

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



<b>Item</b>	A LARGE REGENCY OVERMANTEL GLASS IN THE ROMAN TASTE
<b>Date</b>	England, circa 1810.
<b>Attributed to</b>	Thomas Fentham (1774-1825), the Strand, London.
<b>Dimensions</b>	Height 56 3/4" (144)    Width 73" (186cm)    Depth 6" (15.25cm)

**Description**    *The mercury plate supported in a rectangular frame, formed as a pair of staved columns, ornamented with Medusa plaques and urn capitals; the inverted breakfront cornice with a central eagle, flanked by recumbent lions; the surface revealing some original paint, gesso and gilded decoration; small losses.*

This large overmantel glass, which most unusually retains layers of polychrome decoration and gesso with traces of gilding, may be attributed to Thomas Fentham (1774-1825) the leading looking glass and picture frame-maker in the Strand, on the basis of extant mirrors with similar detail and scale, (see Geoffrey Beard & Christopher Gilbert, *The Dictionary of English Furniture Makers 1660-1840*, 1986, p. 296 and Christopher Gilbert, *Pictorial Dictionary of Marked London Furniture 1700-1840*, 1996, p.204, fig. 344). It is conceived in a particular Roman taste, suggesting a lost neo-classical commission; the frame ornamented with recumbent lions and Medusa masks<sup>3</sup>, ribbon-wrapped *fascies*, the bound bundles of birch rods carried in the manner of flags representing the Republic, and an imperial eagle<sup>1</sup> looking sideways with outstretched wings, the latter following designs published in CH Tatham's *Etchings ...*, 1799. Fentham supplied an illustrious clientele including the 3rd Earl of Egremont (West Sussex Record Office, PHA/7557, 8056), Charles Townley, Lady Heathcote and Philip Yorke for his Park Lane house, from which items survive at Erddig, Denbighshire, (see 'Erddig', *Country Life*, 16 August 1930, p.211).

**Price**    £18,000

69 PIMLICO ROAD, LONDON. SW1W 8NE

TEL: +44 (0) 207 730 6161

PATRICK@PATRICKJEFFERSON.COM

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3