

The Thomas Hope Table supporting a Giacomo Raffaelli (1753-1836) Mosaic.



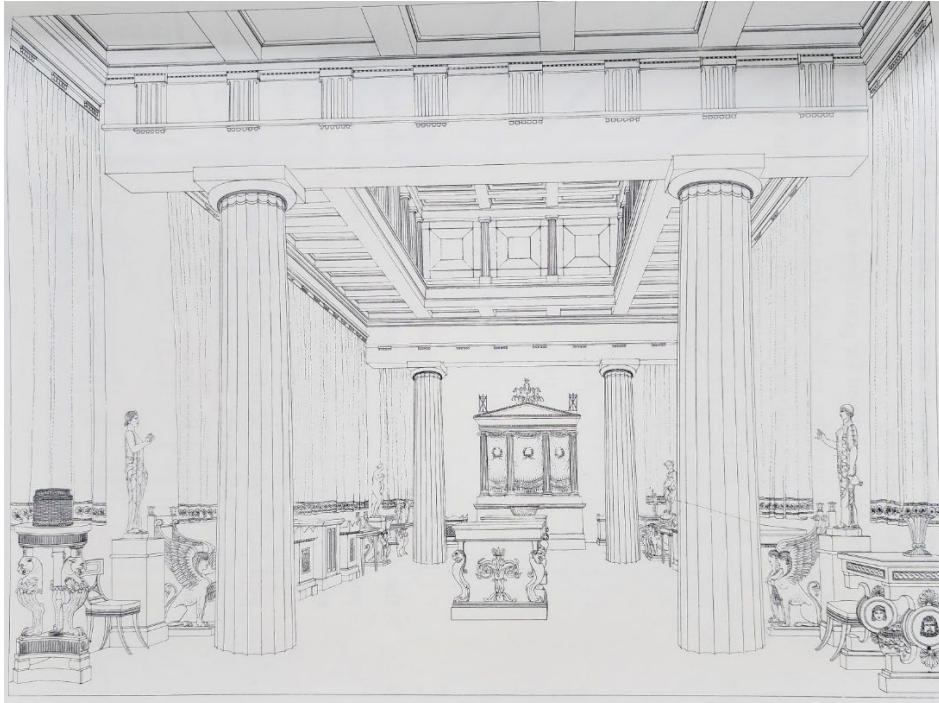
Thomas Hope probably ordered this mosaic tabletop to an Etruscan design with a Greek vase to the centre when in Rome in 1795 from Raffaelli thereby encapsulating his interest that saw four vase rooms at Duchess Street after the purchase in 1801 of the second Hamilton Greek vase collection. Displayed in the Picture Gallery in Duchess Street designed by Charles Heathcote Tatham the table is now among a group of iconic objects from Duchess Street belonging to a most discerning client: the Knoblock table (Bard 92), the pair of chairs from the collection of Sir James Stirling (Bard 83) and the green greywacke Romano Egyptian Libation cup once the centrepiece of the Egyptian Room.

Illustrated: Thomas Hope, *Household Furniture and Interior Decoration*, Plate XX with two perspectives, also as delineated in the Picture Gallery, Plate II, as published 1807. The Picture Gallery by Westmacott 1824 provides another image of the table still in place the room now hung with pictures and the severity of the original conception has been lost.

Exhibited: Hickory Museum of Art in Hickory, NC, donated to the museum by Adolf Levitt, owner of the Doughnut Corporation of America in 1949. Deaccessioned by the museum against a presale estimate of \$5,000–\$10,000, the table was sold at auction by Robert Brunk Auctions of North Carolina in 2003

for \$440,000. *A Question of Value: Stories from the Life of an Auctioneer* (The University of North Carolina Press).

Exhibited at the V& A in London and discussed in the catalogue produced by the Bard Graduate Centre in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, published by Yale University Press.



