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# Koopman Rare Art

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Next week we will be exhibiting at Frieze Masters **(15–19 October)**, and also at the LADADA Fair  
Berkley Square **(28 October - 2nd November)**

We look forward to welcoming you at **Stand C13 at Frieze Masters**

For further details, please see: <https://www.frieze.com/fairs/frieze-masters>

**Directors Choice – Timo Koopman**  
**The Cheterfield Service**



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**The Chesterfield Service**  
**A Set of Eight George I Ambassadorial Silver Serving Dishes**  
London, 1726-27

Maker's mark of David Willaume I

*Diameter of second course dishes: 29.8 cm, 11.75 in*

*Diameter of serving dishes: 34.9 cm, 13.75 in*

*Weight: 10,885 g, 350 oz*

Bearing the royal coat-of-arms, garter, crown and initials G.R for George Rex I

Philip Dormer 4th, Earl of Chesterfield part of the allowance of plates given on his appointment as ambassador to the Hague in 1727.

This week's Director's Choice focuses on one of the most incredible Ambassadorial services of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century; that of the plate issued to Philip Stanhope the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Chesterfield. He was appointed Ambassador to the Hague in 1727 and would have required the most lavish silver styled in the latest fashion of the day. This service represented the nation and thus bore the royal coat-of-arms of King George I. Aside from its function, the service was intended to show the power and wealth of England, and the scale and gauge of the individual pieces achieved this goal perfectly. We are privileged to present the serving dishes from the Ambassadorial service which were fashioned in two different sizes. The dishes have gadrooned borders with cast and applied bacchic and winged cherub masks interspersed by acanthus at equal intervals. They are also engraved with the Royal Arms and initials GR, marked on bases. It would seem this border was a feature of much of the dinner service and can also be seen on a pair of soup tureens bearing Paul Crespin touch mark that now reside at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston.



*A pair of casters London, 1727 maker's mark of Paul Crespin. One overstriking the hallmark of Abraham Buteaux*

*Formerly in the Collection of Koopman Rare Art*

With only five months from the time the Jewel House received the warrant of the commission to the time of delivery, the outsourcing to different silversmiths would have been necessary to achieve this project. Kandler, Lamerie, Crespin, Le Sage and Willaume's workshops were all involved, and the result, one of the most splendid 'French style' English dinner services to have been commissioned in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*One of a pair of wine coolers London, 1727 maker's mark of Paul De Lamerie*

Known as a writer, politician, and patron, Philip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield (1694-1773) on being appointed Ambassador in 1727 to the Hague had an allowance of 5,893 ounces of white silver and 1,066 of gilt. David Willaume supplied the plates; much of the hollowware bears the mark of Paul Crespin, including two tureens, four candlesticks, and a pair of casters formerly in the Hartman Collection and the wine coolers from the service also bear Crespin's hallmark.

297  
February 15

*Indenture Plate*  
as Bro<sup>t</sup> for Feb 286  
Deliv<sup>d</sup> to the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Earl of  
Chesterfield Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary from his Majesty to the  
States Gen<sup>l</sup> the underwritten Particulars  
of Plate to be returned into the Jewell Office  
upon Demand.

