

A very rare pair of George III Antique Silver Butter Boats made in London in 1792 by William Fountain & Daniel Pontifex

Sold



## Description

These rare Butter Boats stand on a cast, stepped, spreading foot, which is decorated with reeding and prick dot bands. The Boat shaped main bodies rise to an everted rim and display a raised girdle around the upper section of the main body. The top of the sides display a beautifully engraved frieze of flower heads and foliate motifs and each side is engraved with a contemporary Armorial surrounded by a crossed branch, foliate spray and ribbon cartouche. The side loop handles are decorated with reeding and each is fully marked on the foot. The Butter Boats are also in excellent condition and are of a very good gauge. It is widely accepted that these vessels were used to contain melted butter to ladle over vegetables, however very few were made and examples are very scarce, especially in this Classical form. Today they lend themselves to a variety of uses. Work by William Fountain & Daniel Pontifex is scarce and they were in partnership together for only three years 1791-1794. They had workshops at 12, Hoshier Lane, West Smithfield, when these Boats were made. The Arms and Crest are those of the Welby family impaling those of the Spry family, a Cornish family with numerous branches.

Length, handle to handle: 9.5 inches, 23.75cm.

Width: 4.25 inches, 10.63cm.

Height, to the top of the handles: 5 inches, 12.5cm.

Weight: 28oz, the pair.