

The Ickworth Dinner Plates. An important set of twelve George III Dinner Plates made in London in 1784 by Andrew Fogelberg & Stephen Gilbert.

Sold



Description

The Dinner Plates are of a shaped circular form and display a raised rim which is decorated with an applied gadrooned band. The border of each plate is finely engraved with a contemporary Armorial surrounded by a scroll cartouche with ribbons and a Bishop's Mitre above. The Plates are in excellent condition, are of a thick gauge and have a very fine colour. Each plate is very well marked on the reverse and also includes the rare King's Head Incuse Duty Mark, where the King's Head is shown in a cut cornered punch. This was only seen in 1784 and 1785. The Arms are those of Frederick Augustus Hervey, 4th Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry (known as the Earl Bishop), 1st August 1730-8th July, 1803. He was educated at Westminster School before going up to Corpus Christi College Cambridge to read Law. He served as Lord Bishop of Derry until his death in 1803. Both of his brothers died without heirs and he succeeded his eldest brother Admiral Augustus Hervey, 3rd Earl, in December 1779. He also succeeded to the vast Hervey estates centred on Ickworth in Suffolk. Hervey conceived the redevelopment of the Ickworth estate to a standard appropriate to the family's wealth, with the added practical purpose of housing his extensive art, and silver, collection. The house was built between 1795 and 1829 and the Italian architect Antonio Asprucci was engaged to build the Earl Bishop a classical villa in the Suffolk countryside. Hervey had been very taken with Asprucci's work at the Villa Borghese. The Earl died in 1803 and the completion of the house was left to his son, the 5th Earl. An image of the Rotunda at Ickworth and a painting of the 4th Earl are shown. Work by Andrew Fogelberg and Stephen Gilbert is always of fine finish and fine quality.

Fogelberg was, of course, Master to Paul Storr, the finest British Silversmith of all time. The partnership occupied workshops at 29, Church Street, Soho, when these plates were made. Diameter: 9.5 inches, 23.75 cm. Weight: 214oz, the set.