

SA438087

Rare Pair of George III Mahogany Knife Urns with Satinwood & Ebony Inlay

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA438087****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 70 cm (27.6")

Width = 30 cm (11.8")

Depth = 30 cm (11.8")

Description

A stunning pair of George III mahogany knife urns with satinwood and ebony inlay. With silver hallmarked lock escutcheons dating to 1810, these superbly executed urns are of the highest quality reminiscent of the neo-classical design work of architect and designer Robert Adam of around the late eighteenth century. Constructed from the finest mahogany with vertical strands of satinwood and ebony inlay, the lids open to reveal their original interiors which have receptacles for knives, forks and spoons. A rare feature as they were regularly converted for use as desk tidies by the Victorians. Pictured in Hepplewhite's, "The Cabinet Makers & Upholsterer's Guide" of 1788 (see images), knife cases were at the height of their popularity during the last quarter of the eighteenth century although there are records of their use dating back to the seventeenth century. Both Hepplewhite and Sheraton included designs for them in their work although the cases in question are more closely related to Hepplewhite's work. He (or his wife) remarked that, "The universal utility of this piece of furniture renders a particular description not necessary. They may be made of mahogany inlaid, o...

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