**An Italian Rococo walnut carved giltwood open Armchair, Genoa, circa 1750,**

with cartouche-shaped padded back and serpentine seat, upholstered with red silk damask, the cresting rail centered by a rocaille clasp, the frame decorative with foliage and flowers, with downscrolled arms, on carved cabriole legs terminating in scrolled feet.

Height: 41,33 in. (104 cm)

Width: 26,67 in. (68 cm)

Depth: 22,83 in. (58 cm)

This beautiful armchair clearly retain much French rococo influence in their subtlety of line, delicacy of carved detail and harmonious proportions. Further, the upholstered backs and drop-in seat construction also derive from Paris, where cabinet-makers would change upholstery to suit the seasons.

The decorative arts in Liguria were given a huge boost in 1751, when a group of Genoese aristocrats founded the *Accademia Linguistica*. The impact of the *Accademia* was great and in 1790 the astronomer Joseph Jerome Lefrançois de Lalande writes in his Voyage d’Italie, ‘Of all the crafts in Genoa, the most successful is cabinet making; they make in this manner very delicate works, very sturdy and of superior taste’.

The present armchair is a further testament to the quality of Genoese furniture from this period. Related examples can be found in A. Gonzáles-Palacios*, Il patrimonio artistico del Quirinale: I Mobili Italiani*, Milano, 1996, p. 280, pl. 100 and A. Gonzáles-Palacios, *Il mobile in Liguria*, Genova, 1996, p. 233, pl. 269.

