

SA936429

Chippendale Mahogany Metamorphic Library Steps

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA936429****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 90 cm (35.4")

Width = 109 cm (42.9")

Depth = 47 cm (18.5")

Description

A superb and extremely rare George III Period Metamorphic Library Stool/Steps by Meschain and Herve, the rectangular top opening to reveal two flights of steps, one hinged and lowering to the floor, the other hinged and rising on an easel support, in all six steps, the mahogany frieze raised on square section chamfered legs. On the top of the lower flight there is an inlaid panel of boxwood inscribed "Meschain & Hervé Fecit, No 32, John Street, Tottenham Court Road" Francois Hervé was a Frenchman living and working in London during the last quarter of the 18th. Century. He appears to have been in partnership with another Frenchman, a Cabinet and Chair maker by the name of John Meschain who supplied a set of chairs to Shelburne House in 1769. His premises at 32 John Street were taken over by Hervé in 1781. They appeared to have worked together during the 1770s as several sets of folding library steps inscribed with their names either on wooden or brass plaques exist. Hervé worked for a number of fashionable patrons including the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Bedford, Earl Spencer and the Duke of Devonshire for whom he supplied several suites of seating furniture at Chat...

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Seller Details

W.R. Harvey & Co. (Antiques) Ltd

86 Corn Street Witney Oxfordshire OX28 6BU United Kingdom



Tel: 01993 706501

International Tel: +44 1993 706501