Antique sterling silver pepper grinder - Peugeot movement

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£580



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Height: 90 mm (3.54")

Description

Antique sterling silver pepper grinding mill, made in the Victorian era, with an excellent Peugeot grinding movement. The decorative body of the pepper mill is nicely hand chased featuring flowers and foliage set against a dappled background and surrounded by swirling fluted decorations above and below.

Before making cars, since the early 19th century, Peugeot was making excellent steel grinding mechanisms for flour, coffee and pepper. English silversmiths of the era recognised the grinders did the job supremely well so incorporated them into their silver pepper mills. In fact, Peugeot is noted for making the finest milling mechanism in the world that will work perfectly, even after more than 150 years.

Known as the king of spices, pepper is one of the oldest and most popular spices in the world as well as the most widely traded. Pepper was so valuable that in ancient Greece and Rome it was used as currency, and during the Middle Ages peppercorns were accepted in lieu of money for dowries, rent and taxes.

In past centuries, noble and wealthy families able to afford pepper would present it in silver grinders, pepper pots or pepperettes to beautify their table and impress their guests.