

MACKINNON FINE FURNITURE



Gillows: A Pair of George III Mahogany Armchairs

England, circa 1790

These chairs feature a superbly fluid design and exceptional craftsmanship with excellent carved detail and fine colour throughout. They contain elements from a series of design drawings from Gillows' *Estimate Sketch Books*, which suggest that they may be made by that firm

A chair from a suite of almost identical design, formerly in the collection of the Harvey family at Ickwell Bury, Bedfordshire is known to have been stamped 'RE. One possible explanation for the stamp, which provides a link with the Gillows firm, has been suggested by Claxton Stevens: it may refer to Richard or Robert Edmudsen or Edmonson. Edmonson's was a Liverpool cabinet-making firm which started in 1781. Richard and Robert are both recorded as freemen of Lancaster and are known to have worked for Gillows on a number of occasions.

A magnificent pair of George III carved mahogany armchairs in the manner of Gillows of Lancaster & London. The pierced shield back splat carved at the top with a wheat sheaf motif, the back carved with a paterae and a leaf motif, the moulded arms on scroll supports, on square tapering legs and spade feet.

Literature:

L. Boynton, *Gillow Furniture Designs 1760-1800*, ill. pl. 272-275.

C. Claxton Stevens, 'A Group of Seat Furniture Stamped RE,' *The Journal of the Regional Furniture Society*, Vol. XII, 1998, pp. 156-159.

L. Synge, *Great English Furniture*, 1991, p. 126, fig. 143.

Height: 38.39 in (97.5 cm)

Width: 23.62 in (60 cm)

Depth: 19.29 in (49 cm)

Stock Number

J04.40

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