

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



- Item** WOVEN AND PRINTED SILK AND WOOL PAISLEY SHAWL
- Date** European, probably Lyon, France, second quarter of the nineteenth-century.
- Provenance** Private collection, Bath, Somerset.
- Dimensions** Height 70" (178cm) Width 70" (174cm)
- Description** *Each quarter with a large motif in brilliant blue, surrounded by a field of boteh in gold, pink, blue and reds, on a cream ground; excellent bright condition with no apparent moth damage nor restoration; very small losses to the fringe.*
- The *boteh* motif, now described as paisley, probably originates from the Mughal court and is seen on Kashmiri shawls dating from around 1600. These textiles were intensely labour-intensive and could take three people over a year to embroider and hand-weave; the finest were woven from a wild goat from the Himalayas and were traditionally the gifts of Princes. Such shawls were consequently extremely valuable and given as royal or noble gifts, especially in Russia where they were particularly sought-after. A French trade journal *Le Cachemirien* cited owners including the King of the Belgians, the Duc de Berri, and British nobility. Few shawls otherwise reached Western Europe until the British East India Company started to bring them back in the late 18th century. Napoleon's officers probably introduced them from Egypt to France, where a regular trade started. Despite the price, (each imported shawl could cost the vast sum of £200-£300), the demand became so great that the French started to produce versions in Paris and Lyon.
- This example is of exceptional superfine quality, probably woven from silk, wool and cashmere in Lyon on a Jacquard loom. The palette of rich blue and gold on a cream ground is extremely unusual, as opposed to the traditional reds and browns.
- Price** £5,900

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