitted lock