

Adam Calvert Bentley and Ardgowan Antiques

Call +44 7545 220052



George III Mahogany Open Armchair attributed to Wright and Elwick

A very smart George III mahogany open armchair or desk chair attributed to Wright and Elwick. The splat formed of finely pierced interlaced gothic strap-work carved with acanthus leaves below a serpentine cresting supported on bead and reel carved stiles leading down to the boldly scrolled, out-swept arms. The drop-in seat supported on square, moulded legs united by H stretchers.

SKU: C2158

Depth: 57 cm (22.5 inches)

Feet Height: 45 cm (17.75 inches)

Height: 98 cm (38.5 inches)

Width: 70 cm (27.5 inches)

Year: English. Circa 1760



The clasped acanthus leaf carving, moulded square legs, and unusually exaggerated scroll to the arms, along with the generous proportions point towards the maker of this chair being Wright & Elwick (1745-1771)

The gothick arched back, pierced with foliate scrolls, shows that the design of this chair was certainly inspired by patterns published in Thomas Chippendale's 'The Gentleman and Cabinet-maker's Director. Being a large collection of the most elegant and useful designs of household furniture in the Gothic, Chinese and Modern taste.' (1754)

Richard Wright and Edward Elwick's trade card declared 'Upholders from London....selling Cabinet work of ye Newest Fashion, Together with all sorts of Household Furniture'. As subscribers to Chippendale's The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director, 1754, Wright and Elwick would have been familiar with current London taste. They supplied furniture to the leading families of of the day, including the Earl of Strafford at Wentworth, Sir Rowland Winn at Nostell Priory, the Duke of Norfolk at Worksop Manor, Viscount Irwin at Temple Newsam House and the Marquess of Rockingham at Wentworth Woodhouse, see Christie's London sale, July 8, 1998.

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