

# MACKINNON FINE FURNITURE

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## A GEORGE III MAHOGANY ARMCHAIR

England, *circa* 1775

The chairback is inspired by Grecian pelta-shields with palm-flower splats radiating from a sunflower medallion. The design derives from a 'bar-back' sofa pattern published by George Hepplewhite in his *Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide*, as well as a 'Camel back stay rail' chair featured in the late 1780s archives of Gillows. Stylistically, the sunflower alludes to Apollo's role in antiquity as leader of the Muses of artistic inspiration. A set of four chairs of a closely related design was sold Christie's in 2003.

In the manner of George Hepplewhite or Gillows of Lancaster

With a pierced shield back with stylised sunflower and trailing harebells or husks within the channelled sunken panel frame, the similarly panelled tapered back splats with stiff leaf capitals emanating from a

half round sunflower medallion to the base, the outscrolled arms with rosette terminals with trailing harebells or husks, above an upholstered padded and close-nailed seat, standing on square stop-fluted tapering toupee front legs with a gadrooned collar at the ankle above a block foot, the back legs slightly splayed.

### **Literature:**

Comparative Literature:

George Hepplewhite, *Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide*, 1788, pl. 26 (a related chair design can be seen pl. 5)

L. Boynton, ed., *Gillow Furniture Designs 1760 – 1800*, Royston, 1995, fig. 260

Christie's London, *50 Years of Collecting – The Decorative Arts of Georgian England*, 14 May 2003, lot 43 – also illustrated in C. Claxon-Stevens and S. Whittington, *18th Century English Furniture, The Norman Adams Collection*, rev. ed., Woodbridge, 1985, p. 80 and col. pl. 11

J. Kirk, *American Furniture and the British Tradition to 1830*, New York, 1982, no. 1053

H. Cezinsky, *English Furniture from the Gothic to Sheraton*, New York, 1937, p. 343.

R. Edwards and P. Macquoid, *The Dictionary of English Furniture*, London, rev. ed., 1954, vol. I, p. 294, fig. 218

Height: 3' 0<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" in (93 cm)  
Width: 1' 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" in (57 cm)  
Depth: 1' 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" in (46 cm)

### **Stock Number**

FB.14

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