An exceptional pair of George III Military Presentation Goblets made in London in 1803 by George Smith & Thomas Hayter.

£7,500

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Description

The Goblets stand on a circular pedestal, stepped, foot decorated with reeding and an engraved band of foliate scrolls on a scratch engraved ground. The foot ascends to a vase shaped bowl with deeply gilded interior displaying a beautiful bright cut engraved rim of waves, scrolls, floral sprays and flower heads in ovals. The front of the bowl is engraved with a contemporary Armorial with Crest above and the Motto “ Mea Gloria Fides” engraved on a banner below. This is flanked by one of the finest military cartouches we have seen including flags, battle drums, axes, spears and canons. This is all surrounded by a herring bone frame. The reverse is engraved with the following contemporary inscription surrounded by the same herring bone frame as seen on the front: The Gift of theNon Commissioned Officersand Privates of theStockport Loyal Volunteers To MAJOR WATSON Their Commanding Officer for hisZeal and Abilities in dischargingthe several duties of his Stationfor the space of 8 years1803. The Goblets are in quite excellent condition and are very well marked in the foot. They are of the finest quality and a very good weight. They were presented on the dissolution of the regiment. The Goblets are accompanied with an engraved portrait of Holland Watson “presented to each individual of the Stockport Volunteers as a Testimony of approbation for discipline well observed, and of grateful return of many proofs of personal attachment”.The will of Holland Watson (1751-1829) left this pair of goblets to his eldest son Hewett Cottrell Watson (1804-1881)- part of 'the large silver cup presented to me by the Officers of the Stockport Volunteer Corps formerly commanded by me and the four silver Goblet Cups presented to me by the non-commissioned Officers and Privates of the said Volunteer Corps'. Holland Watson was born in Swinton (Lancashire) in 1751 as the first child of James Watson and Judith Holland and was apprenticed to John Howart, an attorney of Soyland (Yorkshire) in 1769. On 19th April 1790 Watson married Margaret Ware in Stockport but sadly she died on the 9th of July that year. On 2nd April 1794 he married for the second time to Harriet Powell, daughter of Richard Powell of Brandlesholme Hall, in Manchester Cathedral, and the couple had seven daughters and three sons.In 1792 Holland Watson was clerk to Stockport's Rector Magistrate. This year also saw the foundation of the Friends of Universal Peace and the Rights of Man by John Andrew and Nathaniel Hibbert. This was a radical society in sympathy with the ideals of Thomas Paine and the French Revolution and when the first meeting was advertised on the 11th September Watson wrote a public letter denouncing it in the Evening Mail. This led to a pamphlet war but by December Watson had escalated his opposition to the local radicals and founded the Stockport Reeves Association, an anti-jacobin association and in 1794 he became commandant of the newly formed Stockport Volunteers. The volunteer regiments allowed ambitious local men to publically demonstrate their loyalty to the establishment and participate in parades and national celebrations.The Stockport Volunteers had an elaborat...

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