

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Early-Victorian sterling silver chamberstick by royal silversmith

John Samuel Hunt

£2,115



REF: 8202

Height: 90 mm (3.54")

Diameter: 155 mm (6.1")

Weight: 467 g

Description

Fine quality, antique sterling silver chamberstick made by royal silversmiths John Samuel Hunt of Hunt & Roskell who held the royal warrant for Queen Victoria. The saucer of the chamberstick is engraved with the family crest of double headed eagle with outstretched wings below a five-point crown.

This chamberstick is of a heavier gauge of silver than most and is fitted with its original and typical detachable cone snuffer.

The engraved crest is that of Meade, Earl of Clanwilliam, and ensigned with an earl's coronet. It was undoubtedly in the possession of Richard Charles Francis Christian Meade, the 3rd Earl of Clanwilliam (1795-1879).

Richard was the only son of Richard Meade, the 2nd Earl of Clanwilliam and succeeded his father as the third earl at the age of ten in September 1805. He went on to have a long and varied life in the Diplomatic Service, became Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1822; was the Duke of Wellington's Chef de Chancellerie; served as the British Envoy to Prussia. He was appointed as a Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the Royal Guelphic Order (GCH) and as Baron Clanwilliam, of Clanwilliam in Tipperary, enabling him to take a seat in the House of Lords at Westminster.

As the name suggests, a silver chamberstick was designed to be carried and was used for to light the way when moving around chambers or rooms at night. Chambersticks were typically kept near the entrance so they could be used by family or guests looking to retire for the night. In the morning, chambermaids collected the chambersticks, cleaned them, and returned them for use again.

Specific features of a silver chamberstick include a central candle socket that was shorter than a regular candlestick, fitted to a flat, circular base to collect any dripping wax, plus a side handle with thumbpiece. Many, like this example had a removable sconce - also for collecting wax - and a cone-shaped snuffer or extinguisher.