



THE CLUMBER PARK CHANDELIER  
AN IMPORTANT GEORGE III ORMOLU MOUNTED  
20 LIGHT CUT GLASS CHANDELIER BY WILLIAM PARKER



A GEORGE III ITALIAN EXPORT WHITE STATUARY MARBLE CHIMNEYPIECE  
WITH ROSSO ANTICO RELIEF PLAQUES AND MICRO MOSAIC PANELS  
ATTRIBUTED TO LORENZO CARDELLI AND CESARE AGUATTI

# A True Treasure Trove of Antiques

*In the midst of Mayfair, just a stone's throw from the leafy surrounds of Berkeley Square, lies a true treasure trove of antiques. A 6,500-square-foot-wood paneled Aladdin's cave; an oasis of old school elegance, a place of giltwood, ormolu, age-spotted mirrors and museum quality furniture.*

Upon entering you will meet the current owner, Simon Phillips, a charming man, full of tales of his own family life and talk of the trade, but he is most passionate, and erudite, when talking about English antiques. He knows his stuff. After leaving Harrow and doing three months at what was Phillips Auctioneers on Bond Street, Phillips joined his father Ronald in the family business in 1979. The intervening decades have seen the trade change though. First, there is the merchandise. "My father used to sell a lot of good but fairly ordinary brown furniture, but these days nobody wants to know: people want to buy very rare, important, expensive items." Accordingly, the epithet "museum quality" does not do his stock justice; his favourite adjectival construction is "Buckingham Palace", as in "that's proper Buckingham Palace furniture", and he has one or

two bits and pieces that used to be in situ in Windsor Castle. Then there is the increasingly competitive pace of business. "It used to be a much easier pace. We used to buy everything very leisurely and sell on in the trade."

And he has a loyal, long-term clientele that includes Americans, foreigners living in England and English collectors. He boasts pieces by renowned 18th-century British designers and cabinetmakers, including Robert Adam, Thomas Chippendale, George Hepplewhite, Thomas Hope and William Kent.

And he will willingly accentuate the importance of provenance: current name drops include antiques once owned by Lord Dundas, The Dukes of Newcastle, Percival Griffiths and Daisy Fellowes.

He is energetic and forward thinking and is one of the prime movers in the antiques world. He does not wait for clients to walk through the door. A few years ago, when the Grosvenor House show closed—which Phillips himself chaired for three years—(it was, arguably, London's most prestigious antiques fair), Phillips helped organize a new fair, Masterpiece London, with colleagues from two other top English firms: Mallett and Apter-Fredericks, along with Stabulo, the company that constructs the stands at TEFAF, the European Fine Art Fair, that takes place each March in the Netherlands.

This year Masterpiece London attracted more than 40,000 visitors and was considered a huge success.

Simon says most of his clients find him "by word of mouth." But like other serious dealers he leaves little to chance. He regularly produces luxurious but also scholarly catalogues on his antiques in stock, and [ronaldphillipsantiques.com](http://ronaldphillipsantiques.com) features a large cross-section of their available stock. Simon also organizes exhibitions abroad and participates in numerous fairs in New York.



| SIMON PHILLIPS



A PAIR OF GEORGE III  
GILTWOOD MIRRORS



THE EARL OF CARNARVON'S LIBRARY ARMCHAIR  
A GEORGE II PARCEL GILT MAHOGANY LIBRARY  
ARMCHAIR ATTRIBUTED TO PAUL SAUNDERS



THE DEVONSHIRE HOUSE SIDE TABLES  
A HIGHLY IMPORTANT PAIR OF GEORGE I GILTWOOD SIDE TABLES  
DESIGNED BY WILLIAM KENT AND ATTRIBUTED TO BENJAMIN GOODISON

This October Ronald Phillips will converge with sixty-six of the world's top dealers on the Park Avenue Armory, for The International Show.

