LANGFORDS
Antique & Contemporary Silver

Set six antique silver & tortoiseshell place card holders

William Comyns

Sold



Langfords
London Silver Vaults • Vaults 8 & 10 • 53-64 Chancery Lane • London • WC2A 1QS
+44 20 7242 6646 • silver@langfords.com • www.langfords.com

REF: 6914

Height: 34 mm (1.34")

Diameter: 34 mm (1.34")

Description

A beautiful set of six silver and tortoiseshell menu or place card holders decorated in the Arabesque style. This delicate and intricate pattern is most unusual and finely executed, and the tortoiseshell is a good colour and in perfect condition.

The technique used on these place card holders is called piqué, where gold or silver is inlaid into another material, in this case silver on tortoiseshell. Despite being expensive, the use of tortoiseshell in the decorative arts was very popular in 18th and 19th century Europe. Not only did it have a beautiful mottled appearance and was durable, but it was also lightweight and could be easily fashioned into other shapes; jewellery boxes and tea caddies were prime examples.

Tortoiseshell is quite malleable when heated, so when very fine gold, or in this case silver, was fashioned into delicate designs and then pressed into the warmed tortoiseshell, the silver then cooled and the shell contracted to hold the silver in place.

Langfords
London Silver Vaults • Vaults 8 & 10 • 53-64 Chancery Lane • London • WC2A 1QS
+44 20 7242 6646 • silver@langfords.com • www.langfords.com