

ADRIAN ALAN

Fine Art & Antiques



Charles Baker (1841 - 1932)

A Carved Mahogany Dining Table In the Manner of Thomas Chippendale

Circa: Circa 1900

73 x 151 x 351 cm (28³/₄ x 59¹/₄ inches)

Mahogany

England

1900

With ivorine label 'Made by C. Baker Chippendale House Wells Road Bath'.

A Carved Mahogany Dining Table In the Manner of Thomas Chippendale, by Charles Baker of Bath.

This fine mahogany dining table has a border edge finely carved with acanthus above a frieze, and is supported on four finely carved cabriole legs with acanthus leaf carved knees and ball and claw feet put down on casters.

The table has a winding mechanism, which is in good order, which allows it to be extended to accommodate additional leaves.

The table is in very good condition but the top is a little faded at the ends compared to the leaves, we would be able to re-polish the top to a fine uniform colour. The winding system is in good working order.

This is a substantial table with fine carving and very solid. Once it is re-polished it will look superb!

Dimensions:

Length when closed: 164 cm / 65 inches

Length when extended: 351 cm / 138 inches

Artist description:

Charles Baker (1841 -1932), came from an important family of chair and cabinet makers working in Bath in the 19th and early 20th centuries. He had workshops at the appropriately named Chippendale House, 4 Wells Road, Bath in 1888, and worked there until his death in 1932. The firm was known for its exacting recreation of 18th century designs especially Sheraton and Chippendale patterns.

Together with his elder brother William, Charles trained in chair making under his father Alexander Baker. Having worked with his brother and nephews for many years he established his own company in

1888 moving to Chippendale House.

The directory entries for the two brothers are:

William Baker

25 Morford St. 1854 -60; in 1854 as Chair Maker; Harington House, 1870-97; 1860-89 as Cabinet Maker; 1897, as Cabinet Maker and Upholsterer. As 'Baker & Sons' to 1919 (that is George Herbert, and Percy Baker).

Charles Baker

Cabinet Maker & Upholsterer Harington House, 1870; Milk Street, 1881; 4 Wells Road by 1888 (until 1919 at Nos. 13,15). As 'Baker and Clack' for a short period. Noted as upholsterer in 1897. In 1910 as 'Baker and Mann' (5 Wells Road 1911 -13, 15 Wells Road 1914 -17), but reverted to 'Charles Baker' at Mr Mann's death. Listed as 'Chair and Sofa Maker', 1900 -1919.

The brothers had very distinctive styles, Charles preferring plainer forms, while Charles often enlivened his work with fancy carving. Both, however enjoyed strong patronage and favoured the ever popular designs of Sheraton and Chippendale.

By 1910, Charles had entered into a silent partnership with the Aberdeen hotelier Mr Mann. Mann was father in law to Charles Augustus Richter, who together with his brothers, started the famous 'Bath Cabinet Makers' Firm. Baker & Mann became a subsidiary of Bath Cabinet Makers at this time, the name reverting to Charles Baker on Mann's death. Charles Baker died in July 1932.

Herbert Steven Baker, Charles's nephew, recalled that his uncle had made one hundred chairs for the Bath Guildhall Banqueting Room at a cost of £5 each. It is perhaps fitting that a portrait of Charles Baker, working at his bench, aged eighty years, by Frederick George Swaish now hangs in the Victoria Art Gallery, Bath. His work, widely appreciated at the time, for the quality and the detail of his carving, has now become highly sought after by a new generation of collectors.

Literature

'Furniture Made in Bath', Exhibition at the Holburne of Menstrie Museum, Bath, 13 September to 27 October 1985.