Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th century glass preserve pot

£65

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 7124

Height: 17 cm (6.7")

Diameter: 9 cm (3.5")

Description

An 18th century French lead glass preserve pot and cover, circa 1780.

Lead glass, often called lead crystal, was first developed in England in the late 17th century by George Ravenscroft. Seeking to improve the clarity and workability of glass, he added lead oxide, which increased its refractive index and made it easier to cut and engrave.

This innovation quickly gained popularity for fine tableware, decorative objects, and optical instruments. By the 18th century, lead glass production spread across Europe, especially in Bohemia and Ireland. Its brilliance and weight made it a symbol of luxury.

Over time, lead glass became integral to both functional and artistic applications, influencing glassmaking for centuries.

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