

A rare, large, 18th century, 10-12 seater, Colonial, alligator wood, gateleg table

Sold



REF: 10036

Height: 75 cm (29.5")

Width: 154 cm (60.6")

Depth: 186 cm (73.2")

Description

A rare, large, 10-12 seater, Colonial, alligator wood, gateleg table. The 1" thick, circular, plank top is in three sections. The central section, and the two flaps are individually made from two, large pieces of alligator wood. There are three tiny splices in the top. Three hinges, which are original, support each flap. The flaps are strengthened underneath with timber supports. The top is screwed and pegged into the base which comprises a simple frieze on elegant, bobbin-turned legs. Unusually, the inner gatelegs both rest on circular brass disks, presumably to prevent chaffing on the stretcher underneath. The legs are joined by moulded, square-section stretchers. The stretchers on the gates are particularly fine with unusual, double mortices and delicate channelling along the top edge. This is repeated on the underside of the gate top-rail and the frieze. The legs rest on the original double-ball toes, which show signs of wear and small losses. The alligator wood is exceptionally heavy, and dense with delicate graining and colour variations.

The colour is a rich brown, bearing similarities to mahogany and walnut. The patina is excellent and the density of the wood has created a delicate lustre. The timber is indigenous to the West Indies and it is most likely that this table was made in Port Royal, Kingston, Jamaica where there was a very active cabinet making business in the 18th century.