

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

George IV silver tea caddy spoon

William Chawner II

Sold



REF: 7051

Width: 110 mm (4.33")

Weight: 30 g

Description

George IV silver tea caddy spoon in the King's pattern, featuring a crisp fluted fig-shaped bowl and engraved with a family crest, as yet unidentified. The short handle design meant that the caddy spoon could be locked securely in the tea caddy and probably a reason why so many antique silver caddy spoons have survived.

Early caddy spoons often featured shell-shaped bowls like this piece. It is widely believed that tea merchants originally used sea shells to scoop up tea leaves to enable customers to sample the tea by smell. They were even called caddy shells until the mid 19th century.

Incidentally, the word caddy is thought to derive from the Malay word "kati" which was a measure of tea weighing about one imperial pound.

For such a practical spoon, it certainly became one of the more ornate pieces of flatware from the 18th century and many veered on being works of art emulating mostly natural objects such as feathers, leaves, and shells, although more imaginative creations such as shovels and the caps of jockeys can be found.