Delivered by  
Jewell Office  
2 Apr 2 1702

Three doz of gilt knurled Plates	756. 0. 0
Three doz of gilt silver knives	20. 0
Three doz gilt silver spoons & 3 doz forks	96. 12. 0
Four gilt candlesticks	98. 6. 0
Six gilt salters & two gilt casters	80. 18. 0
Two gilt tables	16. 10
<i>Total gilt Plate</i>	<i>1068. 06</i>
Seven doz of silvered Plates	4732. 0.
Twelve knurled dishes	4699. 0.
One silver with all its appertinencies	4820. 15.
Eleven pair of candlesticks	4626. 15.
One silver pot & sauce	434. 9. 0
Two silver Chills	4388. 15.
Two Torrons	4289. 15. 0
One large Cup & Cover	4725. 0. 0
Twelve Ladles	495. 15. 0
Twenty four Shavers	427. 5. 0
Six doz knives 6 doz spoons 6 doz forks	4465. 10. 0
Six salt boxes	483. 4. 0
<i>Total per Claude Cope by his L<sup>ds</sup> order upon the bill</i>	<i>5388. 9. 0</i>
March 19 A silver knife & fork	17. 15. 0
24 silver knives 24 spoons 24 forks	77. 5. 0
One orange strainer & 7 silver shells	36. 10. 0
Two chaffin dishes & two tureens	16. 1. 0
1728 Three Marascups	38. 6. 0
April 20 Four Branches	16. 12. 0
Two salters	136. 8. 0
<i>Total white Plate</i>	<i>5895. 0.</i>

The page from the delivery book of the Jewel House accounts, listing the plate supplied to Lord Chesterfield, Public Record Office London

As a Francophile, Lord Chesterfield would have welcomed the Huguenot's of London to achieve his service à *la Française*. There is no doubt, on the evidence of his surviving work, that Willaume enjoyed the patronage of the wealthiest clients in England from the latter part of the reign of William III to the end of George I's reign. Among so many outstanding pieces it is difficult to select any pre-eminent masterpiece, when all display the qualities of rich design and impeccable execution. The following is a short list of important works:

- 1698 Pair of wine coolers. Duke of Devonshire
- 1699 Ewer and dish. Queen's College, Cambridge
- 1699 Pair of sconces. Lord Brownlow
- 1700 Ewer and dish. Duke of Portland
- 1701 Ewer and dish. Duke of Abercorn
- 1701. Wine Fountain. Duke of Buccleuch

1704 etc. Toilet service. Luton Hoo Collection  
1706 Ewer and dish. Fishmonger's Company  
1708 Wine-cistern and fountain. Duke of Brunswick  
1711 Pair of mounted ivory vases. Wilding collection, British Museum  
1713 Punch bowl and cover. Trinity Hall, Cambridge  
1718 Ewer and dish. Ex Hearst Collection 1938  
1725 Toilet service. Ex Collection of Viscount Cowdray  
1726 Ewer and dish. Earl Fitzwilliam  
1726 The Chesterfield Service

**Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield**, KG, PC (22 September 1694 – 24 March 1773) was a British statesman, diplomat, man of letters, and an acclaimed wit of his time. He was born in London to Philip Stanhope, 3rd Earl of Chesterfield, and Lady Elizabeth Savile, and known by the courtesy title of **Lord Stanhope** until the death of his father in 1726.

[1] Following the death of his mother in 1708, Stanhope was raised mainly by his grandmother, the Marchioness of Halifax.<sup>[2]</sup> Educated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, he left just over a year into his studies, after focusing on languages and oration. He subsequently embarked on the Grand Tour, to complete his education as a nobleman, by exposure to the cultural legacies of Classical antiquity and the Renaissance, and to become acquainted with his aristocratic counterparts and the polite society of Continental Europe.<sup>[3]</sup>

In the course of his tour, the death of Queen Anne and accession of King George I in 1714 opened a political career for Stanhope, and he quickly returned to England. A supporter of the Whig party, Philip Stanhope entered government service as a courtier to the King, through the mentorship of his relative, James Stanhope, (later 1st Earl Stanhope), the King's favourite minister, who procured his appointment as Lord of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1715, Stanhope entered the House of Commons as Lord Stanhope of Shelford and as member for St Germans. Later, when the impeachment of James Butler, 2nd Duke of Ormonde came before the House, he used the occasion (5 August 1715) to try out the result of his rhetorical studies. His maiden speech was fluent and dogmatic, but upon its conclusion, another member, after first complimenting the speech, reminded the young orator that he was still six weeks short of his age of majority and consequently liable to a fine of £500 for speaking in the House. Lord Stanhope left with a low bow, and set out for the Continent.<sup>[2]</sup>



*Portrait of Philip Stanhope, 4th earl of Chesterfield Philip Stanhope, 4th earl of Chesterfield, detail of an oil painting by an unknown artist after W. Hoare, c. 1742; in the National Portrait Gallery, London.*

While in Paris, he sent the government valuable information about the developing Jacobite plot. In 1716, he returned to Britain, resumed his Commons seat and became known as a skilled yet tactful debater. When George I quarrelled with the Prince of Wales the same year, Lord Stanhope



remained politically faithful to the Prince but was careful not to break with the King's party.

