

The Powerscourt Salt Cellars. A very fine set of four George II CAST
SALT cELLARS MADE IN London in 1738 by David Hennell I,

Sold



Description

Each piece stands on four scroll legs, with linear mouldings, where they are attached to the main body and raying Rococo shell feet, with matted textured surface. The large oval bowls are decorated with lobing and rise to an everted rim which is crisply, and very unusually, decorated with scrolls, raying shells, leaf capping, wheat ears, as well as very unusual feline masks which peep out from the decoration. As you will appreciate, this is a most unusual decorative border, which is in most excellent condition, as are the rest of the main bodies. Each piece is fully marked on the base and is engraved with an unusual contemporary Crest. David Hennell I specialised in the production of Salt and Spice Cellars and was apprentice to Edward Wood, also a specialist Cellar maker. He took over Wood's workshops in Gutter Lane, on the corner of Carey Street. He retired from the business to take up the prestigious position of Deputy Warden of the Goldsmiths Company. The Cellars illustrate his first maker's mark which was entered on 23rd June, 1736. The unusual Crest is that of Richard Wingfield, (19th August 1697-21st October, 1751), 1st Viscount Powerscourt (of the third Creation). He was an Anglo-Irish politician and Peer, the son of the politician Edward Wingfield and his wife, Eleanor Gore, a daughter of Sir Arthur Gore, 1st Baronet. He sat in the Irish House of Commons as Member of Parliament for Boyle between 1727 and 1743. On 4th February 1743 he was elevated to the Peerage of Ireland as Viscount Powerscourt, of Powerscourt in County Wicklow, and Baron Wingfield, of Wingfield in County Wexford, and he also assumed his seat in the Irish House of Lords. In 1746 he was made a member of the Privy Council of Ireland. On 13th April 1727, he married Dorothy Beresford Rowley, and together they had four children. He was succeeded in his titles by his eldest son, Edward. Edward was in turn succeeded by the first Viscount's second son, Richard. Powerscourt was responsible for commissioning the German architect, Richard Cassels, to carry out extensive remodelling work on Powerscourt House between 1731 and 1741. It is very probably that these cellars were commissioned during this period to go within the new interiors of the house. An image of Powerscourt House and a painting of the 1st Viscount are attached. Length: 5.25 inches. Width: 3.9 inches. Height: 1.5 inches. Weight: 30 oz, the set.