Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Early 18th-Century Silver Sugar Tongs, Circa 1740

£95

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 7037

Description

A charming and unusually early pair of silver sugar tongs, dating to circa 1740. Elegant in both form and purpose, they offer a glimpse into the refined rituals of the 18th-century tea table, when sugar was still a prized commodity and the serving of it formed an important part of domestic hospitality.

Fashioned for lifting individual sugar lumps, the tongs would have been worn or suspended from the belt of the lady of the house, keeping this practical and decorative implement close at hand during the service of tea, coffee, or chocolate. Their small scale and portable design speak to the etiquette of the period, when even the most functional household accessories were expected to be beautifully made.

The restrained silver form has an understated elegance characteristic of the early Georgian period. More than a useful utensil, it is a personal object connected to the ceremony of entertaining and to the changing social history of sugar in Britain.

A delightful collector's piece with real historical charm, these tongs would make a fine addition to a collection of early silver, Georgian tableware, tea-related objects, or 18th-century domestic accessories. They also display beautifully within a cabinet of curiosities, where their distinctive original purpose and intimate scale can be fully appreciated.

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