

A magnificent & important George III TWO Two handled Tray, of large size, from the Townley-Parker Dinner Service. Made in London in 1816 by Paul Storr.

£45,000



## Description

This magnificent Tray is of a large size and stands on four large scroll and Rococo shell feet flanked by acanthus foliage and fruiting vines. The main body has a shaped oval form, with raised border decorated with reed and trailing vine designs, interspersed with baskets of grapes and stylised fleur-de-lys motifs. The raised, naturalistic, branch handles are attached to the main body with finely detailed oak leaf and acorn mouldings. The decoration on the handles, border and feet is in exceptional condition. The centre is beautifully engraved with a contemporary Armorial, with Crest above and the motto "Sapere Aude - Dare to be wise" below, all surrounded by a cartouche of drapery mantling and tassels. The Tray is in excellent condition and is well marked on the underside. It is of a magnificent size and weight. The silver is also engraved with the pattern number 865. This piece was part of a unique design silver dinner service, the decorative border almost certainly designed by Lewis Wyatt, which was supplied to Robert Townley-Parker in 1816 on the occasion of his marriage to Harriet Brooke on 21st December, 1816. Height, to the top of the handles: 4 inches, 10 cm. Total Length: 27.25 inches, 68.13 cm. Width: 19 inches, 47.5 cm. Weight: 184 oz. PRICE £ 45,000, ARMORIAL The Arms are those of Parker quartering Townley and impaling Brooke for Robert Townley-Parker (1793-1879) of Cuerden Hall Preston, who married Harriet, daughter of Thomas Brooke of Church Minshall, Cheshire in 1816. PROVENANCE Supplied to Robert Townley-Parker (1793-1879) and Harriet Brooke of Cuerden Hall in 1816 on the occasion of their marriage and by descent to their eldest son. Thomas Townley-Parker (d1906) and thence by descent to his nephew Reginald Arthur Tatton and by descent to Captain T.A. Tatton M.C. Captain T.A. Tatton, removed from Cuerden Hall, Preston, and sold at Christie's London 12, December 1928. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Robert Townley-Parker served as M.P. for Preston, Lancashire, 1837-1857, and was High Sheriff of the County in 1817. In 1816, he married Harriet, youngest daughter of Thomas Brooke of Minshall Cheshire. Upon his death in 1879, the illustrated London News described Townley-Parker as "One of the chief proprietors among the landed gentry in the county of Lancaster". He was succeeded by his eldest son, Thomas. On his death in 1906 the manors, land and chattels passed to his nephew Mr Reginald Arthur Tatton of Chelford, in Cheshire. Cuerden Hall, Lancashire, descended from the Cuerdens and Banasters to the Townley-Parker family, and was re-modelled by Robert Townley-Parker in 1816-19. Together with its landscaped park, Cuerden Hall was a significant contribution to the nineteenth-century Picturesque movement (J.M. Robinson, A Guide to the Country Houses of the North West, 1991, PP. 176-177). Other pieces from this extensive silver dinner service supplied to celebrate the marriage of Robert Townley-Parker and Harriet Brookes include a toasted cheese dish (M.A. Moss, the Lillian and Morrie Moss Collection of Paul Storr Silver, Miami, 1972, P.262, NO 196) and a Meat Dish (Partridge, Christie's New York, 17th May 2006, lot 143), each with the same d...