

BUTCHOFF

EXCELLENCE IN ANTIQUES

Est.1964



An Irish Pier Glass in the Manner of Matthias Lock

Matthias Lock

Dimensions: H: 57 in / 144 cm | W: 31 in / 80 cm

Of rectangular portrait form, constructed in gilt wood, flamboyantly, exuberantly and expertly carved; below, a Pan mask, symbolising the joys of a bucolic life: and atop, a large scallop shell, emblematic of birth and unity, having the asymmetric frame adorned with scrolling foliage, enclosing a mercury plate glass.

Irish, Circa 1750 and later

Literature:

'Irish Furniture' published by the Yale University Press on 2007, by The Knight of Glin and James Peill, illustrates similar carved mirror frames on pp 80 (plates 98 & 99) and pp 260 (plate 221). Matthias Lock's 'Six Sconces', published in 1744, the very first pattern book of Rococo designs; strong concordances showing the influence of Lock can be seen, especially on Plate 3 of this revolutionary work.

Artist description:

Matthias Lock is recorded as one of a number of joiners and carvers bearing the same name and probably members of the same family which appears to span three generations. He was described by a pupil, and fellow designer and carver, Thomas Johnson, as 'the famous Matthias Lock, the most excellent carver, and reputed to be the best ornament draughts-man in Europe'. In 1744 he published 'Six Designs for Sconces' and, in 1746, 'Six designs for Tables'. Christopher Gilbert is surely correct in remarking that his rococo work influenced Thomas Chippendale's designs, whose 'Gentleman & Cabinet-Makers Directory' was first published in 1754,