

MARY COOKE ANTIQUES LTD

Fine Antique Silver

An exceptionally fine pair of George IV Circular Entree Dishes made in London in 1826 by William Stroud.

SOLD

REF:- 256425



Short Description

The Dishes are circular in form and both the base and cover have gadrooned rims. The top of the cover also displays a gadrooned circular band. The covers terminate in a beautiful leaf capped, crossed branch, finial. Both the base, cover and finial are very well marked and are in excellent condition. The finials on each cover can also be removed and can then be used as two further serving dishes. The front of the cover is engraved with a contemporary Armorial surrounded by a foliate plume cartouche. The base is engraved with a contemporary Crest. The reverse of the cover is also engraved with a most interesting inscription, this being:

To Joshua Sydney Horton Esqr Captain of H.M.S. Gloucester. Presented by The British Factory at St. Petersburg in gratitude for his zealous and successful exertions in rescuing from the flames the British Ships and property in the Harbour of Cronstadt during the dreadful conflagration of the 9/21 June 1826

The Arms and Crest are those of Horton, impaling those of Thatcher of Ringmer, co. Sussex. Joshua Sydney Horton entered the navy in 1781. As First Lieutenant of the Lowestoffe, he captured La Minerve, a French ship in 1795. His next ship was The Fairy in which he sank a French lugger in 1797, and captured a Spanish privateer in 1799. He took part in several actions against the French and was wounded. He was appointed Rear Admiral in 1830. He married in 1808, the widow of Henry M. Whorwood of Headington House, County Oxford. In the impalement of the arms she used the arms of her father, as is the custom. Rear Admiral of the White Horton died at Boulogne sur Mer in 1836, aged 67.

The reason that his ship, H.M.S. Gloucester, arrived at Kronstadt was to escort the newly appointed British Ambassador Extraordinary to the Court of St. Petersburg, on the Coronation of Tsar Nicolas I in 1826, this being William Cavendish, 6th Duke of Devonshire, son of the celebrated Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire. Kronstadt seems to have been subject to several fires and this one involved the arsenal, but was in fact far from being the worse one. One of Hortons junior officers obviously played some part in the subduing of the fire and was presented with a ring by the Tsar. The British Factory was a licensed organisation of merchants and it is certain that the actions of Horton, and his ship, saved their cargoes. They would also have been grateful for the safe arrival of the new British Ambassador, who was doubtless important to them in trade negotiations.

The Dishes are of the finest quality and are in exceptional condition.

Diameter of the base: 10.25 inches, 25.63cm.

Height: 5.75 inches, 14.38cm.

Weight: 112oz, the pair.

More Information

Year

1826