

# Hampshire Antique Restoration

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01489 893632

**OBJECT:** 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>(supplementary pic 1)</sup>.

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 areas<sup>1</sup>. Around 25% loss of brass marquetry,<sup>2</sup> around 10% loss of tortoiseshell<sup>3</sup> with significant cleavage of brass from substrate<sup>4</sup> (approximately 75%).<sup>5</sup>

Extensive oil staining to the baseboard<sup>6</sup> causing significant cleavage, shrinkage to oak substrate on rear door. Extensive cleavage and losses to brass edge strips.<sup>7</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> Door  
<sup>2</sup> PLHS upper  
<sup>3</sup> PRHS upper  
<sup>4</sup> PLHS lower  
<sup>5</sup> PRHS lower  
<sup>6</sup> Base board  
<sup>7</sup> 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:**

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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:** 18<sup>th</sup> century Boulle marquetry clock case

**OBJECT NUMBER:** 6743 - 07 - F

**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.<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> Bespoke clamping blocks were cast from plaster of paris to facilitate even clamping pressure on the curved surfaces.<sup>11</sup>

After the previously mentioned consolidation rubbings were taken from the shell to allow cutting of replacement brass inlay where necessary.<sup>12, 13</sup>

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.<sup>14</sup>

The keep was repaired by soft soldering in a new section of brass and shaping it in situ<sup>15</sup>, 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.<sup>16</sup> After testing the lock was aged using tourmaline brown and lubricated before final fitting.<sup>17</sup>

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

**CONSERVATOR:**

**DATE:**

**SIGNATURE:**

<sup>8</sup> PR front

<sup>9</sup> Door

<sup>10</sup> Removal

<sup>11</sup> Casting blocks

<sup>12</sup> Replacements

<sup>13</sup> Replacements

<sup>14</sup> Toning

<sup>15</sup> Repaired Keep

<sup>16</sup> New lock

<sup>17</sup> Fitted lock