

Pair of Beds, 19th Century, American Colonial-Style, Mahogany, 'Antiquarian' from the Collection of Douglas Fairbanks Sn & Three Generations of the Fairbanks family by descent

£31,500



REF: 11151

Height: 193 cm (76")

Width: 213 cm (83.9")

Depth: 109 cm (42.9")

Description

This pair of half-tester beds were acquired for the guest suite at Douglas Fairbanks Sr and Mary Pickford's Beverly Hills estate, Pickfair, which housed a collection of early 18th century English and French period furniture, in the 1920s. Life Magazine described Pickfair as 'a gathering place only slightly less important than the White House, and much more fun.' The beds passed by descent to Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and in family tradition were used as the main guest beds at his farm in Virginia, subsequently his home in Washington, then Westridge in Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles until 1948 when the family moved to No 8 The Boltons in London and finally in 1973 to the 'Vicarage' in Palm Beach. They were inherited by his daughter Daphne in 1988 who continued the family tradition using them as guestbeds at her homes in London and Suffolk. Daphne is now 73 and when she downsized she gave the beds to her granddaughter Alslinn, the great, great granddaughter of Douglas Fairbanks Sr, who had "always loved these beds". There is a photograph of the beds at Pickfair amongst the family papers which they are trying to locate. Daphne Fairbanks has written a letter discussing their history and some of the stars who slept on them which will pass with the beds : 'I should think almost every well known person in the film industry slept on these beds ' Aside from being exceptionally rare as antiques, these beds represent a unique opportunity to acquire an iconic piece of history from the golden age of movie making having been owned the "King of Hollywood" and slept on by countless stars, politicians, royalty and socialites. They have passed through 5 generations of the Fairbanks dynasty who have continued the family tradition of using them as their main guestbeds. The turned posts are surmounted by finials and have fine, reeding and carved decoration. The shaped headboards have scroll crestings above strikingly, beautiful, figured veneers The rails are also veneered The ends have a finely, carved turned rail. The beds stand on lion's paw feet. Two of the original castors remain. The colour and patina are exceptional. Measures: Height to top of finials 193 cm., 76 in., to top of siderails 18 in., to mattress slats 14 ½ in. Overall Length 213 cm. 84 in., internal headboard to footboard 77 ½ in, internal to siderail & corner cut-out 75 ¼ in., Overall Width 109 cm., 43 in., outside rail to outside rail 41 ¾, internal width 39 3/8 in Pickfair, 1143 Summit Drive, Beverly Hills, California, 90210 In the 1920s, the two most famous homes in America were Pickfair and the White House. Silent film superstars Mary Pickford, 'America's Sweetheart,' and dashing Douglas Fairbanks were the original Hollywood super couple. Individually, they were wildly famous the world over, even more so when they fell in love and married. Douglas had bought the property in the Hollywood hills which they made their home and which the press christened Pickfair, combining their last names, which stuck. They created a romantic legend that drew a steady stream of international royalty, politicians, scientists and artists. An invitation to the Pickfair mansion meant you had made it in Hollywood. Located at 1143 Summit Drive, in San Ysidro Canyon in ...