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A Rare George III Carved Mahogany 'Gainsborough' Armchair attributed to Paul Saunders

REF960

English, circa 1760

H: 39 ½ in (100 cm)

W: 29 in (74 cm)

D: 29 in (74 cm)

The upholstered back and seat with serpentine rails united by scrolled arms in carved mahogany with upholstered arm pads. The front legs of cabriole form and finely carved with acanthus and C scrolls terminating in scrolled feet. Covered in silk damask.

DESCRIPTION

This chair is almost identical to a pair that sold at Sotheby's London, 18 November 2008, lot 384.

The legs on this chair are almost identical to a set of side chairs, almost certainly supplied by Paul Saunders, circa 1757 for Holkham, Norfolk. Another chair from the same Holkham suite is illustrated in John Cornforth, *Holkham Hall, Norfolk-IV*, *Country Life*, February 14, 1980, p.431, fig. 14.

Paul Saunders was a major London furniture maker of the 1750's and 1760s. His workshops, known as 'The Royal Tapestry Manufactory' contained a special 'tapestry room' and from 1755 until his death in 1771 he was the main tapestry producer in London.