

# BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

Est.1964



## A MAHOGANY LIBRARY BOOKCASE FIRMLY ATTRIBUTED TO GILLOWS

GILLOWS

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Dimensions H: 119 in / 303 cm W: 192 in / 490 cm D: 20.5 in / 52 cm

Of outstanding quality; of breakfront form, rising from a plinth base; the lower part with four pairs of lockable fielded panel blind doors dressed with rectangular fielded panel reserves, having foliate carving to the angles, and enclosing shelved interiors, all separated by vertical stiles with swept and carved corbels; over, four pairs of conforming glazed lockable doors, with the middle section have wonderful fitted drawers and the outer sections with adjustable shelves, separated by fluted stiles with carved capitols; over, the ogee cornice has the fascia having gilt numbering 'XX', 'XXI', 'XXII' and 'XXIII'; the piece stamped by the retailer 'James Winter & Son, 101 Wardour Street Soho London'. Circa 1825

### Artist description:

The founder of the Gillows dynasty, Robert (1704-1772) rose from humble beginnings as a provincial joiner, and evolved into a consummate businessman following a pursuit of excellence throughout his life. Founding his business in 1730 he expanded his furniture making activities to include the direct import of quality West Indian timbers especially the finest mahogany.

His talents as both a cabinetmaker as well as innovative designer brought him early success, and, bringing his two sons, Richard & Robert, into the business, he expanded his Lancaster showroom, to include another in London's Oxford Street. The clientele now included the Government, the aristocracy and the burgeoning middle classes. His furniture had gained its' reputation for excellence of workmanship, and materials employed, and coupled with his insistence on being at the cutting edge of design kept the company to the fore throughout its' one hundred and seventy year history from 1730 until its' amalgamation with Messrs S.J. Waring in 1900.

Throughout this period it was the largest manufactory of furniture in England. The fortuitous survival of the Gillows records in their Estimate Sketch Books show over 20,000 designs and are preserved in the City of Westminster Library. Furniture made by Gillows is to be found in Royal collections and museums throughout the world. The recent publication of Susan E. Stuart's scholarly and invaluable study on the company, published by the Antique Collectors Club is a masterpiece of its' type, and a wonderful exegesis of the company.

