

GODSON & COLES

FINE ART & ANTIQUE FURNITURE

92 Fulham Road, London, SW3 6HR, United Kingdom - Tel: +44 (20) 7584 2200 - Web: www.godsonandcoles.co.uk



The Hackwood House Bookcase

An important George III period white painted architectural library breakfront bookcase, the design attributed to John Vardy, the carving attributed to Thomas Vardy

English

Height: 9ft 4in (285cm)

Width: 8ft 5 ½ in (258cm)

Depth: 23 ¼ in (59cm)

PROVENANCE

Supplied to Charles Powlett, 5th Duke of Bolton (1718-1765) for Hackwood House as part of the furnishings of the library designed by John Vardy. Thence by descent to his brother, Harry Powlett, 6th Duke of Bolton and in turn to his niece, Jean Browne-Powlett, natural daughter of the 5th Duke, who inherited Hackwood Park and Bolton Castle as part of the family estates, thence by descent to her second son, The Hon. Thomas Orde Powlett.

DESCRIPTION

The underside of the bookcase inscribed:

The Honourable T Orde Powlett

Bolton Hall

Leyburn

Yorkshire

By a Stockton Vessel to Stockton bt Sea

To be forwarded from Stockton

To Bolton Hall by the Leyburn Carrier

July 16th 1816... To be kept very dry

The upper section surmounted by a swan necked pediment carved with mouldings of egg and leaf with swags of garlands with finely carved fruit and flowers over four doors flanked by recessed pilasters topped with carved acanthus corbels; the doors with wire grills; the lower section with applied Vitruvian scrolls over four doors on a plinth with a moulding of finely carved flower heads.

This magnificent bookcase brings together all the elements one looks for in an important piece of English furniture: provenance, quality, designed by the top architect of the day, a fascinating history and a fully detailed documentation.

Designed for Hackwood Park, the magnificent home of the 5th Duke of Bolton, by John Vardy, Clerk of the Works, and exquisitely carved by his brother Thomas, this bookcase was then transported from Hackwood in 1816 to Bolton Hall in Yorkshire via the newly built Basingstoke Canal to Hambro Wharf in London, then on to Stockton-on-Tees and finally to Bolton Hall. What make this piece even more remarkable are the detailed accounts of the voyage, both in the Hackwood records held at the Hampshire County Archives and an inscription on the underside of the bookcase.