

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item GEORGE III MAHOGANY *SECRÉTAIRE*-BOOKCASE ATTRIBUTED TO GILLOWS

Date England, circa 1795-1800.

Provenance Private collection, Kensington; bought from Gloria Antica, London, around 1950.

Dimensions Height 90 1/2" (230) Width 47 1/4" (120) Depth 24 1/2" (62)

Description *The shaped and moulded cornice with an inlaid and book-matched tablet-mounted frieze, above a pair of ebonised lancet-astragal-glazed doors, flanked by tapering reeded columns; the fitted secretaire-cabinet with octagonal brass handles, over a pair of quartered doors centred by circular specimen panels, opening to four drawers with gilt-brass handles, the conforming columns supported on gadrooned feet; original brass furniture throughout, glass mostly original; small repairs reflecting age and use; signed in pencil 'W Clever'.*

The pattern for this handsome *secrétaire*-cabinet of 'commode' form, its ribbon-banded sunken 'Roman' medallions of sumptuously swirling mahogany imitating Italian marble, was introduced in the 1770s and later popularised by A. Hepplewhite & Co.'s *The Cabinet-Maker and Upholsterer's Guide*, 1788. Several details support an attribution to Gillows of Lancaster and London, notably the tapering reeded pilasters used from top to bottom, the particularly choice figured and book-matched veneers, ogee-shaped drawer sides to the *secrétaire*, 'hollow-cornered' mouldings, the octagonal handle pattern and melon-form feet. Pencil signatures of craftsmen have been found on a number of pieces by Gillows however in this case the signature of *W Clever*(?) appears not to be recorded.

Gillows supplied related furniture to a number of houses, notably the Library at Tatton Park, Cheshire, through the architect Lewis Wyatt.

Price £24,000

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