

Set of six silver stacking beakers or stirrup cups Langfords

£3,450



REF: 7298

Height: 97 mm (3.82")

Weight: 666 g

Description

Set of six nesting silver beakers with gilded interiors. The graduated beakers are of a satisfyingly heavy gauge and the slightly graduated sizes means they slip and sit easily inside each other.

Popular in 16th and 17th century Germany, stacking beakers (satzbecher) were a solution for travellers and affluent diners who needed compact, transportable drinking vessels. They often featured embossed or engraved decorations showcasing the owner's status and artistic taste.

By the 17th century, the design evolved in England and were popular with the upper classes when travelling, during countryside pursuits or on military campaigns. As an English custom, stirrup cups and beakers would have been presented by the huntsman, kennel man or gamekeeper, to mounted riders with their feet firmly in the stirrups, prior to leaving or arriving home from a hunt. Their small capacity allowed the liquid to be drunk quickly; usually wine or a spirit-based punch mixed with spices.

While no longer essential for travel, silver stacking beakers continue to be valued today for their history, fine craftsmanship and decorative appeal. The fitted leather case allows them to be carried conveniently and they can be personalised with engraving of any image or script. These fine beakers are the perfect way to share a drink with a group and would make a great accompaniment to any flask, silver hip flask or otherwise.