

SA1127420

The Sir William Stephenson 18th Century George II Lacquer Chinoiserie Bureau

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1127420****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Description

A rare and important George II period lacquer chinoiserie bureau, exquisitely decorated with gilded chinoiserie scenes on a rich black ground. Featuring intricate depictions of figures, birds, and landscapes, this exceptional piece embodies the height of early 18th-century English craftsmanship. The fall-front reveals a beautifully fitted interior with small drawers, pigeonholes, and two secret drawers cleverly concealed within, adding to its intrigue. This bureau bears the coat of arms of the Stephenson family, a remarkable discovery that enhances its historical significance. The Stephensons, originally from Alston in Cumbria, rose to prominence in trade and public life, with Sir William Stephenson (c.1685–1774) becoming a successful London merchant, Lord Mayor (1764–5), and a key figure in 18th-century commerce. His descendants forged influential alliances, including connections to the Sawbridge, Savile, and Erle-Drax families. A silver seal fob bearing the same arms, dated between 1725 and 1775, is held in the British Museum, likely belonging to the original owner of this bureau. With exceptional provenance, rarity, and striking visual appeal, this bureau is a true c...

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