

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Small antique American silver overlay perfume bottle

Maker Not Recorded

£250



REF: 8213

Height: 105 mm (4.13")

Diameter: 60 mm (2.36")

Description

Antique hand-blown American clear glass perfume bottle overlaid with sinuous, hand-engraved, silver decorations. The similarly overlaid silver stopper is an elegant and unusual teardrop shape.

In 1889, the decorative technique of applying sterling silver designs to glass was patented by Oscar Pierre Erand and John Benjamin Round for Stevens & Williams Ltd in Birmingham and silver overlay found its first wave of popularity in the early 1900s.

Sterling silver was applied to glass by a chemical method so that a cut-out design of silver metal appears against a clear or coloured glass background. Where the silver was thick enough a silversmith might further embellish the piece with hand engraving.

From 1895 to the early 1920s the art of silver overlay had a fervent following and became a decorative rage. It was particularly popular in America. The silver designers would choose patterns that complemented the piece, for instance this perfume flask is decorated with swirling flowers, where a waterscape of bulrushes might decorate a water jug, or a wine jug could feature intertwining grapevines.