



# Paul A. Shutler

Designed Furniture & Works of Art

The Music Cabinet was made by Shapland and Petter of Barnstaple (Devon). The first records of the firm are from 1865. The firm showed a mahogany and inlaid sideboard at the Buda-pesth International Exhibition in 1902 (see image 1), to show at an International Exhibition is no simple task, the vetting process was tough.

The firm are fairly important simply because they were founded officially 10 years before the trend setting firm Liberty's (Regent St London) was founded, the trends they set evolved from the furniture they retailed. Shapland and Petter pioneered the use of machinery to produce the moulding and Marquetry. This allowed them to manufacture large numbers of pieces to be retailed through high end stores such as Liberty's and Waring and Gillow. In 1893 the firm opened a shop in the heart of London's West End in Berner's Street.

The handles on the side of your cabinet are a model that are known to have been made exclusively for Shapland and Petter (see image 2) and were normally made by Loach and Clarke of Birmingham, some are stamped L&C. Sometimes the lock (if present) would be stamped S & P, B (Shapland and Petter, Barnstaple).

The Registered number stamp relates to the model, this is something that is under ongoing research as the numbers do not fall into distinct patterns. The firm however actually only registered two designs; these were a hall seat and a music cabinet. These designs are at the Museum in Barnstaple.

The Peacock inlay is often seen on pieces in either the whole bird form or as a single feather (see image 3). It was a symbol used at the period by many designers and makers, first used in the Aesthetic period by artists/designers such as Thomas Jeckyll and James McNeil Whistler in the famous 'Peacock Room' in 1876.

Shapland and Petter produced catalogues of their stock, the best of which was called 'High Class Furniture' from around 1905, this is the catalogue I would expect your cabinet to be in, the catalogues are in the museum. The only image I can get from my own library is of a similar cabinet (see image 4).



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