

MACKINNON

FINE FURNITURE



A SET OF FOUR GEORGE III GILTWOOD ARMCHAIRS

England, *circa* 1785

The chairs relate closely to a set of twelve supplied in 1785 by the prestigious London furniture-makers Messrs Ince & Mayhew to James Alexander, 1st Earl of Caledon, for the Oval Drawing Room at Caledon Castle, Co. Tyrone. Described as '*12 very neat Cabriolet Chairs with Elbows, richly Carved and Ornamented, painted dove Colour & white*', the arched seat rail with honeysuckle cresting, swagged paterae on the seat rails and the leg pattern are common to both, only differing in the shape of the back and the arms that join into the tops of the legs rather than to the seat rails. (H. Roberts and C. Cator, *Industry and Ingenuity The Partnership of William Ince and John Mayhew*, London, 2022, p. 178 and p. 365, fig. 330). Several pairs of chairs of the Caledon pattern have been sold including a pair from the collection of Robert and Elsie Tritton, Godmersham Park, Kent, Christie's house sale, 6 - 9 June 1983, lot 125.

An exceptional set of four George III giltwood open armchairs attributed to Ince & Mayhew. In the French taste, and of neo-classical form, each square back with an arched top cresting surmounted by a carved anthemion, the scrolled foliate carved arms with downcurved supports above a serpentine seat, the front rail adorned with carved drapery swags and a central patera. On turned tapering carved and fluted legs. The backs and seats upholstered in green neo-classical silk.

Exhibitions

A set of four armchairs of this suite advertised by John Bell of Aberdeen in *Country Life*, 16 July 1938
(quite possibly these chairs)

A single armchair, *Country Life*, 22 May 1986, advertised by Norman Adams of Knightsbridge

A closely related settee advertised by Stair & Andrew of London and New York, July 1925

Literature:

H. Roberts and C. Cator, *Industry and Ingenuity The Partnership of William Ince and John Mayhew*,
London, 2022, p. 178 and p. 365, fig. 330

Height: 3' 3³/₄" in (100 cm)

Width: 2' 2³/₄" in (67 cm)

Depth: 2' 3¹/₄" in (70 cm)

Stock Number

U11.146

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