

An extremely rare George III Neo Classical Tea Vase made in London
in 1773 by Morson & Stephenson.

Sold



Description

This exceptional Vase stands on four ball feet and has a square, stepped, platform base decorated with beaded bands. The balloon shaped main body rises to a beaded rim and is decorated with raised bluebell garlands, interspersed with circular paterae. The two flying scroll side handles are also decorated with beading and display foliate mouldings where they are attached to the main body. The front of the main body is engraved with an unusual contemporary Crest. The high domed, pull off, cover is decorated with flat fluting and terminates in a finely modelled flame finial. This piece is in quite excellent condition and is fully marked in the foot and with the maker's mark and sterling mark on the cover. The Crest is that as used by the Rawlinson family (granted in 1662) of Cark, Lancashire. This design by Sir William Chambers is based on drawings carried out by Chambers' pupil, John Yenn (1750-1821) which are in the Victoria and Albert Museum. The design was first used by Chambers in the 1760's after the 4th Duke of Marlborough employed the celebrated architect to undertake extensive alterations to Blenheim Place, and Marlborough House in London. The Duke also ordered a silver dinner service from Parker and Wakelin in this very design attributed to Chambers. Stylistic similarities, as well as the use of heavy swags, can be seen in Chambers' model for a state coach for George III (also in the V & A). Similarly, the bluebell festoons and paterae relate to Chambers' work on the East Gate at Blenheim. Some pieces from the Marlborough Service still survive at Blenheim Palace and other known examples are a Tureen in the Leeds City Art Gallery. Richard Morson & Benjamin Stephenson made beautiful Classical pieces of the finest quality. Their work is scarce and they had workshops in Ludgate Hill when this fine piece was made. Height: 8.5 inches, 21.25 cm. Length, handle to handle: 4.5 inches, 11.25 cm. Weight: 12oz.