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# Koopman Rare Art

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## Directors Choice – Timo Koopman The Ferguson Wine Coasters



A pair of early Victorian silver wine coasters

Mark of Robert Garrard, London, 1837

In all the years of handling silver these are the finest Victorian wine coasters we have had the pleasure to be the custodians of. With an extraordinarily elaborate border of harvesting bacchic putti, goats and vine branches together with delicately chased leaves, the scale, quality and gauge is unrivalled with of a gross weight of 3,580g, (115 oz 2 dwt). The family's crest, garter, motto and reverse cypher are set within a scheme of both plain and chased rocaille scrolls. To the underside of each are four casters, an uncommon feature enabling them to be wheeled down the dining table to the next guest. We are proud to present

these celebrations of the love of wine that graced the dining tables of the clan Ferguson as this week's  
Director Choice.



The coasters reverse cypher FBJA , crest and garter engraved to the silver bottoms are those of the Ferguson Clan of Scotland with the motto *Dulcius Ex Asperis* (Sweeter after difficulties). Additionally, within the fantastic cast border there is an additional cast and applied shield under a baronial crown bearing the family engraved coat-of-arms of three boars on an Azure blue shield with a buckle in the centre.



Sir Charles Dalrymple Fergusson, 5th Baronet (1800 - 1849), who succeeded to the baronetcy on 10 April 1838. He was also Lord Kilkerran, which explains the presence of the Baron's coronet on the side of these wine coasters.

These wine coasters were commissioned when in 1837, Fergusson succeeded to the estates of his grandfather, Lord Hailes, in East and Mid Lothian, and in 1838 to those of his father in Ayrshire. He inherited Newhailes, and the Lordship and Barony of Hailes in 1839, on the death of his aunt, Miss Christian Dalrymple (when he also assumed the additional surname of Dalrymple).



The wine coasters additionally bear the retailers stamp of Garrard Panton Street from which this magnificent firm had their establishment. Robert Garrard II was apprenticed in 1809 to his father, Robert Garrard I, a partner of Wakelin and Company, and gained his freedom of the Grocers' Company by patrimony in 1816. After the death of his father in 1818, Garrard entered his mark and, with his brothers James and Sebastian, took over the management of the workshop. During the early nineteenth century, the firm's business expanded at a tremendous rate, especially after the decline of Rundell, Bridge and Rundell in the 1820s. In 1830, the Garrard's were appointed goldsmiths and jewellers to the king and in 1843 official crown jewellers. A large design studio was set up by them, which was modelled on that developed by Rundell, Bridge and Rundell and employed several well-known painters and sculptors, including Edmund Cotterill. During the mid-nineteenth century, Garrard's was one of the leading producers of elaborate presentation silver.



Medieval historians made reference to a Fergus, living in Ireland around 300 B.C., who was credited as the forefather to Scotland's monarchy - it is considered by historians that almost all subsequent kings and queens of the Scots, including Queen Elizabeth II, are the same lineage as the first Fergusons. Members of the Ferguson Clan left Ireland around 500 A.D. destined for the shores of Scotland and established a colony in the Argyll region which they called Dalriada, named after the prominent Irish house, Dal Riata. The Ferguson clan is one of the oldest known Scottish clans and is the only one mentioned in Ireland's oldest surviving document, the "Tract on the Men of Albyn" whereby specific reference is made to the Clan Ferguson.

While there have been many branches of the Ferguson clan since, from the early eighteenth century, the Chief of the Kilkerran Fergusons had been recognised by the Lord Lyon of Scotland as the Chief of all Fergusons. The House of Furgeson of Kilkerran in Ayrshire is descended from Fergus Son of Fergus who received his lands by charter from Robert I, King of Scotland.

This family has produced many notable statesmen, military leaders, lawyers, writers, and agricultural improvers. Sir Adam Fergusson, 3rd Baronet, died in 1813, and was succeeded by Sir James. Sir James

upon his death in 1838 succeeded to Sir Charles, his son. The Right Honorable Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, 6th Baronet, G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., etc. became chief in 1849. He perished in the Jamaica earthquake in 1907. His son, Sir Charles succeeded him as 7th Baronet of this line. The present Chief of the Name is Sir Charles Fergusson of Kilkerran, 9th Baronet, who currently resides in the Ferguson ancestral home near Maybole, Ayrshire.



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