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A PAIR OF GEORGE II MAHOGANY HALL CHAIRS - REF 2341



A pair of George II mahogany hall chairs, of excellent original colour and patina. The chairs of sgabello form, the shaped backs each bearing a painted armorial crest with the motto 'Esse Quam Vinere' above a solid dished seat and shaped solid front supports. The arms depicted on these chair backs are for the Leigh family of Cumberland but interestingly the arms denote that a Mr. X married a Miss Leigh of Cumberland, that she had no brothers and her father's testamentary injunction was that her husband should change his name to, and adopt the arms (adding a black corner) of Leigh.

A sgabello is an Italian term for a specific type of backstool or moveable seat furniture typical of the Italian Renaissance. The term chair (sedia) usually signified an armchair, a seat of some hieratic importance. Italian Sgabelli are generally made out of walnut and consist of a thin plank or panelled back and an octagonal seat, supported on shaped plank supports, strengthened by a stretcher, which may be turned. This seat would often be placed in hallways, and was often carved with a family's imprese or emblem drawn from its coat-of-arms. It was not intended for lounging in comfort. English seats of this period (like the pair here) often followed this classical Italian shape.

PRICE £9,750

Provenance: Private collection UK

Origin & Age: English, George II, circa 1755.

Dimensions: 18" wide, 20" deep, 41" high; (46cm wide, 51cm deep, 104cm high)

Restorations: Minor old restorations, waxing.

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