Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th-Century English Creamware Bottle Coaster, Circa 1770

£85

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REF: 7455

Height: 3 cm (1.2")

Diameter: 8 cm (3.1")

Description

A rare and elegant English creamware bottle coaster, dating to circa 1770. The circular form is enclosed by a finely pierced gallery, designed to contain a wine bottle while allowing any condensation or drips to collect neatly beneath. Both practical and decorative, it is a refined example of the tablewares produced during one of the most inventive periods in English ceramic history.

Its softly creamy body and clear, lightly lustrous glaze are characteristic of the creamware that transformed the English ceramics industry in the mid-18th century. Developed from earlier refined earthenwares and brought to exceptional quality by potters including Josiah Wedgwood, creamware offered an appealing alternative to costly porcelain and heavier pewter or tin-glazed wares. Its pale colour, smooth finish, and restrained elegance suited the increasingly sophisticated dining tables of Georgian Britain.

The pierced gallery is particularly attractive, lending the piece a delicate, architectural quality while demonstrating the skill of the potter. Bottle coasters such as this were intended for the formal dining table, where they protected polished wood from moisture and formed part of an elegant service of ceramics, glass, and silver.

Creamware quickly became a great commercial success from the 1760s onwards, finding markets throughout Britain, Europe, and America. Its widespread popularity reflects the period's changing taste for lighter, more refined tablewares, as well as the technical advances that placed British potters at the forefront of ceramic production.

A charming and increasingly scarce survivor from the Georgian dining table, this bottle coaster would make a handsome addition to a collection of early English pottery, Wedgwood-related wares, or 18th-century dining accessories. It also displays beautifully as a small sculptural object in its own right.

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