

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Pair of 3-branch Old Sheffield Plate candelabra

Maker Not Recorded

Sold



REF: 6436

Height: 520 mm (20.47")

Width: 420 mm (16.54")

Description

An attractive pair of Old Sheffield Plated three-light candelabra made in the early Victorian era and that would have been popular during the reign of George IV. The candlesticks have shaped round bases are adorned with scrolling leaves, with scroll-knopped stems and overlapping shells to the capitals.

The name Old Sheffield Plate can only properly be attributed to one particular kind of silver plate. Old Sheffield Plate was made in a fusion process in the late 18th and early 19th century, before the invention of electroplating that we are familiar with today.

With the rise of the merchant class in 18th century Britain, the demand for an affordable substitute for silver increased. In the 1740s, cutler Thomas Boulsover invented the first reliable and economic method of silver plating where copper and sterling silver were fused together and then rolled out into a sheet and used to create pieces using the same techniques that were used with sterling silver. Given that Old Sheffield Plate was made as a substitute for sterling silver, the shapes and styles were almost identical to the sterling pieces of the same period.