
Koopman Rare Art

Director's Choice – Timo Koopman The Pembroke Salt Cellars



A Superb Pair of William IV Double Salts Cellars

London, 1835 maker's mark of Paul Storr

Bearing the crest, coronet and initial for Herbert, Robert Henry Herbert 12th Earl of Pembroke and 9th Earl of Montgomery (1791-1862)

In the second decade of the 19th century the taste for naturalistic ornament gathered speed. Nostalgia for the previous asymmetrical continuous movement and vision of Meissonnier and the rococo period, once more rose to the height of fashion. Casting was such an important element and works were inspired from originals by Crespin and Lamerie of the 1730's and 1740's and given a new lease of life with superb chasing. These salt cellars made in 1835 by Paul Storr for the famous Pembroke service capture this moment in time perfectly. The cast elements such as the beautifully modelled putti have such amazing detail in their faces, feet and hands and the fluidity of design capturing the rococo feel is perfect. The chasing in the diaper-work and rosettes gives these salts lively character offset by the pearls symbolising Venus and the love of dining. They are my Director's Choice this week.



*The Pembroke cast crest incorporated
in the design on one end of each salt*

Each salt on cast rococo scrolling bases. Decorated with pearls, diaper-work and rosettes. The bifurcated base rising to support two silver-gilt lined bowls separated by two putti at play and holding hands. One end of the salts with a cast wyvern crest with wings elevated vert, holding in the mouth a sinister hand couped at the wrist gules. The other with an Earl's coronet and scripted letter 'H' for Herbert. These salts formed part of the Earl of Pembroke's dinner service.



Detail of the beautifully modelled putto

Robert Henry Herbert, 12th Earl of Pembroke and 9th Earl of Montgomery (1791-1862) divided his time

between his London residence at 7 Carlton House Terrace, and a Parisian residence at 19 Place Vendôme, the Hotel d'Evreux. When the Earl gave up his London residence in 1851 a portion of the Storr service was sold by Christie's. Lot 44 in that sale was catalogued as 'A set of four double salts of elegant scroll pattern, each with two figures of boys' and Lot 45 'A pair ditto'



Stipple engraving of Lord Pembroke, 1837

Robert Henry Herbert, 12th Earl of Pembroke and 9th Earl of Montgomery (19 September 1791 – 25 April 1862) was a British nobleman and peer. He was in line for great estates and position as head of the distinguished Herbert family and heir to the earldom of Pembroke but lived an irregular life in exile after a dissolute youth.

Herbert was born on 19 September 1791 at Hill Street, London, the second (but eldest surviving) son of the 11th Earl of Pembroke by his first marriage to his first cousin, Elizabeth (d. 1793), who was the daughter of Topham Beauclerk and the former Lady Diana Spencer, eldest daughter of Charles Spencer, 3rd Duke of Marlborough, and great-great-granddaughter of Charles II. He spent his childhood at Wilton House, the Pembroke country seat in Wiltshire.

After education at Harrow School, he matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford in 1810. He later travelled to Sicily. Against his father's wishes, Herbert made a disastrous clandestine marriage at the Butera Palace in Palermo on 17 August 1814. His bride was a Sicilian princess, Ottavia Spinelli (1779–1857), the recently widowed wife of the (much older) Prince Ercole Branciforte di Butera, and daughter of the Duke of Laurino.

Before the death of the Prince, the young Viscount Herbert had been the Princess's cavaliere servente. His father attempted to have the marriage dissolved without success but succeeded in persuading the Sicilian authorities to separate the parties. Accordingly, Lord Herbert was imprisoned in a fortress and his wife in a convent. Herbert managed to escape, however, to Genoa and returned to England, where his father persuaded him to abandon the Princess. She promptly took a house in London under the name of

Lady Herbert and brought a suit for restitution of conjugal rights in the English courts in 1819. The marriage was annulled, and she was awarded £800 p.a., which it is said was later increased to £5,000, but Lord Herbert and the Princess never came together again.

Herbert succeeded to the titles on the death of his father in 1827 and took his seat in the House of Lords in 1833. Under a family agreement, his diligent younger half-brother, the statesman Sidney Herbert, 1st Baron Herbert of Lea, took control of managing the family estates centred at Wilton House, Wiltshire.



