



**AN EXCEPTIONAL CARVED MAHOGANY HALL
BENCH BY H SAMUEL**

Dimensions: H: 35 in / 89 cm | W: 72 in / 183 cm | D: 19 in / 48 cm

10539



An Exceptional Carved Mahogany Hall Bench

By Henry Samuel

In the Georgian manner with Greco-roman elements inspired by the published designs of Charles Heathcote Tatham, made from mahogany with exquisite applied carving on the shaped serpentine backrest of acanthus scrolls forming an anthemion issuing a wheat sheaf below, the solid armrests carved with triumphant laurel leaves and faced with lion masks, above the seat rail set with carved rosettes, supported on fluted tapering legs with oblate bun feet and acanthus-clasped capitals and double-beaded registers. Stamped several times 'H Samuel 484 Oxford St London.'

English, circa 1890

Aso O. Tavitian's collection of important English furniture included a mahogany hall bench by H. Samuel, sold Sotheby's, New York, 9 Feb 2025, lot 1424. Henry Samuel's body of work is very limited, with documented examples rarely appearing on the market.

Henry Samuel (fl. c.1879-c.1906)

Originally from Timberhill, Norwich, Henry Samuel was a furniture maker and dealer who specialised in earlier Georgian style pieces. He is recorded at his London address at 484 Oxford Street by 1882, as listed in Kelly's Directory of that same year described as "dealer in works of art." In 1899, he received a royal visit to his galleries displaying "objets d'art and vertu." As discussed by Christopher Payne in "British Furniture 1820 to 1920," the firm's diversity and extent of their output included not only Georgian mahogany furniture, but also japanned furniture, Hepplewhite style pieces, and satinwood furniture. In addition to art and furniture, H Samuel's business is also listed as a bookseller in 1906, a testament to his business acumen and success at the heart of London's shopping district.

Championing the taste in revival styles at the turn of the century, Samuel's premises must have been a fashionable mecca where he showcased his goods, decorative items, alongside books, curiosities, and fine art. His mahogany furniture often showcases applied carved elements, features which could be altered on a bespoke basis for different clients. Many of his pieces bear the stamp on the carcass or drawers, with interiors and linings often stained darker to lend them a "Dickensian" air.