



## Decorative Arts: Design since 1860 (577)

Wed, 23rd Oct 2019, Edinburgh

### Viewing Times:

Sun 20th October 12pm - 4pm

Mon 21th October 10am - 5pm

Tues 22nd October 10am - 5pm

Morning of the sale from 9am

## Lot 121

**Estimate:** £8000 - £12000 + Fees

### WILLIAM BURGES INTEREST VICTORIAN GOTHIC REVIVAL SIDE CABINET, CIRCA 1880, WITH LATER DECORATION

the pitched roof cornice with single open compartment above twin doors, opening to reveal a fitted interior with shelves and pigeon-holes, the base with two further doors enclosing a fitted shelf, the whole later painted to the interior and exterior by Peter Farlow Decoration, London to the designs of William Burges

103cm wide, 234cm high, 48cm deep

**Literature:** *The Strange Genius of William Burges*, South Western Printers, 1981, p.72-85

**Note:** This cabinet demonstrates stylistic characteristics of furniture produced by John Starling Chapple and The Cardiff Workshops of Lord Bute. The top of this cabinet has a pitched roof with a gable, and includes other architectural arrangements observed on Burges' Great Bookcase, with carved columns as seen on Burges' Yatman' Cabinet and Writing Cabinet, the latter a collaboration between Burges and W. Gaulbert Saunders.

Originally plain the cabinet has been decorated, circa 2000, as a homage to the work of William Burges and the decorative schemes for his home, the Tower House, in London. The sides of the cabinet bear later painted panels celebrating the two elements of Burges' career, set under depictions of heavenly gardeners. In one, after *Burges as Architect* by Frederick Weekes, Burges works alongside a model of his Holland Park home, The Tower House. In the second, Burges is shown in his capacity as a builder. Centrally, five painted scenes represent the trades of carpentry, pottery, metalwork, stone-masonry and leatherwork, in the style of Henry Stacy Marks RA, who completed a number of murals and tiles for The Tower House.

Four designs on the inside of the cabinet doors show craftsmen's tools and materials within gold borders, referencing those found within the library's bookcases in the Tower House. The feet of the cabinet are further decorated with armed mice and toads, in battle: such characters are seen on beams in the Butterfly Room at The Tower House. Somewhat an homage to Burges, painted borders include porcupine motifs and gold branches set against red ground, found on Burges' Architecture Cabinet and Sideboard respectively. Further details include five-petal floral motifs and quatrefoils, as well as depictions of the Green Man.