



Philip Webb for Morris & Co – Aesthetic Ebonised Walnut Reclining Armchair

Ref: PV003029

Price on Application

MAKER	Morris & Co.
DESIGNER	Philip Webb
PERIOD	Aesthetic Movement , 1860-1869
YEAR	1860
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Walnut
DIMENSIONS	H: 40.5 in (102.87 cm) W: 24 in (60.96 cm) D: 27 in (68.58 cm)
CONDITION	Good

About this piece

Philip Webb for Morris & Co.

A rare **ebonised reclining armchair** in **walnut** aligned to the *Aesthetic Movement* (1860–1890), **c.1866**. English, within the Morris and Co circle and the domestic interiors of Norman Shaw's milieu.

The configuration is defined by arched arms with padded armrests joined to sweeping arched legs by turned uprights, an adjustable

shaped back, and front legs with bobbin detail above plain turned stretchers, all set on original brass castors. Scaled for comfortable seating rather than a large lounge chair, the arrangement reflects the period's refined domestic ergonomics.

Provenance associates the chair with a Norman Shaw house at Bedford Park, acquired around forty years ago. The last image is a period photograph of Swan House, Chelsea, also by Shaw, records a closely related recliner, and a further example is preserved at the **Victoria and Albert Museum** (*CIRC. 250 and A/1 to B/1-1961*).

The genesis of the model is documented: in 1866 **George Warrington Taylor**, business manager to **Morris, Marshall and Faulkner**, noted a traditional prototype in the Herstmonceux workshop of **Ephraim Colman**, sending a sketch and description to Philip Webb, who adapted it for production by the firm (1861–1875; from 1875 Morris and Co).

For market context, another version sold at Bonhams Knightsbridge on 9 November 2022 for £17,850 including premium.

We also have another related version available here: <https://www.puritanvalues.com/product/philip-webb-for-morris-co-an-english-aesthetic-movement-reclining-armchair>