

BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

Est. 1964



A PAIR OF LATE GEORGIAN OAK BENCHES ATTRIBUTED TO GILLOWS

H: 39 in / 98 cm | W: 63.5 in / 160 cm | D: 19.5 in / 49 cm

A Pair of Late Georgian Oak Benches

Attributed to Gillows

Carved from solid oak, the pair of benches resting on fine carved foliate scrolls with interlaced perforated joints; the seats with carved moulded edges and terminating in grand down swept scroll arms; the seatbacks dressed with bosses to the rear and incorporating carved foliate and acanthus leaf top rails.

Circa 1825

Literature:

Gillows of London & Lancaster

The founder of the Gillow's 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 2008 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.

