

GEORGE II MAHOGANY SERPENTINE COMMODE PROBABLY BY WRIGHT & ELWICK OF WAKEFIELD - REF 2151



A superb George II Chippendale period Cuban mahogany serpentine commode, probably by Wright & Elwick of Wakefield. The serpentine shaped rectangular top with moulded edge above four graduated oak lined drawers fitted with rocco style gilt brass handles, between fabulously carved out stepped cabachon and cartouche-carved canted pilasters on shaped out-stepped bracket feet, the top drawer mahogany-lined with green baize-lined interior and slide.

The commode chest of drawers, with its serpentine forms enriched with cartouche and cabochon carved pilasters, is designed in the French style introduced by Thomas Chippendale in the mid 18th century. Its refined elegance evolved from Chippendale's patterns engraved in 1753 for a 'French Commode Table' and illustrated then in his "The Gentleman and Cabinet-Maker's Director". The adaption of Chippendale patterns and the chest's elaborate carving are characteristics associated with the work of Wright and Elwick, cabinet-makers from Wakefield, Yorkshire. Richard Wright and Edward Elwick whose partnership lasted from 1747 to 1771, both subscribed to the first edition of Chippendale's Director of 1754 and enjoyed patronage from a large number of stately homes in Yorkshire and throughout the rest of England.

PRICE: £65,000

Provenance: The collection of one of America's greatest pianists - Van Cliburn.

Origin & Age: English, George II, circa 1755

Dimensions: 45½" wide, 23¼" deep, 34" high; 116cm wide, 59cm deep; 86cm high.

Restorations: Minor restorations, the top drawer previously with fitted interior, the handles apparently original, back plates replaced, feet original.

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