An extremely rare set of three George III Classical "Lyre" Salt Stands made in London in 1801 by John Emes.

Sold



REF: 375816

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Description

These very rare Salt Stands have an oval, slightly domed, base with two flared, loop, side supports decorated with a floral oval rosette. The glass salt cellar sits at the top in an oval cradle decorated with a band of Greek key design on a prick dot ground, all within a reeded frame. The centre displays a finely detailed “Lyre” motif with acanthus motifs where it is attached to the base. The base is engraved with a contemporary Crest with a motto engraved on a banner above. Each has a blue glass liner and are fully marked with a set of hallmarks in the pattern. One is marked with the "J" for John Emes and another has the script letters of the maker's mark however it is struck at an angle. There is no doubt that they are from the workshops of John Emes though and all of the main hallmarks are very crisp.This is the first time we have ever seen this very unusual design, which is inspired by Classical art. The creation of the lyre is often attributed to the young God Hermes. In Greek mythology, the lyre is one of the most iconic symbols of Apollo, the Olympian God of music, poetry and prophecy. It is our opinion that they may well have been designed by an architect exclusively for a particular house, as some architects not only designed the building, but also the contents.John Emes was a very fine silversmith with workshops in Amen Corner, London, when these pieces were made. A.G. Grimwade in his work, “London Goldsmiths 1697-1837” emphasises that “ the work of John Emes shows a taste for elegant design and fine finish”. Height: 4.2 inches, 10.5 cmLength, handle to handle: 4.8 inches, 12 cm.Width: 2.9 inches, 7.25 cm.Weight: 12oz, the set.

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