

# PASH ANTIQUES

A. PASH & SONS OF MAYFAIR

The Rutland entree dishes - a magnificent set of four george III silver entree dishes

Rundell Bridge & Rundell

REF: 12307

Width: 31.8 cm (12.5") Weight: 16.3 kg

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Hallmarks for Benjamin Smith, London 1807

Of rounded rectangular form, the bases with an outer frieze of peacocks and anthemia, the covers with a band of palmettes and flowers The finials are each formed as four dolphins above cast relief band of grapevine swags between Greek masks. The dishes with beaded rims, each cover engraved twice with arms, the dishes and bases engraved twice with crests within garter motto and below a ducal coronet, numbered 1-4

Provenance

John Henry, 5th Duke of Rutland (1778-1857), by descent to

Charles John Robert, 10th Duke of Rutland, C.B.E., sold  
Christie's, London, January 26, 1944, lot 43  
The Alan and Simone Hartman Collection, sold  
Christie's New York, 20th October 1999, lot 178  
The Chen Collection, sold  
Lyon & Turnbull, London, November 23, 2008, lot 165

Exhibited

Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, English Regency Silver from the Collection of  
Alan and Simone Hartman, February-June 1995, no. 11

?The arms are those of John Henry, K.G., 5th Duke of Rutland, impaling Howard, for his wife  
Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Carlisle.

The Rutland Marine Service was begun by Charles, 4th Duke of Rutland, in 1780. Being an  
intimate of the Court (receiving the Garter in 1782 and being named Lord Steward of the  
Household in 1783), he commissioned silversmith James Young to make copies of the marine-  
theme pieces created for Frederick, Prince of Wales, in 1741-43. These comprised a  
centerpiece, with a tureen supported on dolphins, figural sauceboats, similarly supported on  
dolphins, and salts formed as crabs and crayfish. At the height of the Neoclassical era, the  
Duke commissioned this elaborate and expensive group of "Rococo Revival" silver quite out  
of step with contemporary taste.

The 4th Duke died in 1787 and was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, John Henry, who  
became 5th Duke. In 1799 he married Elizabeth Howard, who had grown up in the cultured  
environment of Castle Howard, Yorkshire. A patron and connoisseur in her own right, she  
seems to have taken up the mantle of enhancing the family houses that was begun by her  
father-in-law. As part of their refurbishments, the Royal Goldsmiths Rundell, Bridge and  
Rundell raised the 1780 centrepiece on a tall plateau of sea horses and extended the service  
with twelve entrée dishes - four each of rectangular, square, and circular shapes - by  
Benjamin Smith II. The dolphins of their finials echo those on the 1780 centerpiece and sauce  
boats, while the peacocks of the frieze are the Manners family crest. When fully laid out on the  
table, the watery reflections of the white silver must have looked spectacular by candlelight.

Luckily the Marine Service survived the devastating 1816 fire which gutted Belvoir Castle; the  
Duchess oversaw its redecoration into a Regency showplace, and precursor of George IV's  
remodeling of Windsor Castle (Belvoir stood in for Windsor in the television series *The  
Crown*). She also advised her intimate friend Frederick Augustus, Duke of York, younger  
brother of the Prince Regent, on the design of his new London townhouse. The Duke of York  
was one of the great silver patrons of his era, probably second only to his broth...