

FINEST ENGLISH 18TH AND EARLY 19TH CENTURY FURNITURE

8238-294

## A MAGNIFICENT AND RARE PAIR OF KINGWOOD AND GILT CABINETS, ATTRIBUTED TO JOHN MCLEAN.

## **CIRCA 1810**

Each cabinet executed in the most vibrant of veneers throughout; the two tier superstructure surmounted by a three-quarter pierced brass gallery and urn-form finials and supported by brass trelliswork alternating with brass columns over three short drawers; the projecting lower part with brass bound edge finely chased with bead-and-reel and guilloche decoration over one long drawer simulated as two drawer fronts mounted with egg and dart brass paneling; raised on round tapering legs with brass ring mounts, joined by a brass-bound shaped platform stretcher with conforming pierced gallery set to the back; the reverse of each cabinet fully finished.

Height: 55" Width: 42 1/2" Depth: 19 1/2"

Illustrated: Aronson, Joseph. *The Encyclopedia of Furniture*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Crown, 1967; fig. 150

Price Available Upon Request

This pair of cabinets is mounted with exquisitely chased gilt-metal mounts, characteristic of the work of John McLean, one of the major names of London cabinet-making in the early 19th century. His work was influenced by furniture of the late Louis XVI and the Empire period and appealed to those who favored the French taste. He advertised himself as specializing in "Elegant Parisian Furniture". McLean was also influenced by Thomas Sheraton and subscribed to his Cabinet Directory of 1803 which listed him among the master cabinet-makers. Citing a small work table by McLean, Sheraton writes: 'The design... taken from one executed by Mr M'Lean in Mary-le-bone street...who finishes these small articles in the neatest manner'. A small group of labeled McLean pieces have been identified, including a secretaire in the Victoria and Albert Museum. There is also a considerable number of other pieces attributable to McLean's workshop, such as this pair. The quality is consistent and the style is distinctive, standing out uniquely amidst the predominant, late neo-classical revival fashion of the English Regency era.

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