PASH ANTIQUES

A. PASH & SONS OF MAYFAIR

A Massive Pair of Exceptional Parcel-gilt victorian silver three-tier dessert stands

Robert Garrard

REF: 11471

Height: 66 cm (26") Diameter: 35 cm (13.8") Weight: 12150 g

£ POA

Hallmarks Robert Garrard II London 1843-1844

In the Baroque style, formed with three tiers of exceptional quality and proportions.

Garrard: Silversmiths, Jewellers and the First Crown Jewellers

The history of Garrard is inseparable from the history of the British Crown. For almost three centuries the firm has made, repaired, remodelled and cared for some of the most important jewels and objects associated with the British monarchy. Yet its origins were considerably

more modest than the magnificent crowns, sceptres and tiaras for which its name would eventually become famous.

The story begins in London in the early eighteenth century with George Wickes, a highly accomplished goldsmith and silversmith. Wickes established his own business in 1735, in the fashionable West End, and quickly attracted aristocratic patrons. The firm's first royal commission came in that same year, from Frederick, Prince of Wales, establishing a relationship with the Royal Family more than a century before Garrard was formally appointed Crown Jeweller.

From Wickes to Garrard

During the eighteenth century the business passed through a succession of partnerships and names, as was customary in the London goldsmithing and silversmithing trade. The decisive change came with Robert Garrard, who joined the firm in 1782 and became a partner in 1792. In 1802 he took control of the business, after which the Garrard name became increasingly prominent.

Robert Garrard's three sons-Robert, James and Sebastian-succeeded him in 1818, trading as R. J. & S. Garrard. Following James Garrard's retirement around 1835, the firm became R. & S. Garrard. It was under this name that the company entered the most significant period in its history.

By this time Garrard was already a major London goldsmith and jeweller with an established aristocratic and royal clientele. Its work encompassed not merely jewellery but also silverware, ceremonial objects and commissions requiring the highest levels of craftsmanship. The firm's proximity to the Royal Family and its reputation for dependable workmanship positioned it to inherit an exceptionally important responsibility.

1843: The creation of the Crown Jeweller

The year 1843 marks the defining moment in Garrard's history.

Until then, the Crown Jewels had not been entrusted to a holder of a formally established office called the "Crown Jeweller". Responsibility for making, repairing and preparing royal jewels and regalia had evolved through a succession of royal goldsmiths. In the early nineteenth century, Rundell, Bridge & Co. had occupied the leading position in this work.

Queen Victoria changed the arrangement in 1843. She appointed Garrard as the first official Crown Jeweller, replacing Rundell, Bridge & Co. The appointment effectively formalised a role that had previously been carried out by royal goldsmiths without the modern title.

This was considerably more than an honour or a prestigious piece of royal patronage. The Crown Jeweller was responsible for the care, maintenance, repair and preparation of the Crown Jewels and regalia, ensuring that the objects required for state occasions and coronations wer...