JOHN O'GAUNT'S HALL. A very rare William IV Castle Top Vinaigrette made in Birmingham in 1836 by Gervase Wheeler.

Sold



REF: 375828

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Description

This very rare castle top vinaigrette is rectangular in form and displays a very crisp scene, in relief, of John O'Gaunt's Hall, sometimes referred to as the Great Hall, at Kenilworth Castle. The cover and base displays a cast frame and the sides and base are decorated with engine turned engraving, the base around a vacant rectangular cartouche. The cover opens up to reveal a very finely gilded interior and a grille pierced and engraved with pluming scrolls around a central flower head. The Vinaigrette is of the finest quality, is in excellent condition and is very well marked, as well as a sterling mark on the underside of the grille. Gervase Wheeler was a quite exceptional box maker and examples of his work do not appear on the market often. The influence for this box cover may well have been an engraving by W. Tombelson, published in 1823 and shown in the image stream.John of Gaunt's Great Hall at Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden was constructed between 1373 and 1380. It was built by John of Gaunt (son of King Edward III) to transform the medieval fortress into a grand royal palace, the Great Hall featured one of the widest and finest roof spans of 14th-century English architecture. It served as the heart of grand banquets and state events. The complex included adjacent kitchens, Saintlowe Tower, the Strong Tower, and State Apartments. Underneath the south end sits an underground chamber commonly known as "John O'Gaunt's Cellar" The hall and surrounding palace structures fell into ruin after the English Civil War when the castle was "slighted" (intentionally dismantled) by Parliamentary forces in 1650. Length: 1.55 inches, 3.88 cm.Width: 1.1 inches, 2.75 cm.Height: 0.45 inches, 1.13 cm

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