

THE SPENCER CANDELABRA. An important pair of George III
Cast Neo Classical Two Light Candelabra made in London in
1782/83 by John Schofield.

£21,500



Description

Each piece is cast and stands on a circular foot which is decorated with three bands of beading and beautiful swirl fluting. The main, tapering, shaft is also decorated with vertical fluting and horizontal beaded bands. Another band of swirl fluting rises to the tulip shaped candle socket and a detachable beaded nozzle. The detachable branches have a central Neo Classical vase finial decorated with flat fluting and drapery swags and terminates in a writhen flame top. The scroll branches are decorated with leaf capping and rise to a circular beaded drip pan, below the outer fluted candle sockets. Each socket also has a detachable beaded nozzle. If the branches are removed, they can be used as a pair of candlesticks. Both are in excellent condition and are fully marked in the base and the branch sockets. The underside of the drip pans are marked with the maker's mark and sterling mark and the outer candle sockets are marked with the sterling mark. The nozzles are each marked with either the maker's mark or the sterling mark. The pair are marked in no less than eighteen different places, which is quite remarkable. The difference in the date of the main shaft and the branches, is just where the hallmarking year changed in May and the base was marked on the last day and the branches were marked on the first day of the new hallmarking year. The Candlesticks are modelled in the Classical tradition and the use of flat fluting and beading was typical of the work of John Schofield. He was one of the premier silversmiths working in London at this date and had workshops at 29, Bell Yard when these were made. A.G. Grimwade, in his famous work "London Goldsmith's 1697-1837, Their Marks and Lives", emphasises that, "In his candlesticks and candelabra Schofield displays a high degree of elegant design executed with impeccable craftsmanship, which rivals at best the contemporary French goldsmith Henri Auguste. It was perhaps the restrained taste of the period that prevented Schofield from displaying a virtuosity which might well have given him a reputation equal to De Lamerie or Storr. No one could mount glass better, as is shown by his cruet in the Rotch Collection (Victoria & Albert Museum)". He worked for Jeffreys, Jones and Gilbert, the then Royal Goldsmiths, and that he had considerable commissions from the King, George III, and his son, The Prince of Wales later George IV, when he was furnishing his Carlton House residence on the Mall in London.

RAINE, COUNTESS SPENCER - 1929-2016 - STEPMOTHER OF DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES. The Candelabra come from the Spencer Collection, most recently that of Raine, Countess Spencer. The Countess was born on 9th September, 1929, the daughter of Alexander McCorquodale, an Army officer and heir to an old printing fortune, and the romantic novelist and socialite, Dame Barbara Carland. Her parents divorced in 1936. In 1947, 18 year old Raine McCorquodale was launched as a Debutante into London high society. She had a successful season, not only being named as debutante of the year, but also becoming engaged to the heir to an Earldom. In July 1948 she married the Hon. Humph...