

A very fine George III silver gilt Stirrup Cup, of unusual size, possibly for a Lady. Made in London in 1807 by Thomas Phipps & Edward Robinson.

Sold



Description

This exceptional example is silver gilt, and realistically modelled as a fox head, with pointed ears and surface textured to simulate the fur of the fox. This piece is in excellent condition, with a reeded rim, and crisp set of hallmarks. The cup is cast in two sections and soldered together, which can be seen on the interior which is also gilded. The name "Stirrup Cup" derives from having a cup whilst one's feet were in stirrups. It was filled with a drink such as mulled wine and served to the huntsman when already mounted.

Stirrup Cups are extremely rare and were first introduced in the early 1760's however examples tend not to be realistically modelled at this date. By the time of the nineteenth century, castings were very sophisticated and it is accepted that one of the great exponents were the firm of Phipps & Robinson. This partnership also made exceptional snuff boxes during this period, from their workshops in Gutter Lane.

Stirrup Cups were not made in great quantity and examples do not appear on the market very often. This example is of an unusual size and was most probably for the use of a Lady. Length: 2.9 inches, 7.25 cm. Diameter at the neck: 2. inches, 5 cm. Weight: 4oz.