

PAUL STORR. An exceptional George III Bread/Fruit Basket made in London in 1814 by Paul Storr.

£9,500



Description

The Basket stands on a rectangular, stepped, applied foot. The main body is also rectangular in form and displays a gadrooned rim interspersed with Rococo shells flanked by acanthus foliage, in addition to anthemions. The bowl of the main body is also very unusually decorated with a lobed band and the central plain panel is engraved with a contemporary Armorial with Crest and the Motto "Fortitudine" above. A second Motto "Trail by Jury" is also engraved below on a drapery banner. This is all surrounded by a cartouche of pluming scrolls, typical of the period. The unusual cast swing handle is decorated, on the sides, with reeding, acanthus leaf capping and a central vacant cartouche within an oval laurel leaf frame.

This piece is very well marked on the underside of the main body and with the sterling mark, Leopard's head and maker's mark on the handle. The quality of design and production of this piece, and a very good weight, is what one would expect from the workshops of the great Master, Paul Storr. This is a known design from the Storr workshops and is also engraved on the underside with a pattern number. The Armorial, Motto's and Crest are those of the Scots family of Erskine (as borne by the Barons Erskine) with a mullet for difference for a third son, impaling those of the Trail family. They are those, therefore, of the Hon. Thomas Erskine (1788-1868). He was the third son of the 1st Baron Erskine and he married Henrietta Eliza Trail (died 1865) on 10th December 1814 at St. George's, Hanover Square. The date of the basket is also 1814 and we can conclude that this may well have been a gift to celebrate their marriage. The Hon. Thomas Erskine became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Erskine attended Trinity College Cambridge (1808-1811). From 1807 he was also a pupil at Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar in 1813. He became King's Council in 1827, a judge in 1831 and a Justice of the Common Pleas in 1839. Length: 12.6 inches, 31.5 cm. Width: 10.5 inches, 26.25cm. Height to the rim: 4.1 inches, 10.25 cm. Height, to the top of the handle: 10 inches, 25 cm. Weight: 41oz.