

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item EARLY GEORGE III CARVED & INLAID MAHOGANY SECRÉTAIRE-BOOKCASE

Date In the manner of Thomas Chippendale, England, circa 1765-70.

Provenance By repute, the Dukes of Portland, Welbeck Abbey; Roger Roe, Cambridge.

Dimensions Height 100" (254cm) Width 47" (119.5cm) Depth 22 1/2" (57)

Description *The pierced, floral scroll-carved swan neck pediment with a Greek-key frieze and acorn brackets, above astragal-glazed doors, over a satinwood-fitted secretaire with original brass handles, above a two door cabinet, on incised bracket feet; one foot with laminated blocks; underside and back boards painted with thin red wash; various labels and inscriptions including '50'; small repairs and losses.*

This outstanding secretaire-bookcase may be compared to furniture supplied by Thomas Chippendale on the basis of a number of comparable stylistic and constructional details. These include: rosewood cross-banded mahogany veneers of exceptional figuring divided by a slim ebony and boxwood running chevron border, the central fluted pediment pilaster, incised bracket feet, laminated foot blocks, thin red wash, brass swan-neck and 'axe-head' handles both characteristic of Chippendale's output in the 1760s; the astragal glazing relates to *Director* patterns and a variant is also seen on a slightly later satinwood example sold Christie's, *The Barratt Collection*, 16 December 2010, lot 102 (£70,850).

This bookcase was purchased in the 1920s from Roger Roe of Cambridge, who reputedly acquired it from a descendent of William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, 3rd Duke of Portland (1738-1809); it has descended in the same family since, reflected by the remarkable state of preservation, rich silky surface and warm colour achieved over many centuries. (Extensive research available on request.)

Price £45,000

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Fig. 1

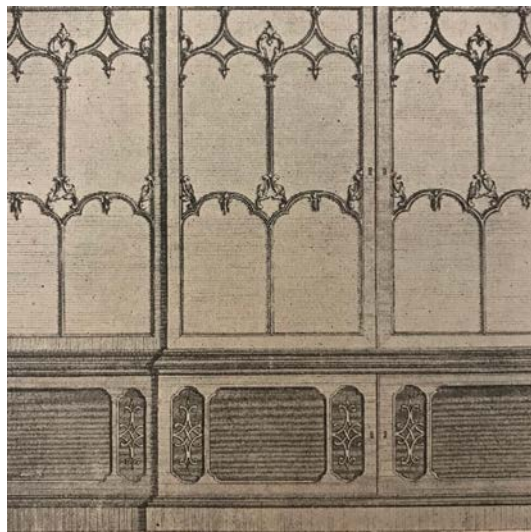


Fig.2



Fig.3