

Finch & C^o



A LENGTH OF CHINESE EXPORT WALL PAPER

A LENGTH OF CHINESE EXPORT WALL PAPER , DEPICTING PRECIOUS OBJECTS , FLOWERING SHRUBS , BLOSSOMS AND DEER . GOUACHE ON VELLUM

CIRCA 1780 – 1800

SIZE : 53 CM HIGH , 188 CM WIDE – 21 INS HIGH , 74 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

CHINESE PAINTED EXPORT WALL PAPERS APPEARED IN GREAT ENGLISH AND FRENCH INTERIORS POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS THE 17 TH CENTURY VIA THE DUTCH MERCHANTS AND THE ENGLISH EAST INDIA COMPANY . BY THE MID 18 TH CENTURY THEY WERE A HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER COMMODITY .

JERATHMEEL PIERCE OF SALEM IN 1782 LISTS 'AN ELEGANT INDIA PAPER HANGING OF THE NEWEST FASHION' FOR SALE AT HIS AMERICAN STORE , AND IN NEW YORK JOHN ARTHUR ADVERTISED IN 1773 'AN ASSORTMENT OF PAPER HANGINGS IN WHICH TWO ARE ELEGANT INDIA PATTERNS'. THE USE OF 'INDIA' AND 'CHINA' BEING INTERCHANGEABLE AT THIS DATE . EVEN GEORGE WASHINGTON EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CHINESE WALLPAPER ; IN A LETTER TO ROBERT MORRIS OF 1787 HE WROTE : 'IT IS POSSIBLE I MAY AVAIL MYSELF OF YOUR KIND OFFER OF SENDING FOR INDIA PAPER FOR MY NEW ROOM
Â€¸.' THIS WAS THE DINING ROOM AT MOUNT VERNON .

A CHIPPENDALE BILL OF 1771 , FOR DECORATION AT NOSTELL PRIORY IN YORKSHIRE , GIVES AN IDEA OF THE COST OF THE PAPER : '4 SHEETS OF INDIA PAPER AND BORDER - £ 2 - 15 SH.'.