

The Baron Guernsey Combination Monteith/Punch Bowl. An important early Queen Anne Britannia Standard Combination Monteith/Punch Bowl made in London in 1703 by Isaac Dighton.

£59,500



Description

This wonderful piece stands on an applied, stepped, spreading foot decorated with a band of lobing. The large circular, baluster, main body is decorated with flat fluting and rises to a horizontal matted band below a scalloped band decorated with stylised foliate motifs. Each side displays an oval drop handle decorated with leaf capping, which is attached to the main body with a detailed lion mask moulding textured to simulate the fur of the lion. The area below displays stylised foliate motifs on a matted ground. The beautiful collar is made as a separate piece, in sections, and can be fitted firmly onto the top of the bowl.

The shaped top is decorated with raised scrolls, raying shells and stylised foliate motifs. The base of the bowl is beautifully engraved with a contemporary Armorial surrounded by a foliate scroll, scale work and blue bell drop cartouche. The inside of the collar is also engraved with a contemporary Crest. The underside is engraved with its original scratch weight and the initials W*F. This piece is in excellent condition, with only a small amount of wear commensurate with its age and use. The main body is fully marked, as is the collar. A full set of marks should be seen on the collar to be sure that it was not added at a later date and was made at the same date as the bowl. Most Monteiths have a fixed rim, however this is most unusual, as the rim can be removed so that it can also be used as a punch bowl. The Monteith was the height of luxury, emphasising the status of the owner. It was used for cooling wine glasses. The bowl was filled with iced water and the glasses could be chilled upside down, with their stems nestled in the notches of the rim. The ice would have been gathered throughout the winter from frozen lakes and rivers and placed underground in specially made ice houses, often located within the parks of the country house. Punch remained the tipple of choice for English Aristocrats for hundreds of years. The ingredients, especially Lemons, were costly and became status symbols in Northern Europe. In late 17th century London, a three-quart bowl of punch cost the equivalent of half a week's living wage. The earliest punch bowls were made of delftware or silver, the latter particularly favoured by the upper classes. Height: 9 inches. 22.5 cm Diameter at the rim: 12 inches, 30 cm. Weight: 85oz. ARMORIAL RESEARCH HENEAGE FINCH (1664-1719), 1ST BARON GUERNSEY & 1ST EARL OF AYLESFORD The Armorial (a chevron between three griffins passant sable) and Crest are those of Heneage Finch (1664-1719) who was the second son of the 1st Earl of Nottingham and was named after him. His paternal grandparents were the Hon. Sir Heanage Finch, Speaker of the House of Commons and Elizabeth Heneage, 1st Countess of Winchilsea. The younger Heneage matriculated at Christchurch, Oxford in 1664 and then became a barrister of the Inner Temple (where he was called "silver tongued Finch") and gained the rank of King's Council in 1677. This was closely followed by being made Solicitor General in 1678 (in which role he prosecuted Lord Russell for treason in 1683) but he was removed from t...