

# MACKINNON FINE FURNITURE



## THOMAS CHIPPENDALE FOR HAREWOOD HOUSE

England, *circa* 1770 - 1772

### The Harewood House Commission

Around 1767, Edwin Lascelles (1713 – 1795), later 1st Baron Harewood, selected Thomas Chippendale (1718 – 1779) to furnish Harewood House, in what would become the most valuable commission of the cabinet-makers career – the contract exceeding £10,000 through the period 1767 – 1778. Under Lascelles' patronage Chippendale enjoyed an unprecedented freedom, both in the execution and extravagance of his designs, which in turn fostered the flowering of his mature neo-classical style.

This rare commode is from an important group of four commodes supplied by Chippendale to Lascelles in the early 1770s, all of which were famously made with Chinese lacquer supplied by Lascelles himself. The commode can be identified in the full inventory compiled by Harewood House in 1795, and is further substantiated on a stylistic basis evidenced by the handle types and 'carved enrichments' which are used across pieces in the commission. While the 1795 inventory lists four Chinese lacquer commodes, the descriptions are not detailed enough to distinguish them from one another. Therefore, there are four possibilities for the location of this commode in Harewood House. Our commode is likely one of '2 Japan Commodes' listed in Lord Harewood's bedroom.

The Harewood House lacquer commodes were sold in the Christies' sale of 28 June 1951. Three of the commodes were sold subsequently from the collection of Sir James Horlick, Bt. Christie's, 22 November 1973, lots 56, 57 and 58.

The State Bedroom Commode is now in the Gerstenfeld Collection in Washington DC. A close pair of commodes includes ours with the other being in a private collection in the USA. The final commode

being that illustrated in Ronald Phillips, *The Legacy of Thomas Chippendale*, 2018, p. 158 -163 – assumed to be that from the Couch Room. The *secrétaire à abbatant* – only rediscovered some thirty years ago, is now in the collection at Temple Newsam, Leeds.

## **SUPPLIED BY THOMAS CHIPPENDALE TO HAREWOOD HOUSE**

### **A HIGHLY IMPORTANT GEORGE III CHINESE LACQUER, BLACK AND GILT JAPANNED, AND PARCEL GILT COMMODE**

The breakfront top with guilloche-carved giltwood banded edge above a conforming case with three frieze drawers over three deep drawers flanked by cabinet doors, on a moulded plinth base. Decorated throughout with exceptional Chinese lacquer and japanned surfaces.

#### **Literature:**

*Connoisseur*, May 1953 (advertised by Mallett)

*The Grosvenor House Antiques Fair Handbook*, 1953, illustrated with Mallett

C. Gilbert, *The Life and Works of Thomas Chippendale*, New York, 1976, vol. I, p. 197 and 205, vol. II, p. 123, fig. 218

L.G.G. Ramsay, 'Chinoiserie in the Western Isles, The Collection of Sir James and Lady Horlick', *Connoisseur*, June 1958, p. 6, fig. 13

Height: 2' 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" in (89.5 cm)  
Width: 4' 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" in (131.5 cm)  
Depth: 1' 10" in (56 cm)

#### **Stock Number**

T07.81

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