

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item IRISH REGENCY ORMOLU-MOUNTED PAINTED COROMANDEL COLLECTORS CABINET

Date Ireland, circa 1800.

Provenance George de La Poer Beresford, Marquis of Waterford, Curraghmore, Co. Waterford.

Dimensions Height 36" (91.5cm) Width 24 1/4" (61.5) Depth 14" (36cm)

Description *The brass galleried top, above a slim frieze, over a pair of brass-trellis doors on button-headed shaped, fluted and wrythen stiles, the interior fitted with 11 trays; raised on gilt-brass lion paw feet; in excellent condition with the steel bow key.*

This exquisite neoclassical cabinet is designed in transitional Louis XVI/Empire taste, envisaged to house a collection of coins, gems, intaglios or *objets vertu*. The decoration, which is grained to imitate coromandel wood, has been painted to an extraordinary degree of virtuosity; the wrythen stiles and 'button' mounts are features invariably described as being indicative of Cork cabinet-making. George de La Poer Beresford commissioned designs from the young James Wyatt between 1778-80, which have been described by John Martin Robinson (*James Wyatt Architect to George III*, p. 115-6) as 'The pre-eminent Wyatt Irish interior contrived within an existing house ...'. Whilst it is improbable that Wyatt can have designed this cabinet at such an early date, it remains a possibility his influence endured, as the elegant lines and distinctive hairy paw feet are certainly elements seen in his furniture dating from the 1790's, the latter supporting the pair of stoves supplied to Castle Coole. Wyatt supplied a suite of gem cabinets to Catherine the Great of Russia for Tsarskoye Selo in 1783, thus it would not be inconceivable for him to have undertaken this cabinet on a smaller scale for an existing client. The Wyatt-Gillows connection is also interesting, as Gillows produced a related design for a 'Rosewood Commode' in 1824, (*Estimate Sketch Book*, pattern no.3362).

Price £18,000

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3