

MALLETT

LONDON · NEW YORK

GREAT ENGLISH
FURNITURE

21ST MAY - 1ST JUNE 2013

SELECTED PIECES





A CHARLES II COCUS WOOD CABINET ON STAND

England, c. 1670

H: 57.0 in (144.8 cm)

W: 36.0 in (91.4 cm)

L/D: 18.0 in (45.7 cm)

A very rare Charles II oyster veneered cabinet on stand, veneered in cocus wood, the rectangular top above a moulded cornice and a pair of doors enclosing a fitted interior of two drawers around a central door with a row of pigeonholes on top. The interior of the doors with fitted period silk embroidered panels, the stand with one long frieze drawer. The whole stands on barley-twist turned legs joined by a wavy stretcher and ending in bun feet.



A RARE GEORGE II MASTER'S CHAIR

England, c. 1750

H: 68.9 in (175.0 cm)

W: 33.1 in (84.0 cm)

L/D: 29.9 in (76.0 cm)

An extremely unusual and oversize walnut armchair with concave-vase-shaped splat and broad sloping shoulders ornamented with carved and gilt acanthus and volute terminals. The central splat inlaid with floral marquetry and motto, "FOR OUR COUNTRY," the side rails further inlaid with husk pendants. The arms terminate in finely carved lions' masks, above compass seat supported by cabriole legs ending in pad feet.

Possibly by Francis Brodie of Edinburgh, c. 1745–60

PROVENANCE

Bought from a Scottish source by Aldric Young (Antiques), Edinburgh, 1974
Private American Collection

LITERATURE Christopher Gilbert, *Furniture at Temple Newsam House and Lotherton Hall*, Vol. I (1978), p. 76, no. 58; Vol. III (1998), p. 720 (ill.) Sebastian Pryke, 'The extraordinary billhead of Francis Brodie', *Regional Furniture*, Vol. 4 (1990), pp. 81–99 (pp. 87–98 and fig. 16) Height: 70 in (175 cm) Width: 33 in (84 cm) Depth: 30 in (76 cm) This remarkable armchair is likely to have been made for use in a dining club of members of the Anti-Gallican Society, whose motto, 'FOR OUR COUNTRY', is inlaid at the top of the splat. The Anti-Gallican Society was founded in the resonant year of 1745, to promote British arts and manufactures as against those of France. The chair was sold in 1974 in Edinburgh, apparently with a Scottish history of ownership, which has given rise to the suggestion that it was produced in the workshop of the Edinburgh wright Francis Brodie. His billhead features an armchair of somewhat similar profile (though more domestic proportions). A closely related ceremonial armchair, retaining its original carved cresting, was formerly in the collection of Percival Griffiths and is now at Temple Newsam House, Leeds.



AN EXCEPTIONAL GILTWOOD TROPHY ATTRIBUTED TO SEFFERIN NELSON

England, c. 1795

H: 118.1 in (300.0 cm)

W: 38.0 in (96.5 cm)

Representing the victory of Peace over War, with elaborate flamed torches, spears, fruits, garlands and two doves perched on a central quiver of arrows.

Attributed to Sefferin Nelson (1739-97)
after designs by Henry Holland.

The late Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, former Director of the Royal Collections and Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art, attributes the set of four wall trophies made for the Throne Room at Carlton House, to Sefferin Nelson (1739-97), a prominent London gilder and carver. The Carlton House Trophies, which are of the same dimensions and ornamented with similar carving and motifs to the one here illustrated, were commissioned by the Prince of Wales, later George IV, from the famous Marchand-Mercier Dominique Daguerre, who had the order completed by Nelson's workshops.

Published in the catalogue accompanying the exhibition, Bernard Molitor, 1755-1833: *Ébéniste parisien d'origine luxembourgeoise, sa vie, son oeuvre*, Geoffrey de Bellaigue's article discusses Dominique Daguerre's work in London. He refers the trophies, noting that "A reading of the bills submitted by the carver and gilder Sefferin Nelson in 1788 and 1789 reveals (...) it was to Daguerre that he was answerable for the trophies in the Throne Room. (G. Bellaigue 'Daguerre and England' in *Leben, Ulrich. Bernard Molitor 1755-1833: ebeniste parisien d'origine luxembourgeoise*, Luxembourg: Ville de Luxembourg, 1995, p. 175)

The designs are most likely the work of architect Henry Holland, who oversaw the renovation of Carlton House and worked closely with Daguerre. Today, the set of four trophies can be viewed inside the Throne Room at Buckingham Palace.



A FINE CHIPPENDALE PERIOD CARVED GILTWOOD
MIRROR

England, c. 1765

H: 87.0 in (221.0 cm)

W: 46.9 in (119.0 cm)

An elaborately carved George III giltwood mirror of Rococo design, the central cartouche with foliate C-scrolls and bell flowers, elaborately pierced with an unusual double-layered cresting, flanked by hoho birds above central heart-shaped plate, all enclosed by repeated C- and S- scrolls, both pierced and solid. The rectangular lower plate with stylised pilasters and external frame of entwined oak branches, with stepped rocaille beneath and repeated C-scroll central cartouche containing lambs on a grassy knoll.



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