

Toleware painted tray

£395



REF: 7503

Height: 4 cm (1.6")

Width: 35 cm (13.8")

Depth: 25 cm (9.8")

Description

A Regency English toleware painted gallery tray painted with a well-executed maritime scene and bordered with gilt grapevines, circa 1810.

Toleware refers to decorative household objects made from thin sheet metal, usually tin or iron, that are painted, lacquered, or stencilled by hand.

Originating in Europe during the eighteenth century, toleware became especially popular in Britain, France, and later America. Common items included trays, tea canisters, candleholders, lamps, and decorative boxes.

Craftspeople often used floral motifs, landscapes, and gold detailing to imitate more expensive lacquerware. The technique combined practicality with artistic decoration, making everyday objects visually attractive and affordable.

Today, antique toleware is admired for its folk-art character, skilled hand painting, and historical connection to traditional domestic craftsmanship and decorative arts.