Wilton House

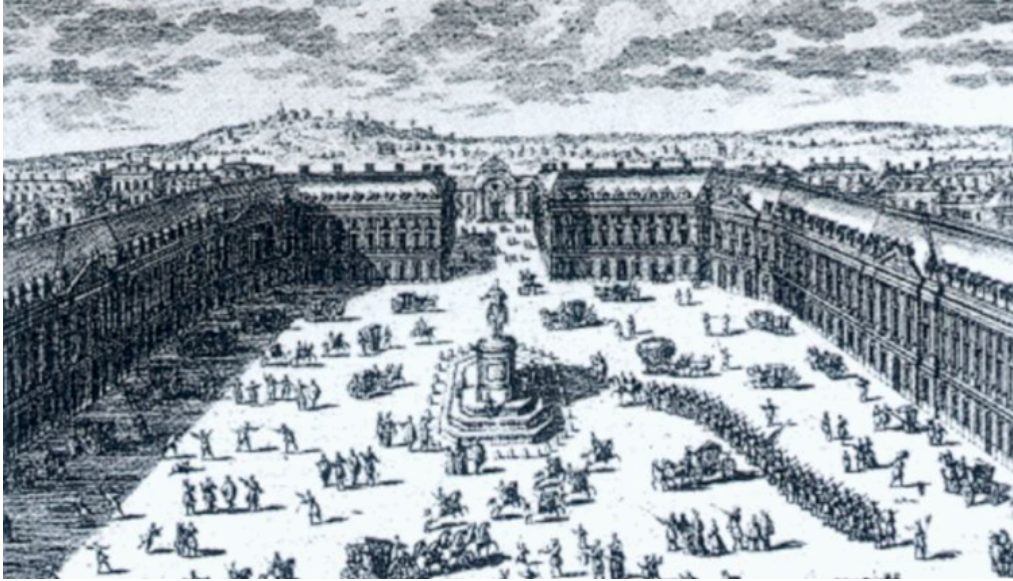
Subsequently, by 1837 Herbert was living in Paris, where Lord Malmesbury wrote of him, "Lord Pembroke lives in great state in Paris, and is as famous for his cook as for his horses. He is a very handsome man. Herbert owned Lancret's "Dance before a Fountain", previously in the collection of Catherine the Great.



Lancret's "Dance before a Fountain"

He lived out his exile at No. 19 Place Vendôme, during which time he sired some seven illegitimate children, most of whom adopted the surname 'Montgomery' (as other natural children of the Herbert family had done) or 'de Pembroke de Montgomery'. His frequent trips to London resulted in children by Alexina Sophia Gallot (born London 7 March 1821), daughter of John and Ann Gallot

Lord Pembroke died at Paris in 1862 at the age of 70 and was buried at Pere-la-Chaise [Gentlemen's Magazine, 1862, part 1, p. 78; Complete Peerage].



Lord Pembroke's place of residence in Paris at No. 19 Place Vendôme

Two pair of identical salt cellars but in silver-gilt are recorded. Much of the extensive service of plate is applied with a crest, coronet, and cypher, commissioned by the 12th Earl of Pembroke from Paul Storr from 1827 and 1837. One of the most famous and impressive pieces in the service is the fantastical candelabrum surmounted by the Pembroke gryphon, over 40 inches high, made for the Earl in the same year as our salts in 1835 and now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (bequest of Robert L. Joseph, 1959). Other items include a soup tureen of 1835, formerly in the Morrie Moss Collection, a basket of 1836 in the Gans Collection at the Richmond Museum, Virginia, a magnificent sideboard dish of 1828, an extensive breakfast set, 1829-1836, a pair of sauceboats of 1835 and a cruet stand.



The Pembroke candelabrum at the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York

Paul Storr Dinner Services

After Paul Storr left Rundell Bridge & Rundell, the royal retailers, in 1819, he set up business with John Mortimer in their new premises on Bond Street and never looked back. There is no doubt that the largest commissions received, and probably monies gained by Rundell, Bridge and Rundell and then by Storr & Mortimer were from the ever more elaborate dinner services commissioned for the great houses and families of England. Many patrons wanted magnificent silver dinner services. Needless to say, the Prince of Wales, later George IV – Rundell's 'greatest patron & best friend' in the partners' own words – reflected this desire and was the most profligate. His 'Grand Service' of 1811 comprised 4,000 pieces and cost a staggering £61,340. Paul Storr wanted to show his own ability after leaving Rundell's and the Sampaio, Gladstone and Pembroke dinner services were amongst the most spectacular and important of all of these to have survived.



The Gladstone Dinner Service by Paul Storr – Formerly in the Koopman Rare Art Collection

Other parts of the Pembroke Dinner Service:



This set of dinner plates also formed part of the Pembroke service 1834-35 Paul Storr



*The Magnificent Sideboard Dish of 1828 Paul Storr
Pembroke Service*



*A pair of candlesticks 1835 by Paul Storr from the Pembroke service.
In the Koopman Rare Art Exhibition on Paul Storr in 2015*

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