

The Merton Hall Soup Plates. An extremely fine set of twelve George IV Soup Plates made in London in 1823 by John Mewburn.

£16,500



Description

The Soup Plates are circular in form with a raised shaped rim decorated with gadrooning. The border is engraved with a contemporary Armorial with the Motto " Excitari Non Hebescere - To be spirited, not Sluggish", engraved on a banner below. This is all surmounted by the Coronet of a Baron. The Plates are all in excellent condition and are each very well marked on the reverse. The Armorial, Motto and Coronet are those of Baron Walsingham. In 1823 this was George De Grey, 3rd Baron (1776-1831), who inherited the title from his father in 1818. He was educated at Eton College from 1783 to 1793 and served in the Royal Dragoons from 1794 (Cornet and Lieutenant 1794, Major 1795, Lieutenant Colonel from 1799 until his death). He was also promoted to Colonel in 1808, Major General in 1811 and Lieutenant General in 1821. During his military career he was present at the surrender of the Dutch fleet at Saldanha Bay, Cape Colony in 1796 and at the taking of Mallavalley and Seringapatam in 1799. He served as Aide De Camp to King George III in 1808 and was at the battles of Busaco (1810), Albuera and Usagre (1811). Other offices he held were Assistant Agitant General of the Home district (1803-1805) and Comptroller of the first Fruits and Tenths. Baron Walsingham married Matilda Methuen, sister of Paul 1st Baron Methuen. Their country seat was Merton Hall in Norfolk, an image is attached, as well as a town house in Upper Harley Street in London. It would appear that John Mewburn specialised in the production of the components of the Georgian silver dinner service. He was apprentice to John Crouch and was free 4th July, 1792. His first mark was entered on 2nd October, 1793. He had workshops in Abingdon Row, Goswell Road, London, when these fine soup plates were made. Diameter: 9.5 inches, 23.75 cm. Weight: 252 oz, the set.