The Lola Montez Scandal. a VERY RARE & HIGHLY IMPORTANT pRESENTATION sERVING dISH. mADE IN lONDON IN 1849 BY jOHN tAPLEY.

£24,500



REF: 375827

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Description

The Dish is rectangular in form with two naturalistic side handles decorated with shell details and leaf capping. They are both attached to the main body with detailed acanthus leaf mouldings. The base of the dish is pierced with scrolls, stars and teardrop motifs and stands on four shell feet with scroll legs and acanthus leaf mouldings. Each corner also displays a beautifully modelled mouse climbing up the leg. The base is inset with a working spirit burner which would keep the contents hot. The interior displays two removable serving trays, one plain and one with a shaped gadrooned rim. The removable, stepped, domed cover terminates in a very detailed “working” mouse trap, with hook inside for the cheese, and bars on the side. The design gives the impression of the mice crawling up the dish to get to the cheese in the trap. The front of cover is engraved with the contemporary inscription: “ PresentedTO THE MESS OF THE2nd LIFE GUARDSBYGeorge Trafford HealdCORNETON HIS RETIRING1st August 1849.” The Dish is in quite excellent condition in terms of design and production and is wonderfully modelled, as would be expected by John Tapley. The base, dishes are cover are fully marked and the trap and each of the mice also display corresponding hallmarks. This piece is in quite excellent condition.It is only fairly recently that the maker, once thought to be Joseph Taylor, has been positively identified as Tapley. Furthermore, it is not too surprising that the quality is high as he was a supplier to Rundell, Bridge and Rundell, the most eminent Royal retailers of silver in the first half of the 19th century and his workshops were next door in Ludgate Hill, overlooked by St. Paul’s Cathedral.This dish can be used as a heated entrée dish to serve and may well have been a cheese savory dish, however it is a work of art and would be most suitable to serve cheese at a dinner party, especially with the extra tray. Length: 12.1 inches, 30.25 cm.Width: 8 inches, 20 cmHeight: 8 inches, 20 cmWeight: 87 oz. THE LOLA MONTEZ & GEORGE TRAFFORD HEALD SCANDALWHICH ROCKED VICTORIAN POLITE SOCIETYBorn Rosanna Gilbert in Ireland, Lola Montez married, around the age of 15, a none-too-wealthy Indian Army officer named Thomas James. That lasted a bare two years before she returned to England in the arms of another officer. Ruin in the form of a divorce a mensa e thoro followed. This meant that although they were legally separated, unless there was a very expensive petition to the House of Lords, neither could remarry. This was no impediment to Ms James, who had now metamorphosed into the not very talented, but exceptionally beautiful, Spanish dancer Lola Montez. What she could do was ensnare men. The famous phrase “What Lola Wants, Lola Gets” was for her.

After her affair with Liszt and another in Paris with a journalist who was shot in a duel, she moved on to King Ludwig of Bavaria, who ennobled her as the Countess of Landsfelt. When the citizens of Munich rioted against her influence on the besotted king, he was forced to abdicate. It was then back to London, where she met the tall but effete George Trafford He...

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