

FRANK PARTRIDGE
7 Thurloe Square
London SW7 2TA

Tel: 020 72253654
Fax: 020 75819387
Mobile: 07801 480548
Email: mail@frankpartridge.net

**A VERY FINE WHITE STATUARY AND SPANISH BROCATELLE
CHIMNEY PIECE IN THE MANNER OF ROBERT ADAM, C1770**

The stepped shelf sits on an egg and dart moulding above a frieze of classical urns, patera and scrolls and leaf decoration. The white statuary carved decoration is applied onto a Spanish Brocatelle background. The terminal blockings have inlaid Spanish brocatelle flutes either side of a carved flute of connecting bells. The ingrounds are carved paterae at each corner with connecting bells running down the uprights and across the header. The jambs are carved with scrolled uprights with a paterae in the centre and a background of Spanish Brocatelle.

This very fine chimney piece has many characteristics of the work of Robert Adam in its design and execution. The jambs are taken from a design from the Palladio which Adam used on several other commissions and the frieze is typical of his elegant Neo Classical design that made him so well respected.

Measurements:

Width:	77.5 in	197 cm
Height:	58 in	147 cm
Depth:	9.5 in	24 cm

Opening:		
Width:	46.5 in	118 cm
Height:	41 in	104.5 cm

Robert Adam 1728 – 1792

Robert Adam was born in Kirkcaldy in the Kingdom of Fife in 1728, the son of a stonemason. He moved to Edinburgh at the age of 11, where his father William became the pre-eminent architect in Scotland. Robert attended Edinburgh University, but graduated, due to the twin specters of illness and the '45 Jacobite rebellion. When Robert was just 20 his father died and the young man joined the family architectural firm, which became known as Adam Brothers.

The Grand Tour: After a few short years of practice Robert left on an extensive "Grand Tour" of France and Italy where he studied classical Roman ruins and learned drafting and drawing skills. When he returned, he moved to London and began to practice as an architect. It did not take him long to become *the* fashionable architect of the high society set.

Palladianism and Adam's rebellion: England at that time was undergoing a surge of interest in classical architecture, prompted by the "Palladian" movement, named after the Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio, who tried to recreate the style and proportions of the buildings of ancient Rome. Adam built upon this momentum but he soon evolved a style all his own that can best be described as "neo-classical"; light, elegant lines unbound by strict classical proportion. In fact, Adam was something of a rebel against the Palladian's, who insisted on following strict Roman lines and proportion. They copied; Adam innovated and experimented, and the result was a body of work that approached genius. Adam was a success in part because he insisted on designing everything himself, down to the tiniest detail. The result is work that has a sense of overall unity, or flow. Robert Adam died in 1792 at the age of 64.