

SA1192037

Antique Solid Silver Gilt Circular Tobacco Snuff Box - 18th Century

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1192037****Date of manufacture: 18th Century**

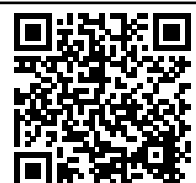
Description

We are delighted to offer this handsome Georgian solid silver gilt tobacco/snuff box made likely in England, late 18th century, with a later French import mark. The box presents a classically elegant, modest yet juxtaposing opulent design, reflecting some of the best qualities of British understated design of the Georgian period. In spite of its relatively 'simple' appearance, it has been made from a good gauge of silver with a fully gilt (gold on top of solid silver) surface that wonderfully contrasts its minimalist design. A family crest for the Sheldon family has been hand-engraved on the top with the motto "Optimum Pati". Interestingly, whilst snuff boxes normally have a hinge (between the lid and base), tobacco boxes of the 18th century tend to have a relatively simple 'pull-off' design. Whilst the precise reason for such a design choice is not ascertained (as of yet), some theories suggest that loose tobacco leaves for pipes would require more time and preparation in comparison to pinching snuff which could be done on the go. As such, tobacco boxes did not require a hinge as it would be used whilst sitting down/placing the box and lid down as opposed to a snuf...

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