The Gorges Cups & Covers. An important pair of early Queen Anne Britannia Standard Silver Gilt Cups and Covers from the Gorges Plate. Made in London in 1702 by Pierre Platel.

£ POA

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Description

Each cup is of bell-shaped form standing on a spreading gadrooned foot, the lower body applied with egg-and-dart and husk strapwork, including stylised wheatears and entwined bands. The harp-shaped handles with lambrequin terminals, unusually displaying shells and tassels. The front of each main body engraved with a coat-of-arms within a baroque cartouche, displaying architectural scrolls, strapwork and harebells. The domed cover with gadrooned rim and applied with palm leaves and terminating with bud finial, marked under each base and cover, engraved with scratch weights on bases 35=10 and 33=19, on covers 11=3 and 10=19Height: 8 3/4 in, 22 cm.Length, handle to handle: 9.5 inches, 23.75 cm.Diameter of the bowl: 5.75 inches, 14.38 cm.
Weight: 91 oz. 10 dwt. (2,850 gr.)THE GORGES PLATE These Cups and Covers form part of an order of gilt plate which epitomises the superb quality of the best English silver made during the reign of Queen Anne and George I. The order was fulfilled by a number of Huguenot goldsmiths in collaboration with Platel, including David Willaume I and Nicolaus Clausen, for a member of the Gorges family whose arms are engraved on each piece. The plate was acquired by Garrard & Co who sold it on Christmas Eve 1878 to the future Prime minister Lord Rosebery, who had married Hannah Rothschild in the same year. It was then sold at Sotheby’s on 11 February 1999, Magnificent silver-gilt Objects of Vertu and Miniatures From the Rothschild and Rosebery Collection, Mentmore, lots 22-26, and also included four footed circular salvers, four hexagonal salvers, a set of three casters, a Ewer and this pair of two-handled cups and covers as well. A silver-gilt coffee pot with the same armorials, by Nicolaus Clausen, was offered Christies, London, 12 June 2007, lot 95. ARMORIAL RESEARCH HENRY GORGES (1665-1718) OF EYE & THE MYNDEThe Armorial appears to be those of Henry Gorges of Eye Manor and The Mynde, Herefordshire (c. 1665–1718). His father Ferdinando Gorges, whom he succeeded in 1701, had made a fortune in the West Indies and spectacularly enriched Eye Manor with baroque plasterwork in the height of Dutch fashion. These ceilings at Eye can be compared with the work of George Dunsterfield and John Halbert, `English plasterers' who between 1674 and 1679 furnished similar elaborate ceilings for Hollyrood Palace in Edinburgh.Henry Gorges was M.P. for Herefordshire in 1698 and later for Weobley and Leominster. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Pye of The Mynde, who died in 1710. In Gorges's will dated March 12, 1717 (and proved on December 1, 1719) he leaves to his second wife Dorothy "all my plate linen household goods furniture and utensils ... in my house in Devonshire Street, St Andrewes Holborne And also such pieces of plate att my house att Eye ... as she shall choose not exceeding £100. To my daughter Meliora £4000 and £80 a year ... my pearl necklace and one of my best silver cupps and covers with such salver as she shall choose for it to stand on ... To my youngest daughter Mary £3000 and £60 a year and my diamond ring with her mother's hair and a silver cup and cover the fellow to th...

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