

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item A STAG ANTLER CHAIR

Date Austria or Bavaria, circa 1850-1870.

Dimensions Height 35 1/2" (90cm) Width 29" (74cm) Depth 31 1/2" (80)

Description *The shaped back framed by fallow deer antlers, the beech frame raised on red deer antler legs; original horsehair upholstery and lining in distressed condition.*

There has been a long history of antler-mounted furniture in Germany and Austria, the earliest recorded being a figural chandelier, *lusterweibchen*, donated in 1392 to the Marienkirche, Lemgo. In the 15th and 16th centuries *lusterweibchen* became very popular in southern Germany, with examples by the most important artists and sculptors of the period including Albrecht Dürer and Tilman Riemenschneider, who created unique variants with a sense of apotropaic magic.

In the 19th century antler furniture was an essential accessory for the aristocracy in Central Europe and Britain to furnish their castles and hunting lodges. This fashion quickly gathered pace when the German ivory carver and furniture manufacturer H. F. C. Rampendahl, amongst others, displayed a wide range of furniture and accessories in London at the Great Exhibition of 1851, fuelling a craze for hunting rooms to display trophies.

A pair of antler chairs in the Royal Collection, attributed to F. Böhler of Frankfurt, formed part of a group given by Ernest II, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, to Prince Albert in around 1845, with which he furnished the Horn Room at Osbourne House, where they remain today.

Price £8,500

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3