

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Two-handled swan-decorated silver loving cup
Smith, Nicholson & Co (Stephen Smith & William Nicholson)

Sold



REF: 7140

Height: 215 mm (8.46")

Diameter: 115 mm (4.53")

Weight: 552 g

Description

Charming antique silver loving cup with beautifully modelled silver swans and lily fronds surrounding the stem. Swans are often associated with affairs of the heart; a symbol of love or fidelity because of their long-lasting, apparently monogamous relationships.

The triform base has a band of open lilies applied around it, and fluted knop underneath the bowl of the cup. The openwork handles are finely detailed lily fronds incorporating handmade tendrils around the c-shaped cast handles. The interior is lightly gilded. We have not seen another cup quite like this.

Swans are often associated with affairs of the heart; a symbol of love or fidelity because of their long-lasting, apparently monogamous relationships. Since ancient times, swans have been associated with tranquillity and nobility, featuring in mythology and folklore around the world. Their high status is likely to have originated because of their perceived beauty and natural behaviour; they are solitary birds, strong and aggressively protective of their young but at the same time graceful and elegant on the water.