BENJAMIN SMITH II. An outstanding George III Wine Cooler made in London in 1813 by Benjamin Smith II.

£18,500



REF: 375574

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Description

The Wine Cooler stands on a stepped circular foot decorated with a band of reed and tie designs interspersed with fruiting vines. The foot rises to an everted egg and dart band and the underside of the body is decorated with lobing. The main body is modelled in the campana form with an upper frieze of reed and tie, again, interspersed with fruiting vine. The faceted side handles are decorated with bound leaf capping and the sides rise to an everted egg and date rim. The front and reverse is engraved with a double Crest, with the Motto’s engraved below on a banner. This is all surrounded by a cartouche of pluming scrolls. The removable collar is also engraved with a double Crest and rises to a bold applied beaded rim, which is also seen at the base of the sides. The Cooler also has a removable interior cylinder, also engraved with the two Crests and Mottos. The Cooler is in excellent condition and is fully marked on each section.The Crests are those of Richard Hippisley (1774-1844) who inherited the Little Fulford estates from his distant cousin Henry Tuckfield. In accordance with the terms of the bequest he assumed by Royal Licence the name of Tuckfield, his family being known thenceforth as Hippisley-Tuckfield, and abandoned the arms of Hippisley for the arms of Tuckfield. He was the eldest son of Rev. John Hippisley (1735–1822) of Stow-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire by his wife Margaret Cox, eldest daughter of John Hippisley Cox (1715–1769) (builder of the Palladian mansion Ston Easton Park in Somerset) by his wife Mary Northleigh, daughter and heiress of Stephen Northleigh of Peamore, Exminster, son of Henry Northleigh by his wife Susanna Toller, heiress of "Crediton Parks", the former park of the Bishop of Crediton. Richard Hippisley-Tuckfield was Sheriff of Devon in 1813. He demolished Little Fulford House in 1815, and erected a new house on a nearby site, called by the same name, later in 1850 remodelled in an Italianate-style.In 1800 he married Charlotte Mordaunt (1777–1848), daughter of Sir John Mordaunt, 7th Baronet of Massingham. She had "ardent zeal for the training of the deaf and dumb and of school masters for the poor" (as commented the Educational pioneer Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, 11th Baronet (1809–1898), both of whose wives were Charlotte's nieces) and in about 1836 she built a small school for the purpose at Posbury, a manor long owned by the Tuckfields 4 miles south-west of Little Fulford, in the lane opposite Posbury Chapel, built shortly before by her husband to cater for the rapidly expanding congregation of Crediton Church.Charlotte had developed an interest in teaching the deaf and dumb after a visit to her friend Grace Fursdon at Fursdon House, where she met her deaf and dumb protege, who aroused her sympathy and interest. She travelled to Paris to study the teaching methods at the Institut National de Jeunes Sourds de Paris.Benjamin Smith II entered his first mark in partnership with Digby Scott in 1802, a partnership which was dissolved in 1807 when this cooler was made. His work is characterised by the finest quality in design and production and was working in the immediate circle around the great P...

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