[2] However, his continued friendly correspondence with the Prince's mistress, Henrietta Howard, earned Chesterfield the personal hatred of the Prince's wife, Princess Caroline of Ansbach. In 1723, he was appointed Captain of the Gentlemen Pensioners. In January 1725, on the revival of the Order of the Bath, the red ribbon was offered to him, but Stanhope declined the honour.[2]



*Quartered arms of Philip Dormer Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, KG*

Upon his father's death in 1726, Stanhope became the 4th Earl of Chesterfield and assumed his seat in the House of Lords. His inclination towards oration, often seen as ineffective in the House of Commons because of its polish and lack of force, was met with appreciation in the House of Lords, and won many to his side. In 1727 the Prince of Wales succeeded his father, becoming King George II. In 1728, in service to the new king, Chesterfield was sent to the Hague as ambassador to The Netherlands, where his gentle tact and linguistic dexterity served him well. As a reward for his diplomatic service, Chesterfield received the Order of the Garter in 1730, the position of Lord Steward, and the friendship of Robert Walpole, the de facto head of the government.[2] While a British envoy in the Hague, he helped negotiate the second Treaty of Vienna (1731), which signalled the collapse of the Anglo-French Alliance, and the beginning of the Anglo-Austrian Alliance. In 1732, Madelina Elizabeth du Bouchet, a French governess, gave birth to his illegitimate son, Philip for whom Chesterfield wrote the *Letters to his Son* giving advice on life. In 1731, while at The Hague, Chesterfield initiated the Grand Duke of Tuscany (later to become Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor) from the House of Habsburg-Lorraine into Freemasonry, which was at the time being used as an intelligence network by the British Whigs. By the end of 1732, ill health and financial troubles caused Chesterfield's return to Britain and his resignation as ambassador[2]

In 1733, Chesterfield married Melusina von der Schulenberg, the Countess of Walsingham, who was the illegitimate daughter of Melusine von der Schulenburg, Duchess of Kendal by George I. After recuperating from his illness, Chesterfield resumed his seat in the House of Lords, where he was now one of the acknowledged leaders. He supported the ministry and leadership of Robert Walpole, but withheld the blind fealty that Walpole preferred of his followers. Lord Chesterfield strongly opposed the Excise Bill, the Whig Party leader's measure, in the House of Lords, and his

brothers also argued against it in the House of Commons.<sup>[2]</sup> Even though Walpole eventually succumbed to the political opposition to the bill and abandoned the measure, Chesterfield was summarily dismissed from his stewardship. For the next two years, he led the opposition in the Upper House to effect Walpole's downfall. During that time, he resided in Grosvenor Square and became involved in the creation of a new charity called the Foundling Hospital for which he was a founding governor.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1741, Chesterfield signed the protest calling for Walpole's dismissal and then went abroad on account of his health; after visiting Voltaire in Brussels, he went to Paris where he associated with writers and men of letters, including Crebillon the Younger, Fontenelle and Montesquieu. In 1742, Walpole's fall from political power was complete, but although he and his administration had been overthrown in no small part by Chesterfield's efforts, the new ministry did not count Chesterfield either in its ranks or among its supporters. He remained in opposition and distinguished himself by the courtly bitterness of his attacks on George II, who began to hate him violently.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1743, Chesterfield began writing under the name of "Jeffrey Broadbottom" for pamphlets and a new journal, *Old England; or, the Constitutional Journal*, which appeared (*broad bottom* being a term for a government with cross-party appeal). A number of pamphlets, with which Chesterfield had the help of Edmund Waller, followed. His energetic campaign against the King and his government won the gratitude of the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, who left him £20,000 as a mark of her appreciation. In 1744, the King was compelled to abandon Lord Carteret, the successor to Walpole, and the coalition for a "Broad Bottom" party, led by Chesterfield and Pitt, came into office in coalition with the Pelhams.