What distinguishes his gallery is his rarified taste. He specializes in high-style, drop dead pieces like his magnificent quality and extremely rare late 18th century carved white statuary marble chimneypiece with 'Rosso Antico' relief plaques attributed to Lorenzo Cardelli and micro mosaic panels attributed to Cesare Aguatti, Italian, circa 1790. Downton Abbey fans will delight at the George II armchair from Earl Carnarvon's library at Highclere Castle- the location of the television series. Equally dazzling is a pair of George I giltwood side tables designed by William Kent that were originally in Devonshire House, the London residence of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, whilst there is also a single George II giltwood side table attributed to Matthias Lock; one of the first cabinetmakers and designers to introduce Rococo design. There is also a wonderful glass collection which includes a George III ormolu mounted 20 light cut glass chandelier by William Parker. The history of the chandelier can be traced back to its original owners, the Dukes of Newcastle, at Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire.

The Bantry House sienna marble tables are of a domineering stature; and as Simon remarks, "would work extremely well within a modern context"; a style that many of his clients have recently been adopting. The Georgian period was the most significant and enlightening of architectural periods and is one that has stood the test of time. Governed by traditional doctrines of design, particularly those involving scale and proportion. Whether you are restoring an existing 18th century property or looking to furnish a new house Ronald Phillips will happily advise and show how

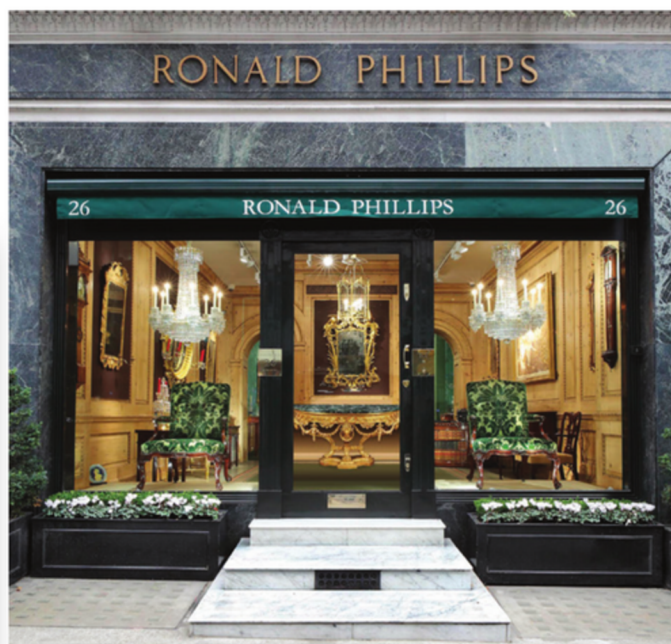
their pieces will work within the respective setting. From a town-house in New York, an English country Estate or a private yacht; Ronald Phillips has cast an expansive and prominent net. The respective voice and demeanour of each piece of furniture incorporates the philosophy of Ronald Phillips who understands the importance of client's personalities and lifestyles. Over the years Ronald Phillips have worked alongside some of the leading interior decorators from around the world.

Antique English mirrors are what he calls his "personal interest" and he has a large collection of them, both singles and pairs, in various styles and forms ranging from, he says, the "earliest petit-point mirrors of Charles II to large Regency convex mirrors surmounted by eagles"- whilst the Queen Anne and Chippendale periods are Phillips' preferred taste. The mirrors are extravagantly carved and gilded, festooned with shells, cupids, imaginary birds and fanciful foliage. Many retain their original plate glass.

What is evident is Phillips's insistence on rarity, enviable provenance, top quality, original condition and that certain indescribable extra, perhaps defined as "best in class." You never know what you will find at his gallery, but it's always worth taking a look when you are in Mayfair. ■



THE BANTRY HOUSE SIENNA MARBLE TABLES  
A HUGE AND RARE PAIR OF GEORGE III SIENNA  
MARBLE SIDE TABLES



#### THE DETAILS

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