MACKINNON
FINE FURNITURE

A PAIR OF JAPANNED ARMCHAIRS

England, *circa* 1720

Giles Grendey (1693-1780), a leading London cabinet-maker, was born in Wotton-under-Edge in Gloucestershire. He was the apprentice to the London joiner William Sherborne before becoming a freeman in 1716. Taking his own apprentices by 1726, Grendey was elected to the Livery of the Joiners' Company in 1729. His first workshop was at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, and he subsequently moved to St. John's Square, Clerkenwell in 1772. He developed a thriving export trade. Grendey's chair makers are known to have often stamped pieces with their initials and japanned furniture was a particular speciality of his workshops.

Grendey's most important recorded commission was the celebrated Lazcano Palace scarlet japanned furniture from the collections of the Dukes of Infantado – arguably the most elaborate suite of English furniture made during the 18th century. Commissioned specifically for export to Spain, the ensemble comprised at least seventy-seven pieces including tables, chairs, daybeds, looking glasses, tripod stands, and several desks and bookcases. Pieces from this suite can be seen in leading institutions including the Victoria & Albert Museum in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

A very fine pair of early 18th century George I japanned armchairs, in the manner of Giles Grendey. Of generous scale with fine gilt chinoiserie decoration and detailing on a black japanned background, the seat and backs also caned - the caning of exceptional quality, and with silk damask upholstered fitted

cushions. With high rounded backs, impressive outswept scrolled arms, and standing on stretcher united cabriole legs.

One chairs with stamped journey-man's initial *'RP'* to the rear seat rail.

Height: 3' 11¹/**I**" in (120 cm)
Width: 2' 3¹/**I**" in (69 cm)
Depth: 2' 1⁵/**I**" in (65 cm)

Stock Number
R04.66

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