In the troubled state of European politics, the Earl's calm conduct and diplomatic experience were more useful abroad than at home, and he was sent to The Hague for a second time as ambassador. The object of his mission this time was to persuade the Dutch to join in the War of the Austrian Succession and to arrange the details of their assistance. Success was quickly achieved, and on his return a few weeks afterwards, he received the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland, which he had long coveted.<sup>[2]</sup>



*Chesterfield's "Phoenix Monument" (1746) in the Phoenix Park, Dublin*



Lord Chesterfield's short administration (January 1745 – November 1746) in Ireland was effective, as he repressed the corruption traditional to the office, and established schools and factories. He was the first official to allow Dubliners to roam in Phoenix Park, and installed the central "Phoenix Monument", a phoenix bird on a Corinthian column (the 2.8 mile main road through the park is still known as Chesterfield Avenue).<sup>[4]</sup> He worked with, and pacified, both the Protestant Orange

Order and Roman Catholic Jacobite factions; as a result, Irish Jacobites did not assist the Jacobite rising of 1745. Anecdotally, upon being roused for a false alarm of an Irish rebellion and being told that "the papists in Ireland are all up!", he replied: "I am not surprised at it, why, it is ten o'clock, I should have been up too, had I not overslept myself".<sup>[5]</sup>

In 1746, however, he had to exchange the Lord-Lieutenancy for the post of Secretary of State. Chesterfield had hoped to retain a hold over the King through the influence of Lady Yarmouth, by then George II's mistress, but John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich and Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle combined forces against him, and in 1748, he resigned the ministerial seal and returned to his books and playing cards with the admirable composure that was one of his most striking characteristics.<sup>[2]</sup> Despite his denials, Lord Chesterfield is speculated to have at least helped to write *Apology for a late Resignation, in a Letter from an English Gentleman to his Friend at The Hague*, which ran for four editions in 1748.<sup>[2]</sup>

While continuing to attend and participate in the Upper House's proceedings, Lord Chesterfield turned down the dukedom offered to him by George II, whose wrath had melted in the face of Chesterfield's diplomacy and rhetoric. In 1751, seconded by George Parker, 2nd Earl of Macclesfield, the president of the Royal Society, and the mathematician James Bradley, Chesterfield greatly distinguished himself in the debates on establishing a definitive calendar for Britain and the Commonwealth. With the Calendar (New Style) Act 1750, he successfully established the Gregorian calendar and a calendar year that began on 1 January for Great Britain, which had lagged behind other European countries in adopting the Gregorian Calendar. Informally, the Act was also known as the "Chesterfield's Act". After this, he gradually started to withdraw from politics and society because of his growing deafness.<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1755, he and Samuel Johnson had a dispute over *A Dictionary of the English Language*. Eight years previously, Johnson had sent Chesterfield an outline of his *Dictionary*, along with a business offer for promoting the proposed work; Chesterfield agreed and invested £10. Although Chesterfield wrote two anonymous articles for *World* magazine shortly before the dictionary's publication praising both Johnson's exhaustive editorial work and the dictionary itself, Johnson was disappointed at the lack of interest in the project from Lord Chesterfield during compilation of the dictionary. Upset with what he saw as a lack of support from an avowed man of letters and patron of literature, Johnson wrote the *Letter to Chesterfield*, which dealt with the dynamics of the patron–artist relationship.<sup>[2]</sup> Chesterfield was not offended by the letter but rather, was impressed by its language. After receiving it, he displayed it on a table for visitors to read and, according to Robert Dodsley, said "This man has great powers" and then he "pointed out the severest passages, and observed how well they were expressed". Adams told Johnson what was said,

and Johnson responded, "That is not Lord Chesterfield; he is the proudest man this day". Adams responded, "No, there is one person at least as proud; I think, by your own account, you are the prouder man of the two". Johnson, finishing, said, "But mine, was *defensive* pride".<sup>[6]</sup>

