

Finch & C^o



FOUR RARE AND SUPERB ENGLISH ARMORIAL REVERSE GLASS PAINTINGS

FOUR RARE AND SUPERB ENGLISH ARMORIAL REVERSE GLASS PAINTINGS . THE LATIN MOTTO 'SI SIT PRUDENTIA' UNDER THE SHIELD

CIRCA 1780

SIZE : 37 CMHIGH , 31 CMWIDE – 14½ INS HIGH , 12¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THESE SUMPTUOUS OVAL ARMORIAL GLASS PAINTINGS WERE USED AS MARVELLOUS OSTENTATIOUS COACHING PANELS . AT THE END OF THE 18 TH CENTURY , AND IN THE EARLY 19 TH CENTURY , THE ARMS OF A PEER OF THE REALMWERE FREQUENTLY DEPICTED UPON A 'MANTLE' THAT IS HIS PARLIAMENTARY ROBE OF ESTATE . THE POSSESSION OF WHICH WAS A MATTER OF PRIVILEGE AND TO BE SHOWN OFF IN THE EMBLAZONMENT OF ARMS ON CARRIAGE PANELS . IN THIS PERIOD , ALMOST ALL THE PAINTED ARMORIALS EXECUTED FOR CARRIAGES , CHARIOTS AND STATE COACHES FOR PEERS , WERE SHOWN UPON THE BACKGROUND OF THE MANTLE . ITS USE BECAME UNIVERSAL .

MANY OF THE NOW FAMOUS 18 TH CENTURY ACADEMIC ARTISTS BEGAN THEIR CAREERS AS PAINTER / CRAFTSMEN WHOSE STOCK IN TRADE INCLUDED PAINTING THE COATS OF ARMS ON CARRIAGES . CHARLES CATTON R.A (1728 - 1798) IS LISTED 'IN EARLY LIFE A COACH AND SIGN PAINTER' AND JOHN BAKER R.A (1731 - 1771) 'A FAMOUS FLOWER-PAINTER , DECORATED COACH PANELS WITH BORDERS AND WREATHS OF FLOWERS' . BOTH THOMAS WRIGHT OF LIVERPOOL AND RICHARD SMIRKE R.A (1778 - 1815) BEGAN THEIR CAREERS APPRENTICED TO SIGN AND COACH PAINTERS . IT IS REASONABLE TO SAY THEREFORE THAT THESE PANELS ARE INDEED WORKS OF ART .