A very fine George IV Ice Spade made in London in 1824 by Charles Eley,

£1,250



REF: 375820

Mary Cooke Antiques Ltd
12 The Old Power Station, 121 Mortlake High Street, London, SW14 8SN
+44 (0)20 8876 5777

Description

This unusual Ice Spade has a curved handle which is modelled in the fiddle and thread pattern, which is double struck. The spade bowl is beautifully, and unusually, modelled with wavy sides. The top of the reverse of the stem is engraved with a contemporary Crest below the Coronet of an Earl. The Spade is in quite excellent condition and is of the finest quality as would be expected from this premier, specialist, flatware maker. The spade is well marked including a journeyman's mark which would identify the specific individual in the workshops who would have made this piece.The Crest is that of Francis William Caulfield (1775-1863) the eldest son of the 1st Earl of Charlemont who inherited the family estates and titles in 1799. Francis William was educated at Trinity College Dublin and received his Bachelor of Arts in 1794. He represented the seat of Armagh in the Irish Parliament from 1797 to 1799 (when he entered the House of Lords). After the dissolution of the Irish Parliament in 1801 the Earl lost his seat in the House of Lords but from 1806 to 1863 was one of the Representative Irish Peers in the Westminster Parliament. In the 1830s he received further honours- he was made an extra Knight of the Order of St. Patrick in 1831 (and a full Knight in 1833) and made Baron Charlemont in the United Kingdom peerage (giving him and his successors a permanent seat in the Westminster House of Lords). He was also Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone in 1831 and Custos Rutulorum of the county from 1841.The 2nd Earl of Charlemont married Anne, youngest daughter and co-heir of William Bermingham of Ross Hill, co. Galway, in 1801. The Countess served as a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Victoria from 1837 to 1854. The Earl died in 1863 (aged 89) and the Countess in 1876 (aged 96). They were succeeded by the 2nd Earl's cousin James Molyneux Caulfield who became the third Earl in 1863. The Earls of Charlemont had their Dublin estate at Merino and one part of it still stands- the neoclassical Casino (or small house) finished by Francis William's father in 1775 (the year the future 2nd Earl was born).Length : 10.5 inches, 26.25 cm.Width, across the bowl: 2.5 inches, 6.25 cm.Weight: 6oz.

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