

AUDLEY END. An extremely fine pair of George III Cushion Shaped serving Dishes made in London in 1770 by Augustin Le Sage.

Sold



Description

The Dishes are modelled in a beautiful cushion shaped form, with raised sides decorated with a gadrooned rim. One side of the dish is engraved with a contemporary Talbot's head Crest surrounded by a garter engraved with the Motto of the Order of the Bath. The other side is engraved with a Crest below the Coronet of a Baron. The Dishes are very well marked, in excellent condition, and are engraved with their original scratch weight. The Crests are those as used by the British Nobleman and soldier, Field Marshall John Griffin Griffin, 4th Baron Howard de Walden and 1st Baron Braybrooke (13th March 1719 - 25th May 1797). He was educated at Winchester College and served as a junior officer with the Pragmatic Army in the Netherlands and Germany during the War of the Austrian Succession. After changing his surname to Griffin in 1749, he commanded a brigade of at least four battalions at the Battle of Corbach in July 1760 during the Seven Years' War. He also commanded a brigade at the Battle of Warburg and was wounded at the Battle of Kloster Kampen. His aunt Elizabeth, Countess of Portsmouth agreed to leave him her interest in the magnificent Audley End House in Essex as long as he changed his surname to Griffin, which he did in 1749 by Act of Parliament. He became member of Parliament for Andover in November, 1749 and was appointed Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath on 11th April, 1761. He inherited Audley End House outright when his aunt died in 1762. During the political crisis in the early 1780s, at the end of the American Revolutionary War, he was generally a supporter of William Pitt the Younger. Pitt arranged for the Barony of Howard de Walden to be called out of abeyance in Griffin's favour, so elevating him to the House of Lords on 3rd August, 1784 and also for him to be appointed Lord Lieutenant of Essex in November 1784. In 1749 he married Anna Maria Schutz and in 1765 he married Catherine Clayton. He died at Audley End House on 25th May, 1797 and is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary the Virgin church in Saffron Walden. A photograph of Audley End House is shown as well as a portrait of the 4th Baron Howard de Walden, by Benjamin West, seated in his tent in general's uniform, a military cloak over his shoulders, wearing the Star of the Order of the Bath. Augustin Le Sage was son of the Great John Hugh Le Sage, subordinate Goldsmith to the King. He had workshops in Cockspur Street when these dishes were made. Length: 10.45 inches, 26.13 cm. Width: 8.6 inches, 21.5 cm. Height: 1 inch, 2.5 cm. Weight: 46oz, the pair.