

A very rare pair of George II "Dolphin" Sauceboats made in London in 1742 by Peter Taylor.

Sold



Description

The Sauceboats have deep oval bodies which rise to a shaped rim and pouring spout. Each stands on four cast claw and ball feet and display exceptionally finely detailed lion mask mouldings where the legs are attached to the main body. Most interestingly, the flying scroll handles are modelled as beautifully detailed dolphins or sea monsters, a design which is usually seen on sauceboats from Newcastle. The detail of the casting is exceptional, even showing the gills and teeth in detail. The side of the main body is engraved with a contemporary Armorial surrounded by a shell, scroll and foliate spray cartouche. The Sauceboats are in excellent, crisp, condition and are very well marked on the foot. There is hardly any wear to the handles and mouldings. The quality of both pieces is outstanding, as would be expected from this maker. Peter Taylor's work is exceptional and rare. Grimwade emphasises that, "although rare, his work when found, shows a high standard of craftsmanship coupled with a nice use of Rococo ornament.". He had workshops located on the Strand, when these pieces were made. The weight of both pieces is also quite exceptional for a piece of this nature, rivalling the best of the Huguenot silversmiths, such as De Lamerie and Crespin.

The Arms are those of Woodroffe, quartering those of Plugenet. The Woodroffe family were 16th century merchants of West Country origin. They held important civic office, one being Lord Mayor in 1579. In the later 17th century they owned the Poyle estate in Surrey.

Length: 7.75 inches, 19.38cm.

Width: 3.6 inches, 9cm.

Height, to the rim: 3 inches, 7.5cm.

Height, to the top of the handle: 5.5 inches, 13.75cm.

Weight: 33oz, the pair.