

An exceptional & very rare pair of George III Drinking Goblets, the design attributed to the Royal Architect, Sir William Chambers. Made in London in 1772 by John Carter II

Sold



Description

The Goblets stand on a circular pedestal foot decorated with an outer gadrooned band, enclosing bluebell garlands in high relief. The baluster shaped foot is decorated with a corded horizontal band. The vase shaped bowl displays a wide lower band of spears decorated with bluebell cascades. The upper section of the bowl displays the beautiful bluebell swags interspersed with Neo Classical wheel medallions, a design rarely seen and attributed to the Royal Architect, Sir William Chambers. The front is also engraved with a contemporary lion rampant Crest and the interior displays exceptional gilding. Both pieces are fully marked on the side of the bowl, near to the rim and both are in very crisp condition. The quality of production and design is also excellent, only to be expected from this Royally patronised silversmith. The design was first used by the Royal architect, Sir William Chambers, based on drawings carried out by Chambers' pupil, John Yenn (1750-1821), now in the Victoria & 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 Palace, and Marlborough House in London. The Duke also ordered a silver dinner service from Parker & Wakelin in this 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 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. This design is very seldom seen on Goblets, as very few were made. John Carter II was an exceptional silversmith who was patronised by King George III and his son, later George IV, when furnishing his Carlton House residence on Pall Mall. Height: 6.25 inches, 15.63 cm. Diameter at the rim: 3.45 inches, 8.63 cm. Weight: 16oz, the pair.