George III Old Sheffield Plate soup tureen

Maker Not Recorded

£1,600



REF: 1995

Langfords
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Height: 240 mm (9.45")

Width: 390 mm (15.35")

Depth: 290 mm (11.42")

Description

An Old Sheffield Plate soup tureen and cover in fine and original condition. Engraved both with crests and coats of arms, this regency soup tureen exhibits one of the classic construction motifs of Old Sheffield Plate - that is applied silver wire edges around the covers.

The tureen's liner would have been put into the oven, then the soup poured into the hot liner before placing it inside the tureen for serving at the table.

The arms engraved are those of the family of Legh and this tureen was probably owned by Willoughby Legh (1749-1824) of Norbury Booths Hall, Knutsford, Chesire. The arms are quartered here with those of Thomas Pennington, Willoughby's grandfather.

Old Sheffield Plate
For as long as there has been a demand for silver, there has been a demand for a more affordable substitute. Old Sheffield Plate (OSP) is the name given to silver plate made from a fusion process in the late 18th and early 19th century, where equal parts of copper and sterling silver were fused together, rolled out into a sheet and used to create pieces using the same techniques that were used with sterling silver. The name Old Sheffield Plate can only properly be attributed to this particular kind of silver plate, the vast majority of which was made in Sheffield, hence the name.

Since Old Sheffield Plate (OSP) was made as a substitute for sterling silver, the shapes and styles were almost identical to the sterling pieces of the same period. Unlike electroplating, the silver on OSP is sterling and it should have a distinctive, slightly bluish patina and in contrast to sterling silver OSP was not usually marked, although occasionally a maker's mark may be found.

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