

An extremely rare and very unusual George III Octagonal Entree Dish
made in London in 1812 by William Fountain.

Sold



Description

The Dish is modelled, most unusually, in the octagonal form. The base displays a cast rim decorated with gadrooning, shells and acanthus foliage. The octagonal cover rises to another raised band of shells, scrolls and gadrooning and terminates in an unusual shell and reed removable handle, which rests on a platform base decorated with raying shells in sizes. The base and reverse of the cover are engraved with a contemporary triple Crest and the front, with a contemporary Armorial, flanked by supporters, with Coronet above and Motto engraved on a banner below. The Dish is fully marked on the base and the cover and with the sterling mark and duty mark on the finial. The quality and weight of these dishes is exceptional and the finial can also be removed so that they can it can be used as two dishes.

William fountain was a quality silversmith and his designs reflect the fashionable Regency style of the period. Octagonal Dishes are very rare and this is the first time we have seen this specific design.

The Arms, Motto and Crests are those of Griffin, quartering the quartered arms of the Neville family, for Richard Aldworth, later Neville and, still later, Griffin, 2nd Baron Braybrooke. He was born in 1750, educated at Merton College, Oxford, and was a Tory M.P, 1780-97. In 1797 he took the name of Griffin for himself and his heirs on his succession to the Griffin estates, who had been the Lords Braybrooke of the first creation and which carried the position of Hereditary Visitor to Magdalene College, Cambridge. Braybrooke served as Lord Lieutenant and Vice Admiral of Essex, Provost Marshall of Jamaica, Recorder of Saffron Walden and High Steward of Wokingham. In 1790 he married, Catherine, daughter of George Grenville and sister of the 1st Marquis of Buckingham. She died in 1796 and he died in 1825.

Burkes states that the Nevilles are one of the most illustrious families in the European genealogy. No less than fifty of them have entries in the peerage, including the original owner of these dishes.

Height: 5 inches, 12.5cm.

Diameter: 11 inches, 27.5cm.

Wight: 58oz.