

THE WESTMINSTER DINNER PLATES. A very fine set of six George III Dinner Plates made in London in 1803 by William Stroud.

Sold



Description

The Dinner Plates are circular in form, with a raised gadrooned border. Each is engraved with a contemporary Armorial with the Coronet of an Earl above, flanked by supporters. The banner below is engraved with the Motto " Nobilitatus Virtus Non Stemma Character." Each is in excellent condition, has a good colour and is very well marked on the reverse. William Stroud was a quiet excellent maker of dinner plates.

The Arms are those of Grosvenor impaling Egerton for Robert, 2nd Earl Grosvenor (1767-1845) and his wife Eleanor, daughter of Thomas, 1st Earl of Wilton. Robert was created 1st Marquess of Westminster in 1831. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College Oxford and twice went on the Grand Tour. He had a successful political career becoming Lord of the Admiralty in 1789 and a commissioner of the Board of Control in 1793. He was a keen follower of the turf and owned some of the most famous race horses of the day. Lord Grosvenor is best remembered for his development of his London estates, now called Belgravia, under the architectural direction of Thomas Cubitt. Soon after becoming the 2nd Earl in 1802, he began to extensively re-build Eaton Hall in Cheshire. It is during this period that he commissioned an extensive dinner service from Rundell & Bridge. The Rundell's invoice, dated October 1804, lists a pair of Soup Tureens weighing 1000oz, the pair. It is during this period that he must have purchased these dinner plates from the Stroud workshops. He is an ancestor of the current Dukes of Westminster, the wealthiest aristocratic family in Great Britain.. He was also responsible for the development of their London home, this being Grosvenor House, one of the largest private London town houses, situated on Park Lane. It is said that the house contained one of the finest art collections in the World. The government requisitioned the house during the first World War and it was demolished during the 1920's, the Grosvenor House Hotel being built on the site. A painting of the Earl and Eaton Hall is shown.

Diameter: 9.8 inches, 24.5cm.

Total Weight: 112oz, the set.

Provenance:

Robert, 2nd Earl of Grosvenor (1767-1845) and by descent to

Hugh Richard Arthur Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster (1879-1953)

The Property of the Most Noble Hugh Richard Arthur, Duke of Westminster, sold by Order of the Executors; Sotheby's London, 2nd July 1959.