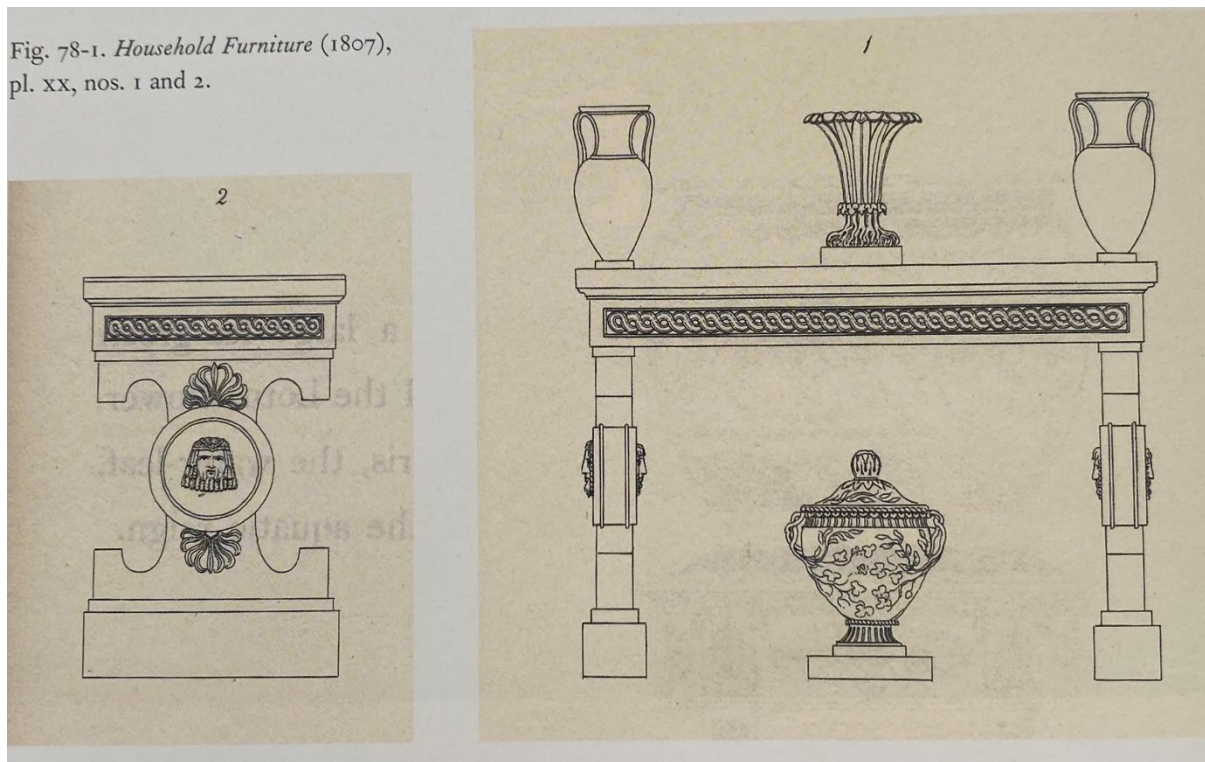
Hope 1807.



Westmacott 1824.

Giacomo Raffaelli (1753-1836) was born in Rome into a family working in the mosaic industry providing smalti to the Vatican Mosaic Workshop. As one of the most celebrated artists in hardstones and mosaics he is credited with the invention of micro-mosaics in about 1775, mastering both hardstones and micro mosaics. He attained international fame in 1787 when he was awarded the title

'Councillor of Liberal Arts' by Stanislaus II Augustus, King of Poland. Following the French occupation of Rome in 1797 and the collapse of the local mosaic market he moved to Milan to direct a new mosaic workshop and school founded at Napoleon's orders by Eugene de Beauharnais (Napoleon's stepson), Viceroy of Italy in 1805.



The carver of the masks was Peter Bogaerts, to a design by Tatham for Thomas Hope. Between about 1800 and 1805 Hope deliberately set out to improve public taste and standards of craftsmanship, in London by commissioning furnishings for his house to his own designs, all probably originally drawn by Charles Heathcote Tatham, granting admission to selected visitors including leading designers and makers of luxury goods. In 1807 he published views of the principal reception rooms in the house, in a large folio volume, *Household Furniture and Interior Decoration*.

Purchased, restored, researched and superbly illustrated by the great New York dealer Carlton Hobbs then published by him as: *The Thomas Hope Table a Rediscovered Masterpiece*.

Purchased 2023 by J B Hawkins Antiques.