

Value of a piece of silverware from the 17th and the 18th centuries

18th century silverware can have a very high value.

The price depends on:

- the type of piece.
- the master silversmith who created it.
- the antiquity of the piece.
- the city of origin.

The Piece

The most sought after, important pieces, are the formal pieces; a pair of soup tureens, a large flower pot holder, a chocolate pot, a dinner service.

Silver dishes are low in value, even those dating from the 18th century. Only rare pieces (deep bowls, squared dishes, etc...) achieve more than the average price.

Formal pieces from this period, most frequently found on the market, are tumblers: less frequent are chocolate pots, and even rarer are soup tureens and terrine dishes. An expertise is highly valuable because you can still find these rare pieces in a second-hand shop, or an antique shop. These pieces are highly prized due to their decorative character. An 18th century teapot is very rare and highly collectable. They were mainly produced in maritime regions, and Paris, where there were customers wealthy enough to drink tea. Soap and sponge bowls are very sought after, a "toilette" bowl with a grooming set is very rare.

Well known silversmiths

Well known silversmiths increase the pieces value.

Under Louis XV: Roettiers.

Under Louis XVI: Germain in Paris, Oertel in Strasbourg.

If the date of manufacture is before the middle of the 18th century.

The value is considerably increased. Silverware dating from the beginning of the 18th century is very rare, and therefore has considerable value.

The city

Lots of people collect silverware which originates from the city in which they live. Local antique silverware is therefore very valuable due to their collectors.

The most famous dinner service is that which is known as 'Prince Orlov' who was the favorite of Catherine II of Russia. Catherine II who loved French artists, commissioned, for her lover, a silver service comprised of thousands of pieces from the famous silversmith Roettiers. During the Russian revolution, the service was split up and sold, and scattered all over the world. It is still possible to see pieces of this service in auctions.

18th century silverware can be considered a low risk investment. It is prudent to limit yourself to buying important original, and above all, complete pieces. Buying incomplete 18th century cutlery sets, if they have an undeniable decorative effect on the table, is not a bad investment.