

ROYAL. KING WILLIAM IV OF GREAT BRITAIN. AN IMPORTANT
PAIR OF WILLIAM IV CAST TRAVELLING CANDLESTICKS MADE IN
LONDON IN 1837 BY JOHN TAPLEY.

Sold



Description

As King William IV died on 20th June, 1837, and the candlesticks were assayed after 30th May 1837, these must have been one of the very last items of silver to be supplied to the King. These exceptionally rare and unusual Candlesticks are cast and were almost certainly made for travelling. The Candlesticks are modelled in the seventeenth century style, with a circular base with egg and dart border and a sunken well.

The main shaft is baluster in form and is also decorated with lobing and gadrooning. The stem rises to a flared drip pan with a detachable candle socket and nozzle above. These both come off, so that they can be packed away for travelling. The base, drip pan and nozzle are engraved with the Royal Cypher of King William IV with a Garter engraved with the Motto of the Order of the Garter, all surmounted by the Sovereign's Crown. The Armorial bearings are unusually engraved in Gothic script. The Candlesticks are in quite excellent condition and are well marked on the main body, candle sockets and nozzles. From 1834 the responsibility for making much of the silver for the Royal retailers Rundell's fell to John Tapley & Company. Tapley's headed by John Sparkes Tapley, was installed by September 1835 in premises at 4, Horse Shoe Court, alongside Rundell's newly rebuilt shop, The Golden Salmon, 32, Ludgate City. KING WILLIAM IV OF GREAT BRITAIN Little silver exists engraved with the Arms/Cypher of King William IV as his reign was short and he was not extravagant like his elder brother King George IV. He never resided at Buckingham Palace and tried to give it away on two occasions. William Henry, 21st August 1765 - 20th June, 1837, was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover from 26th June, 1830 until his death in 1837. The third son of King George III & Queen Charlotte, William succeeded his elder brother, George IV, becoming the last King and penultimate monarch of Britain's House of Hanover. William served in the Royal Navy in his youth, spending time in British North America and the Caribbean, and was later nicknamed the "Sailor King". In 1789 he was created Duke of Clarence and St. Andrews. In 1827, he was appointed Britain's first Lord High Admiral since 1709. As his two elder brothers died without leaving legitimate issue, he inherited the throne when he was 64 years old. His reign saw several reforms: the Poor Law was updated, child labour restricted, slavery abolished in nearly all the British Empire, and the electoral system refashioned by the Reform Acts of 1832. Although William did not engage in politics as much as his brother or his father, he was the last British monarch to appoint a prime minister contrary to the will of Parliament. He granted his German Kingdom a short lived liberal constitution. At the time of his death, William had no surviving legitimate children, but he was survived by eight of the ten illegitimate children he had by the actress Dorothea Jordan, with whom he cohabited for twenty years. Later in life, he married Princess Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen and apparently remained faithful to her. William IV was succeeded...