

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



## GEORGE III PAINTED GATE IN CHINESE CHIPPENDALE TASTE

England *circa* 1760.

Height 35  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (89.5cm)

Width 35  $\frac{3}{4}$ " (88.3cm)

Depth 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " (3.2cm)

*The top rail, stiles, and skirting enclosing geometric fretwork; unrestored condition retaining the original hinges and latch, many layers of ancient paint with consequential losses, a small area of deterioration beneath the bottom rail and one loose spindle; entirely unrestored.*

The earliest recorded 'dog gate' – a small internal wooden gate fitted to the bottom of the stairs – is a Jacobean oak example still at Haddon Hall, Derbyshire (fig. 2).<sup>1</sup> Another of vernacular form, dating from the Charles II period, with an oak frame and pine wriggle work splats, is likely to have matched the spindles of the staircase to which it was once attached (fig. 3).<sup>2</sup>

A handful of these exceptionally rare gates are known, this being only the second that we have handled in over forty years. The present example dates from the middle of the eighteenth century: the 'Chinese paling' fretwork follows patterns popularised by the publications of architects and cabinetmakers of the period, notably Thomas Chippendale's *The Gentleman & Cabinet-Maker's Directory* of 1754 and Sir William Chambers' *Designs of Chinese Buildings, Furniture, etc.* of 1757.

Another, of simpler form, remains *in situ* on a staircase in Rivers Street, Bath (fig. 4).

£3,900

<sup>1</sup> Gervase Jackson Stops, *The English Country House* (London, 1985), pages 64-5

<sup>2</sup> Christie's London, *Interiors*, 26 June 2016, lot 370

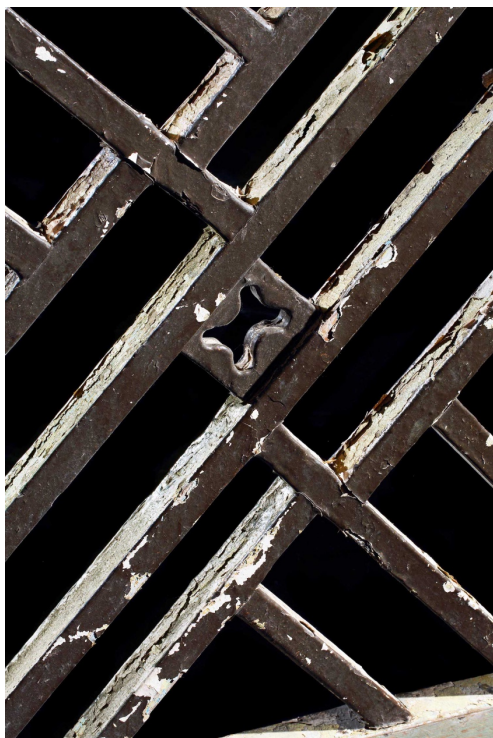


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4