

# LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Set of 20th-century antique hand-forged 4-prong Rattail sterling silver cutlery for 12

Sold

Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Co



REF: 7990

#### Description

Service of antique 4-prong sterling silver cutlery in the timeless Rattail pattern, all pieces were hand made in London by Goldsmiths & Silversmiths Company between 1920 and 1923. The set is in lovely original condition and each piece bears a family crest of a griffin holding a sword for the Gladstone family.

We understand it was in the possession of Sir John Robert Gladstone, 3rd Baronet, son of Sir Thomas Gladstone, and older brother of the British Prime Minister of the late Victorian era, William Ewart Gladstone.

Rattail is the oldest of the English designs dating from the early 1700s with the distinctive rat tail on the backs of the spoon bowls and forks. This feature developed in an age when craftsmen made spoons in two pieces joining the bowl and the handle together by means of soldering using a tapered tail as additional strength to the joint. This design also features a prominent rib down the front of the handle and continues to be a popular design to the present day.

The simplicity of this sterling silver Rattail cutlery set ensures it will complement any table setting, traditional or modern. It comprises:

- 12 table forks
- 12 dessert forks
- 12 round-bowl soup spoons
- 12 dessert spoons
- 12 teaspoons
- 6 table serving spoons
- 2 sauce or gravy ladles
- 6 egg spoons
- 1 pickle fork
- 1 large soup ladle
- 1 cheese scoop
- 1 sugar sifter

Also included are 12 pairs of modern silver table and dessert knives made by William Yates, Sheffield 1978. Fitted with stainless steel blades they are suitable for putting in the dishwasher.