

PAUL STORR - HARDY FAMILY INTEREST - An exceptional Serving Dish made in London in 1830 by Paul Storr.

Sold



Description

This very fine serving dish would have been used to serve large birds and joints of meat and displays a raised rim with a shaped bold gadrooned border decorated with Rococo shells flanked by acanthus foliage. The rim of the dish is also engraved with an unusual Crest and the reverse is very well marked, as well as being engraved with the retailers mark of STORR & MORTIMER and the pattern number. The Crest is that of the Hardy family of Toller Whelme, a hamlet in the parish of Coscombe, near Dorchester, County Dorset. The family was seated at Toller Whelme in the 16th century and one founded Dorchester Grammer School at the end of the century. Their impressive manor house of early origins, with 18th century additions, still survives today. The most famous member of the family was Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, 1st Baronet GCB (5th April 1769-20th September 1839). He took part in the Battle of Cape St Vincent in February 1797, the Battle of the Nile in 1798 and the Battle of Copenhagen in April, 1801 during the French Revolutionary Wars. He served as flag captain to Admiral Lord Nelson, and commanded HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in October, 1805, during the Napoleonic Wars. Nelson was shot as he paced the decks with Hardy, and as he lay dying, Nelson's famous remark of "Kiss me, Hardy" was directed at him. Hardy went on to become First Lord in November 1830. The Dish is of exceptional quality and weight and displays all of the characteristics of Paul Storr's work. The reverse is also engraved with the name John Wyeth, who we think was a successive owner. The image stream shows a portrait of Vice Admiral Hardy by Richard Evans and also "The Battle of Trafalgar" by J.M.W. Turner which shows the last three letters of the famous signal "England expects that every man will do his duty" flying from the Victory. Length: 19 inches. Width: 14.75 inches. Weight: 70z.