

THE SWALLOWFIELD PARK SOUFFLE DISH & LINER. MADE IN LONDON IN 1841 BY THE BARNARDS.

£12,500



Description

This exceptional piece of silver represents the finest Soufflé Dish we have offered over the years. The Dish has a large baluster shaped body, decorated with bat wing fluting. The sides rise to an everted rim decorated with raying shells, flanked by acanthus foliage and anthemion motifs. The main body stands on four unusual cast foliate scroll feet decorated with shells and oak leaf and acorn sprig mouldings, where they are attached to the main body. The sides each display two finely modelled scallop shell carrying handles, attached to the main body with bold foliate mouldings. The front and reverse is engraved with a contemporary Armorial and this piece has a plain removable sterling silver liner, engraved with a contemporary Crest. The Soufflé Dish is fully marked on the base and the liner and is of an outstanding weight. Both pieces are in excellent condition. The Barnards were very fine silversmiths, their quality of design and production comparable to Paul Storr. They had workshops in Angel Street, St, Martin's Le Grand, when this piece was made. Soufflé Dishes were rare components of the traditional silver dinner services and very few survive. The Soufflé would have been cooked in the liner and then placed in the outer dish in the dining room. The arms are Russell of Swallowfield (with a Baronet's badge) quartering Whitworth and others impaling De La Fontaine. They are specifically those of Sir Henry Russell, 2nd Baronet, who in 1816 married Marie Clotilde de la Fontaine (she died in 1852) in Pondicherry. Swallowfield Park, near Reading, was bought by the Russell family in 1820 and remained in the family for the next 150 years. A portrait of Lady Marie, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, is shown, as is a photograph of Swallowfield Park. Length: 12.75 inches, 31.88 cm. Width: 10 inches, 25 cm. Height: 5.2 inches, 13 cm. Weight: 85 oz.