In the 1760s, Chesterfield offered a cogent critique of the Stamp Act 1765 passed through Parliament by George Grenville's ministry. In a letter to his friend, the Duke of Newcastle, Chesterfield noted the absurdity of the Stamp Act because it could not be properly enforced, but if made effective, the Act would anyway generate a revenue no greater than £8,000 per year, but the annual cost of reduced trade from the American colonies would be about £1,000,000.<sup>[7]</sup>

Eugenia Stanhope, the impoverished widow of Chesterfield's illegitimate son, Philip Stanhope, was the first to publish the book *Letters to His Son on the Art of Becoming a Man of the World and a Gentleman* (1774), which comprises a thirty-year correspondence in more than 400 letters.

Begun in 1737 and continued until the death of his son in 1768, Chesterfield wrote mostly instructive communications about geography, history, and classical literature, with later letters focusing on politics and diplomacy. The letters were written in French, English and Latin to refine his son's grasp of the languages.

As a handbook for worldly success in the 18th century, the *Letters to His Son* give perceptive and nuanced advice for how a gentleman should interpret the social codes of etiquette and good manners:

... However frivolous a company may be, still, while you are among them, do not show them, by your inattention, that you think them so; but rather take their tone, and conform in some degree to their weakness, instead of manifesting your contempt for them. There is nothing that people bear more impatiently, or forgive less, than contempt; and an injury is much sooner forgotten than an insult. If, therefore, you would rather please than offend, rather be well than ill spoken of, rather be loved than hated; remember to have that constant attention about you which flatters every man's little vanity; and the want of which, by mortifying his pride, never fails to excite his resentment, or at least his ill will....<sup>[8]</sup>

Samuel Johnson said of the letters that "they teach the morals of a whore, and the manners of a dancing-master" as a means for getting on in the world, implying that Chesterfield promoted good manners as a method of advancement rather than because of their inherent moral value.<sup>[9]</sup> Despite having been an accomplished essayist and epigrammatist in his time, Lord Chesterfield's literary reputation today derives almost entirely from *Letters to His Son on the Art of Becoming a Man of the World and a Gentleman* (1774) and *Letters to His Godson* (1890), books of private correspondence and paternal and avuncular advice that he never intended for publication.<sup>[2]</sup>



*Chesterfield House in 1760 (Old & New London, 1878)*

In 1768 Chesterfield's illegitimate son, Philip Stanhope, died in France of dropsy, leaving his widow, Eugenia Stanhope and their two illegitimate sons, Charles and Philip. Despite his short life, the privileged education provided by his father had enabled for Philip a career in the diplomatic service, despite being handicapped as a nobleman's illegitimate son. The grieving Chesterfield was disappointed to learn of Philip's long and mostly secret relationship (they married the year before his death) with Eugenia, a woman of a humble social class, since that was a topic that he had covered at length in the *Letters to his Son*. However, Lord Chesterfield bequeathed an annuity of £100 to each of his grandsons, Charles Stanhope (1761–1845) and Philip Stanhope (1763–1801), and a further £10,000 for them both, but left no pension for Eugenia. It was that lack of funds that led her to sell the *Letters to his Son* to a publisher.<sup>[2]</sup> Left without a legitimate heir to his lands and property (he and his wife had no children together) Lord Chesterfield acted to protect his hereditary interests by adopting his distant cousin and godson, Philip Stanhope (1755–1815), a descendant of the 1st Earl of Chesterfield, as his heir and successor to the title of Earl of Chesterfield.

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


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