

# LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Antique American silver overlay hip flask  
Harris & Shafer

£795



REF: 7553

Height: 155 mm (6.1")

Width: 75 mm (2.95")

Depth: 40 mm (1.57")

## Description

Antique American hip flask with glass body, silver collar and fitted with a domed, one-twist, bayonet cover. The glass body features hand engraved silver openwork overlay in a scrolled leaf pattern that is enhanced with hand engraving. The slide-off silver cup fits to the lower half of the silver flask and has a gilded interior.

In 1889, the decorative technique of applying sterling silver designs to glass was patented by Oscar Pierre Erand and John Benjamin Round for Stevens & Williams Ltd in Birmingham and silver overlay found its first wave of popularity in the early 1900s.

Sterling silver was applied to glass by a chemical method so that a cut-out design of silver metal appears against a clear or coloured glass background. Where the silver was thick enough a silversmith might further embellish the piece with hand engraving.

From 1895 to the early 1920s the art of silver overlay had a fervent following and became a decorative rage. It was particularly popular in America. The silver designers would choose patterns that complemented the piece, for instance this perfume flask is decorated with swirling flowers, where a waterscape of bulrushes might decorate a water jug, or a wine jug could feature intertwining grapevines.