

THE NEWMAN EWER. An exceptional George III Wine Ewer made in London in 1775 by Thomas Evans.

Sold



Description

This very fine piece stands on a square platform base with circular reeded foot above. The large vase shaped main body rises to a beaded rim and the slender neck rises to an everted beaded rim. The high domed hinged cover terminates in a very unusual balloon shaped finial, decorated with a gadrooned band. The wicker covered scroll handle is attached to the main body with very unusual foliate scroll mouldings and the silver base of the handle is unusually decorated with bold beading, leaf capping and scrolls.

The front of the main body is engraved with a contemporary shield shaped Armorial, with Crest above, all surrounded by a floral and foliate spray cartouche, executed to the finest standard. The jug is in quite excellent condition and is fully marked under the pouring spout and the maker's mark and sterling mark on the cover. The jug is of a substantial size and is of the finest quality and weight. Thomas Evans was a silversmith of fine quality who had workshops in York Street. Covent Garden, when this piece was made.

The Arms and Crest are those of Newman impaling Page for Thomas Newman of Dartmouth, born 1740, and his wife Sarah, daughter of John Page, merchant of London. They married in Oporto in 1774 and owned a merchant fleet and traded primarily with Portugal and Newfoundland. By the end of the fourteenth century, the Newman family were living in Dartmouth and by the early 1500's another Thomas Newman began importing European wine in exchange for fish and salt. The practice of sending shipments of port wine to Newfoundland began about 1679 when a Newman ship left Portugal bound for England with a shipment of Port Wine. The ship was chased by a French privateer and ran off course. The Captain decided to head for the plantation in St. John's. The ship wintered over and upon return to London, they discovered the quality of the port wine had greatly improved. This began the 300 year old tradition of sending wines to Newfoundland to mature. The Newman's still mature Port Wine at the government owned plant at Kenmount Road in St. John's. In 1986 the provincial government purchased the wine vault's that were build in 1847 and declared it a historic site.

Thomas and Sarah Newman had a son, Robert William Newman, who was born in 1776 and was created a baronet in 1836. He was M.P. for Exeter and High Sheriff of Devon and died in 1848. He had succeeded his father in 1802 and purchased the Mamhead estates in Devon, building a magnificent house in the 1820's in the fashionable "Elizabethan" style by Salvin. The title is still extant, although Mamhead was sold in the 1950's. An image of Mamhead and a drawing of Sir Robert Newman, (in the collection of the British Museum), are also attached.

Height: 13 inches, 32.5cm.

Diameter, at the widest point: 5.25 inches, 13.13cm.

Weight: 41oz.