



Maubeuge , 1748-1752, 8 Silver Flatware Pieces , Silversmith Jean-françois Spilleux , Solid Silver



3 250 EUR

Signature : Jean-François Spilleux (°1710 maître 1741 +1794)

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Length : 20 cm

Description

Extremely rare set of 8 solid silver forks and 8 spoons from the Louis XV period, legibly hallmarked with the Maubeuge town hallmark: a viper between two fleurs-de-lis. Also present on all pieces: the crowned E jurande hallmark for the period 1748-1752 and the master silversmith hallmark of Jean-François Spilleux, born in 1710 and admitted to the mastery in 1741. The town of Maubeuge had few silversmiths for centuries. The famous treasure of the canons of the Maubeuge chapter includes only goldsmiths commissioned in Mons. But in 1678, the Treaty of Nimegue changed all that. Maubeuge became part of the kingdom of France, and the construction of fortifications began the following year. For more than a century, the town was transformed into a bastion, housing a garrison of more than four

Dealer

Ian Panné

Antique silverware and general antiques

Tel : +32 475443619

Essene-kerkplein 5b

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thousand men, and at times even six thousand.

The military governors, their high-ranking officials and officers became the best customers for the few goldsmiths who had recently settled in the town. The distant origins of some officers explain why Maubeuge coins are often found in families far from northern France. Nevertheless, they remain rare. Madame Nicole Cartier counted only 25 during the long years of research for her book on Maubeuge silverware, and this set of 16 pieces doubles the number of known and catalogued pieces in one fell swoop. The cutlery is in very good condition, and the fork tines are still quite long. All pieces are engraved AD on the backs of the handles. The church of Haumont has an impressive sun monstrance by the same silversmith. The set weighs 1055 grams.