

MACKINNON

FINE FURNITURE



A PAIR OF NEO-CLASSICAL PEDESTALS

England, In The Adam Taste

A superb pair of Robert Adam and Thomas Chippendale inspired white painted carved pedestals. In the neo-classical taste. Each with a square top and guilloche-carved frieze above a rounded, fluted body centred by a beaded rosette and with a leaf-carved collar above tapering sides with applied anthemion and husk swags on a concave-moulded and cut-cornered plinth.

These pine painted pedestals are inspired by a pair almost certainly supplied by Thomas Chippendale, under the architectural guidance of Robert Adam, to Edwin Lascelles and now in the Yellow Drawing Room at Harewood House. Similar to designs for pedestals by the architect Robert Adam (d. 1792), Chippendale's later work, in its simplicity and elegance, clearly demonstrates the influence of Adam's neo-classical style. Although no surviving source for this specific pedestal is known, the distinctive concentric carving with the centred rosette was used as a decorative element in the wall panelling of the Long Gallery at the Earl of Northumberland's Syon House. Designs for the interiors of Syon were published by Adam on his return from Rome in 1761.

A virtually identical pair of pedestals in mahogany is illustrated in the entrance hall of Home House, No. 20 Portman Square. In this instance again it was Robert Adam who was appointed by Elizabeth,

Countess of Home in 1755 to complete the neo-classical interiors at Home House, as successor to James Wyatt. Home House was occupied by philanthropist Samuel Courtauld from 1932, and it is possible that he acquired the pedestals during his tenure. A pair is recorded in the collection of the Earl of Derby in the early 20th century. A further pair, believed to have been supplied to William Cavendish-Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland (d. 1809) for Burlington House, was offered at Christies.

The concentric fluting also features on an oval wine-cooler almost certainly made for Sir Watkins Williams-Wynn, Bt. (d. 1789) and which relates closely to Adam drawings held at the Sir John Soane Museum.

Height: 4' 4³/₄" in (134 cm)

Width: 1' 3" in (38 cm)

Depth: 0' 11³/₄" in (29 cm)

Stock Number

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5 Ryder Street - St James's - London, SW1Y 6PY

Phone: +44(0)20 7839 5671 Mobile: +44(0)7725 332 665

Email: charlie@mackinnonfineart.com Web: mackinnonfineart.com

