

ROYAL. A highly important William IV Standish made in London in 1835 by Charles Fox II.

Sold



Description

The Standish is of a large size and broad rectangular form, with upcurved sides and rounded corners. This piece stands on four cast shell feet and displays bat wing fluted mouldings where they are attached to the main body. This piece is fitted with a central cylindrical container for wax wafers, with unusual taperstick and conical extinguisher above. The wafer container stands between two cylindrical inkwells, all with removable covers. The underside of the taperstick is engraved with "Presented to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth Langravine of Hesse Homburg to William Basil Percy, Earl of Denbigh, Master of the Horse to the Queen, July 18th, 1836."

The Standish bears the Armorial of both Princess Elizabeth Langravine and the 7th Earl of Denbigh. The main body shows the Armorial of the Langrave of Hesse-Homburg, which are borne accolée with those of a differenced shield of the Arms of Great Britain and Ireland, these are below the Coronet of a Princess of the Blood Royal. The Armorial pertaining to the 7th Earl of Denbigh are also borne accolée, but with those of Mary Kitty Elizabeth, Countess of Denbigh and the eldest daughter of the 1st Earl of Denbigh. The inkwells are each engraved with the Crest and Motto of Denbigh and a German Crest of a plum tree with weights suspended from its branches, for Princess Elizabeth.

Princess Elizabeth Langravine of Hesse-Homburg was third daughter of King George III & Queen Charlotte of Great Britain. The Standish was presented to the 7th Earl of Denbigh whilst he was in the Royal Household of her Majesty Queen Adelaide, as her Master of Horse, a prestigious position he held from 1834-1837. Queen Adelaide was the Queen Consort of William IV, 3rd son of George III. The Standish is in excellent condition and is of the finest quality in terms of design and production. The Fox family were considered some of the finest London silversmiths of the Georgian period, before the onset of Victorian mass production. The quality is further reinforced by the fact that it is fully marked in a total of twelve places. Items of Royal silver linked to Queen Adelaide are very rare, however items engraved with the Arms of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, are exceptionally rare, this being the first piece we have offered.

H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH LANDGRAVINE OF HESSE HOMBURG

Images of the Princess are shown. She was born at Buckingham House on 22nd May, 1770, the seventh child and 3rd daughter of King George III & Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. The Princess's upbringing was very sheltered, however in 1812 she purchased The Priory at Old Windsor, in Berkshire, as her private residence. Although she longed for marriage, she was determined to enjoy her life by exploring and developing her varied interests and hobbies. Elizabeth was a talented artist, producing several books of her own engravings to benefit various charities. During a ball in the British Royal Court in 1814, Elizabeth got to know the German Prince Frederick of Hesse-Homburg. When Elizabeth saw the Austrian officer in his elegant Hussar's uniform, she is supposed to have said, "If he is single, I will marry him!". Four years later, Elizabeth received a letter indicating that Frederick was asking for ...