

A most unusual George III SILVER AND GLASS TABLE
CENTREPIECE MADE IN LONDON IN 1805 BY THOMAS HAYTER.

Sold



Description

The main body of the centrepiece stands on four unusual detailed eagles head feet decorated with leaf capping. The lower section of the open work frame is decorated with large matted foliate motifs and pierced frames containing trailing vines and grapes. The decoration is all enclosed by horizontal gadrooned bands. The upper, removable, section of the frame stands on four female figure supports wearing headdresses and with platted hair under their chins. This is all below another pierced band of foliate motifs and trailing vines, as seen on the lower base. This section rises to the neck which is decorated with a raised band of trailing fruiting vines. The four arms terminate in an oval platform, where the glass dishes sit, held in place by a dragon's head, its tail coiled around the arm. Each arm fits into the main body and has a diamond and star cut glass dish. The large central glass dish is also decorated with star and diamond cutting and sits in the oval at the top of the frame. The centre piece is in excellent condition and is very well marked on all six components. The design of this piece could probably be the French born J.J. Boileau, a mural painter, who came to England to assist Henry Holland in the decoration of the Prince of Wales's Carlton House. Boileau later turned his hand to silver design and his work shows a debt to the French goldsmith, Henri Auguste. Among Boileau's designs are works executed in the full blown Egyptian manner, likely encouraged by publications such as Vivant Denon's, "Voyages dans la Basse et la Haute Egypte", 1802. Boileau's drawings are now in the collection of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. His designs are discussed in "J.J Boileau, a forgotten designer of Silver", Connoisseur Magazine, June 1978. One characteristic of his designs are the inclusion of a very detailed female head moulding with platted hair tied under the chin. This was a characteristic of Boileau's designs and is rather regarded as a signature to one of his pieces. Thomas Hayter was apprenticed to the very fine silversmith George Smith. His first mark was in partnership with his Master and was entered in January 1792. His second mark was entered alone in May 1805, when this piece was made. He was working from premises at 4, Huggin Lane, Wood Street, at this date. Length of the base: 13.5 inches, 11 cm. Width of the base: 10.5 inches, 26.25 cm. Height: 13 inches, 32.5 cm. Total Weight of the silver: 120oz. PRICE £ 16,500