



Rare Pair Of George II Sterling Silver Sugar Casters Or Sifters, Charles Alchorne, London 1737



1 400 EUR

Signature : Charles Alchorne

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Diameter : 6,1 cm

Height : 15,5 cm

Description

Rare pair of George II sterling silver vase-shaped sugar casters by Charles Alchorne, London 1737. An exceptional and rare pair of George II sterling silver sugar casters, also known historically as sugar sifters or sugar shakers, made by the distinguished London silversmith Charles Alchorne, assayed in 1737. Crafted in an elegant vase-shaped form, each caster features a finely pierced domed cover, decorated with intricate diamond latticework and flowing foliate scroll motifs. Topped with shaped bell finials, the domed lids can be easily removed for refilling. The bodies are richly embellished with chased scrolling foliage around the shoulders, above smooth, polished lower halves that create a pleasing contrast. Each piece stands on a wide, stepped pedestal foot, giving the casters a

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well-balanced and substantial feel in the hand. Charles Alchorne was apprenticed to Samuel Welder in 1721, gained his freedom in 1729, and became a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in 1731. His works are rarely encountered on the antique market and are highly sought after by serious collectors. Pieces by Alchorne are held in major museum collections, and comparable examples have appeared at leading auctions. A similar sugar caster by Charles Alchorne was sold at Christie's London, Sale 8892, Lot 176 on 10 October 2000. These casters would originally have been used for dispensing fine sugar or powdered spices at an 18th-century dining table, combining practical use with refined table presentation. During the Georgian period, sugar was often served in elegant containers referred to interchangeably as sugar casters, sugar sifters, or sugar shakers, depending on their form and regional usage.

Historical Background

In the Georgian period, sugar was a luxury commodity, and finely made silver sugar sifters such as these were essential elements of fashionable dining rituals. London silversmiths like Charles Alchorne were among the most skilled artisans of the time, producing elegant forms with crisp detailing. Alchorne's work exemplifies the transition from the exuberance of the Queen Anne period to the more restrained yet finely finished styles of early Georgian silver. Surviving examples, especially in matching pairs, are highly desirable and increasingly rare.

Measurements

Height: 15.5 cm / 6.10"
Diameter (base): 6.1 cm / 2.40"
Weight: 195 grams and 216.25 grams
Total weight: 411.25 g / 13.2 t oz

Condition

Very good antique condition. Both casters retain their crisp chased and pierced decoration. The silver remains bright and attractive. One caster has a small, almost imperceptible ding to the lower half, mentioned for completeness but not affecting display or function. Covers fit well and remain secure. A handsome and highly collectible pair of antique

silver sugar shakers.Shipping & PackagingFully tracked and insured delivery.Shipping cost includes professional packaging, handling, and postage.Carefully packed using recycled materials.Customs paperwork provided where necessary for smooth international delivery.Please review all photos carefully, as they form part of the description, and feel free to ask any questions.