

THE EARDLEY DINNER PLATES. A very fine set of twelve early George III Dinner Plates made in London in 1766 by Sebastian & James Crespel

Sold



## Description

The Dinner Plates are of a shaped rectangular form and display a raised rim which is decorated with an applied gadrooned band. The border of each plate is finely engraved with a contemporary Armorial flanked by supporters, with a Coronet above. The banner below is engraved with the motto "Non Nobis Solum". The plates are in excellent condition, are of a thick gauge, and have a fine colour. Each plate is very well marked on the reverse and is, in addition, engraved with its number within the dinner service and its original scratch weight.

The Armorial and Motto are those of Sampson Eardley, 1st Baron Eardley FRS ( 10th October 1744 - 25th December, 1824). The Baron was educated at Tonbridge School and Eton College. He was created a baronet, on 21st May, 1759, under his father's influence, though aged only 14. He served as the Tory member of Parliament for Cambridgeshire from 1770 to 1780 and in 1789 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1768 he married Maria Wilmot, the daughter of Sir John Eardley Wilmot, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas from 1766 to 1771. Baron Eardley transformed his modest inherited wealth into a vast fortune, becoming "The Rothschild of his day". A painting of the 1st Baron, seated, is shown by Pompeo Batoni in 1767. This is now in the Collection of the National Gallery of Victoria.

Sebastian & James Crespell were of Huguenot descent and worked closely with the partnerships of Wakelin & Taylor. Their mark is often to be found on meat dishes and dinner plates of the finest quality. They had workshops in Whitcomb Street, Leicester Fields, when these plates were made. An exceptional set.

Diameter: 9.5 inches, 23.8 cm.

Weight: 212oz, the set.