Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Rare Old Sheffield Plate Argyle, Circa 1760

£285

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REF: 2746

Description

A rare and exceptionally early Old Sheffield Plate Argyle, dating to circa 1760. Designed for the elegant service of gravy and meat juices at the Georgian table, this ingenious vessel is both a highly practical piece of dining silver and an important example of 18th-century innovation.

An Argyle-also known as an Argyll-was created to solve a very particular problem: keeping sauces warm during the journey from the kitchen to the dining room. Its double-walled construction incorporates a chamber for hot water, allowing the gravy or meat juices to remain warm within the vessel while it was brought to the table. This remarkably thoughtful design reflects the sophistication of Georgian dining, when formal service and the proper temperature of each dish were central to the occasion.

Made in Old Sheffield Plate, the Argyle is constructed from silver fused to a copper core, a technique developed in Sheffield during the 18th century. The resulting material offered the luxurious appearance of silver with the strength and practicality required for domestic use. Early examples are especially sought after, both for their historical importance and for the quality of their hand-made construction.

The form has an understated elegance, combining the visual refinement of a silver table vessel with a clever internal mechanism hidden beneath its polished exterior. It is a wonderful expression of the Georgian taste for objects that were at once decorative, useful, and technically accomplished.

Rarely encountered today, this Old Sheffield Plate Argyle would make a distinguished addition to a collection of Georgian silver, early Sheffield plate, antique dining wares, or historically significant table objects. It is equally impressive displayed within a dining room, library, or cabinet collection, where its unusual purpose and refined form can be fully appreciated.

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