A rare George II child's comb back 'garden' Windsor armchair, Thames Valley, circa 1750

Sold



REF: 4114

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Height: 69.3 cm (27.3")

Width: 44 cm (17.3")

Description

Ash, with elm seat, painted, dark green paint beneath Regency decoration.

The back composed of lathe uprights, supporting a yoke-shaped cresting, with three long elliptical spindles flanking a pierced and ornately shaped splat of rare, possibly unique, design, the arm bow connected to the seat with eight further elliptical spindles and thin flattened concave front arm supports, the legs morticed through the saddle seat, the front legs with low baluster-turnings, and connected to the rear plain turned legs by an H-form stretcher, formed from elliptical side stretchers and a ball centred cross stretcher.

Written references to Windsor chairs dating from 1718 suggest they were originally designed for use in an outdoor setting, eventually being made for use in both the home and the garden. Those made for the garden were painted green. The frontpiece of Bernard Cotton's book 'The English Regional Chair' (2000) illustrates a painting by Johan Zoffany, 'The Rosoman Family', circa 1780, with Mrs Rosoman seated in a green painted Windsor armchair on the bank of the Thames at Hampton.

Early 18th century painted Windsor chairs of this form probably precede cabriole legged examples of similar design above the seat. See for example stock number 4046 in this exhibition. See also Bernard Cotton, 'The English Regional Chair' (2000), p. 46, fig. TV16, for a comb back Windsor chair, again with turned legs, dated to c.1720-40.

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