

MACKINNON FINE FURNITURE



A GEORGE II GILTWOOD ARMCHAIR

England, *circa* 1740-50

This design of chair frame is almost identical to the celebrated suite of mahogany furniture that was acquired by the antiquarian Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, M.D. of Barlow Hall, Manchester in the late 19th century. The suite was subsequently acquired by the collector Sir John Ward, K.V.C.O. for Dudley House, London after Brooks' death in 1890. It thereafter formed pair of the impressive collections of J. P. Morgan, Walter P. Chrysler and Paul Mellon. The Brooks' suite, comprising a pair of armchairs, twelve side chairs, and at least two stools, is slightly more boldly carved and lacks the carved chairback frame that this chair has. Ref: J. F. Hayward, 'An English Suite with Embroidered Covers', *The Connoisseur*, March 1964, col. CLV, pp. 146-150. A pair of stools of this pattern was sold from the celebrated collection of Samuel Messer, Esq. (Christie's London, 5 December 1991, lot 57).

A nearly identical pair of giltwood chairs acquired from Partridge, London and possibly from the same set was sold by a Washington D.C. collector at Sotheby's New York, 23 January 1988, lot 147 - a further pair offered Christie's New York, 22 November 2011, lot 365.

A suite of furniture supplied to 1st Lord Clive for his London home in Berkeley Square is similarly

conceived with shaped carved crestings. This suite was sold from the collection of Mr and Mrs Saul Steinberg, Sotheby's New York, 26 May 2000, lot 268 and had since been attributed to the London cabinet-maker Charles Arbuckle and is discussed in O. Fairclough, 'In the Richest and Most Elegant Manner. A Suite of Furniture for Clive of India', *Furniture History*, 2000, pp. 102-114.

A fine George II giltwood armchair in the French Regence taste, with impressive shell and acanthus carved giltwood show frames, and standing on elegant similarly carved cabriole legs and scroll feet. The seat, back and arm rests upholstered.

Height: 3' 1³/₄" in (95 cm)

Width: 2' 3¹/₄" in (69 cm)

Depth: 2' 2" in (66 cm)

Stock Number

AD.237

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