

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Four-piece early-Victorian chinoiserie sterling silver tea & coffee set

Charles Reily & George Storer

Sold



Description

This is a rather special four-piece antique silver tea and coffee set in the highly decorative chinoiserie style comprising a teapot, coffee pot, milk jug and sugar bowl, all made at the start of the Victorian era in 1838.

Reflecting many of the design icons associated with the chinoiserie oriental style, all pieces of the service are hand chased in high relief with an array of seascapes, village scenes, palaces and houses, all set within tree-lined landscapes, showing villagers fishing, farming and carrying their wares. The handles and spouts of the tea and coffee pots are formed to resemble bamboo. The hinged covers on the teapot and coffee pot are fitted with detachable finials cast in the form of reclining Chinese men.

There is a family crest with the motto FAC ET SPERA - Do and Hope - engraved on each piece.

Both the teapot and coffee pot pour perfectly and the coffee pot could be used for hot water as an alternative. With a capacity of 40 imperial fl oz (1140ml), the teapot will comfortably serve seven cups of tea.

Timeless and elegant, Chinoiserie has influenced art, design, architecture, and fashion since the 17th century. The history behind the iconic style is quite symbolic. Stemming from ancient Chinese culture and design, chinoiserie adds a traditional element to the decor we still see today.

Contrary to what many may think, chinoiserie did not originate in Asia but in Europe. The style of chinoiserie originated in the 17th century when Europeans became fascinated with Asian cultures and traditions. They began to imitate art, architecture, furniture, fashion, and more. As trade with China and Japan grew in the 17th and 18th centuries, the chinoiserie style gained popularity and became a source of inspiration for artists, designers, and architects.