



## Passion for Fashion (123)

Tue, 8th Dec 2020 GMT/BST

### Viewing:

For more information on viewing appointments, please call the office.

## Lot 45

**Estimate:** £600 - £1000 + Fees

### **A fine and rare Henry Poole & Co. gentleman's smoking suit, English, 1885,**

*bearing Saville Row label with Major Sandbach's name, woven in narrow chevron stripes of red, yellow, blue and white silk and edged and lined with crimson silk and frogging, the trousers with button flies and ribbon ties, completely lined in burgundy silk with rope-twist side-stripes; together with four gentlemen's waistcoats, one 1840s, the others c.1900, which belonged to various members of the Sandbach family (6)*

The suit belonged to the late Major-General Arthur Edmund Sandbach, CB, DSO. He was born on July 30<sup>th</sup> 1859 at Hafodunos in Denbighshire. He was the third son of Henry Robertson Sandbach of Hafodunos. His mother was the daughter of Captain Martin Williams of Bryn Gwyn Montgomeryshire. He was educated at Eton before joining the army in 1877 and went on to serve in Egypt. He went to India at the same time as Lord Curzon and became his Private Secretary. On the outbreak of the South African war, Sandbach was appointed AAG Intelligence to the Natal Army in 1899. He was instrumental in the Relief of Ladysmith and was mentioned three times in despatches. He inherited the estates of Bryngwyn, Hafodunos and Old Hope, Jamaica.

Complete smoking suits are very rare - usually, only the jackets survive. In addition to pipes, cigars became fashionable from the mid 19th century, with exponents including Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), who were both enthusiastic cigar smokers. After the Crimean war (1855-56), many soldiers took up cigarette smoking having picked up the habit from their Turkish counterparts who smoked tobacco rolled up in tubes of paper. Smoking became something of a male preserve until the 1920s. After a formal dinner the ladies were required to retire to the sitting room whilst the gentlemen lit their cigars. Smoking became a form of relaxation and refuge for men. In addition to these comfortable, luxurious suits (which were something of a cross between a pair of pyjamas and a dressing gown), quilted and embroidered hats and slippers often completed the look.