



FILEMAN ANTIQUES

FINE ANTIQUE LIGHTING & GLASS

AN ENGRAVED GLASS SERVICE OF MASONIC INTEREST
ALONG WITH A COLLECTION OF CORRESPONDING MASONIC
REGALIA

£19,500



Description

An unusually complete collection of Masonic banqueting glass, each piece prolifically engraved with Masonic symbols and devices, and regalia. Consisting of the following;

Glass:

Four Prussian-shaped decanters with triple-ringed necks and bullseye stoppers - Height 27cm (10 ¾ in)

Large Rummer - Height 24cm (9 ½ in), Diameter 19cm (7 5/8 in)

Rummer with cup-shaped bowl - Height 23cm (9 in), Diameter 16cm (6 3/8 in)

Two rummers with bucket-shaped bowls and fluted lower parts - Height 20cm (8 in)

Four rummers with bucket-shaped bowls - Height 16cm (6 ¼ in)

Eight wine glasses with bucket-shaped bowls - Height 11cm (4 3/8 in)

Regalia:

A printed, signed and sealed certificate awarded by the Freedom Lodge of Unadilla, New York State to Henry Halford, dated 14 March 1819

A printed, signed and sealed certificate dated 9 May 1831 from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Lodge 186

Four printed Masonic certificates after engravings by Amos Doolittle of New Haven, New York, unsigned
Three American Masonic aprons, comprising: an ivory silk apron embroidered with Masonic emblems with red fringe; two white kid leather aprons, one painted and the other printed with Masonic devices

A red silk sash with gold fringe and applied with a gold star.; a copper medal suspended from yellow silk ribbon, engraved Henry Halford above the initials K. P. H. J. W. and two tools.

It relates to the fascinating story of the Freemason Brother Henry Halford (b.1790) who travelled from England to America in the early 19th century to pursue his fortune in the cotton trade. While Masonic firing or 'toasting' glasses were made in large numbers, services of this extensive type including a variety of shapes are extremely rare survivors. Halford's glass service would have formed an important part of 'refreshments' which were central to ritualistic activities at Masonic meetings. As it would have been an important commission, presumably it may have been ordered to celebrate his elevation to Sublime Degree of Master Mason at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on 9 May 1831. The certificate which accompanies this collection is signed by senior members of the Lodge.

It is very likely that Halford ordered his service from a glass manufacturer in England or Ireland. English manufacturers had made decanters 'curiously engrav'd with the Mason's Arms' which were readily available in the Colonies as early as 1763. By the early 19th century pottery, porcelain and glass were exported on a large scale for sale in the United States, as manufacturers strove to take advantage of this flourishing market. Halford's service is prolifically engraved with Masonic symbols and devices including: the All Seeing Eye, the Rose Croix Chapter, King Solomon and the Temple of Solomon, Moses, celestial devices, the Square and Compass, Masonic arches and pillars. Similar Masonic symbols are also seen on transfer-printed creamware produced by Wedgwood and on Liverpool and Worcester porcelain of the 1760s. John Sadler and Guy Green's engraving of 'The Arms of the Society of Free and Accepted Ma...