

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Large American silver overlay water pitcher

Maker Not Recorded

£1,750



REF: 8768

Height: 225 mm (8.86")

Diameter: 130 mm (5.12")

Description

Antique water or wine jug with an elegantly shaped glass body overlaid with silver in an openwork design featuring grapes, vine leaves and scrolling vines, all hand engraved. There is a crisp starburst pattern cut into the glass base and the jug has a capacity of 800 ml.

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.