

PATRICK JEFFERSON



A LARGE GILDED GREEN OPALINE GLASS TABLE LAMP BY PALMER & CO.

England *circa* 1845.

The brass neck stamped: *PALMER & CO PATENT* with the Royal coat of arms.

Height 23¾" (60.5cm)

Base 7½" (19cm)

Gilded green opaline glass, gilt-lacquered brass; the decoration in very good original condition with only slight losses commensurate with age and use; previously for burning oil; suitable to be wired as a table lamp.

This large and handsome green opaline glass table lamp, the column with sophisticated shaded and toned gilding, retains the original gilt-lacquered brass mounts decorated with Jacobethan scrolls, *cartouches* and arabesques.

The top is stamped Palmer & Co. with the Royal coat-of-arms, (see fig. 3) for William Palmer, the inventor of the spring-loaded candlestick who patented this design in 1830 and later offered a very wide range of decorative oil lamps. This example is from the same series as a column lamp advertised in *The Quarterly Literary Advertiser* of 1847, stating, 'Palmer & Co's Patent Magnum Candle Lamp. The new patterns are now ready... They comprise a great variety of beautiful designs in richly cut and painted glass, enamel, papier mache and ormolu.'

This historicist style, known as *troubadour* in France, became fashionable again in the 1960s and 1970s when European decorators - such as Renzo Mongiardino (1916-98) in Italy, Geoffrey Bennison (1921-1984) in London, and Madeleine Castaing (1894-1992) in Paris - returned to designing elaborate interiors using rich colours, opulent materials and sumptuous textures.

£2,600

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fig. 1

fig. 2

fig. 3