Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

George III Old Sheffield Plate Coffee Pot, Circa 1770

£195

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REF: 5220

Description

A refined George III Old Sheffield Plate coffee pot of pleasingly simple form, dating to circa 1770. Elegant in its restraint, this handsome example reflects the understated taste of the early Georgian period, when fine proportions, balanced silhouettes, and expertly finished surfaces were valued above excessive ornament.

The pot has a smoothly shaped body raised on a solid circular base, giving it a reassuring sense of weight and presence on the table. Its unembellished surface allows the warm, softly reflective quality of the Old Sheffield Plate to take centre stage, while the clean profile and carefully considered construction lend the piece a quiet sophistication. Designed for use at the breakfast or dining table, it would originally have formed part of a fashionable coffee service, bringing the appearance and ceremony of silver to the well-appointed Georgian home.

Old Sheffield Plate was produced by fusing a layer of silver to a copper core, a remarkable innovation developed in Sheffield during the mid-18th century. It offered a durable and luxurious alternative to solid silver and quickly became the material of choice for finely made tablewares and domestic objects. Today, surviving examples are admired not only for their historical importance but also for the exceptional skill required in their manufacture.

This coffee pot is a particularly attractive example of the type: restrained, functional, and beautifully proportioned. Its honest simplicity makes it highly versatile, whether displayed within a collection of Georgian silver and plate, used as part of a traditional table setting, or placed as an elegant decorative accent in an interior.

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