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# Koopman Rare Art

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Koopman Rare Art are delighted to be exhibiting at [The Treasure House Fair](#) at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea until Tuesday 1st July 2025 at Stand 202.

This exceptional Royal Toilet Service with The Monogram of **Princess Amelia Sophia Eleonore of Great Britain (1711-1786) second daughter of King George II of Great Britain and Queen Caroline**, is one of the highlights we have brought with us this year.

We hope to see you at the Fair.

Lewis, Timo and the Team at Koopman Rare Art

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## **Directors Choice – Timo Koopman** **A Royal Queen Anne Toilet Service**



*Princess Amelia Sophia Eleonore of Great Britain's Toilet Service*  
*A Queen Anne Silver-Gilt Toilet Service*  
*London, 1711, Maker's mark of Benjamin Pyne*

The inner sanctum of the grand houses during this period would have invited only the closest friends and esteemed guests to accompany the lady of the house as she prepared for an occasion. The word toilet comes from the French toile meaning 'cloth', and toilette ('little cloth') first came to mean the morning routine of washing, tidying hair, shaving and applying make-up as appropriate, from the cloth was often spread on the dressing-table where this was done. The most splendid silver would be on show to elevate the status of its owner, and to demonstrate their cognisance with the latest fashion of the period. The finest services were gilded to add further splendour to the silver.

The Diary of John Evelyn (31 October 1620 – 27 February 1706), a gentlemanly Royalist and virtuoso of the seventeenth century, was first published in 1818.

John Evelyn records in 1673 that Catherine Braganza had a set "All of massive gold,

presented to her by the King, valued at £4,000". This royal set comprises of twelve pieces and was commissioned for Princess Amelia Sophia Eleonor of Great Britain and executed in the finest quality by the goldsmith Benjamin Pyne. In 1715, he was appointed Subordinate Goldsmith for the coronation of the first Hanoverian king, George I, and in 1725 he was elected Prime Warden of the goldsmiths' guild. Pyne's work is often marked for its massiveness and simplicity. This service is so beautifully finished and of the utmost elegance that it is our Director's Choice this week.

The toilet service on stepped bases is of elegant plain form with conforming stepped covers. It is comprised of two large rectangular toilet boxes with hinged covers, two medium circular powder boxes, two small circular boxes, two square section scent bottles, a snuffer stand, a chamberstick, and an elegant pair of square cut corner candlesticks with octagonal stems and capitals. Each piece is engraved beneath the royal coronet with initials AS for Princess Amelia Sophia, and also fully marked underneath with EA/Fs and the number 48.

The monogram is that of Princess Amelia Sophia Eleonore of Great Britain (1711-1786) second daughter of King George II of Great Britain and Queen Caroline. The initials EA / Fs translate as Ernest Augustus Fideikommiss and the number refers to his household inventories.



Amelia Sophia Eleonora was born in 1711 at Herrenhausen Palace in Hanover, Germany. She was the second daughter and the favourite of George Augustus (later George II) and his wife, Caroline of Brandenburg-Ansbach. She arrived in England in October 1714 with her parents and sisters, Anne and Caroline Elizabeth, following the accession of her grandfather, George I, to the throne.

After her mother's death in 1737, Amelia became the highest-ranking woman at court. Unmarried, Amelia and her sister Caroline maintained their own households. Amelia's appointment as Ranger of Richmond Park in 1751 granted her the 'New Lodge' as her personal residence until 1761, when John Stuart, Third Earl of Bute, took over the position.



*The Long Gallery, Gunnersbury House*

After losing her apartments at St. James's Palace following her father's death, Amelia purchased Gunnersbury House in Ealing, Middlesex, where she spent her later years before her passing on October 31, 1786, at her home in Cavendish Square, London.

In her will, dated December 24, 1786, she bequeathed her gilt dressing service to her niece, Wilhelmina, Landgravine of Hesse:

"I give and bequeath to my niece Wilhelmina Land Garvine of Hesse my gilt Dressing plate and Toilett..."

The service later became part of the collection of the Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover, Ernest Augustus I, whose initials EA / Fs (for Ernest Augustus Fideikommiss) and the number 48 were engraved on the pieces in reference to his inventories.

The toilet service was the most important item of "dressing plate", as opposed to "table plate", and was often a gift upon marriage; sometimes augmented on the birth of children. It was normally the personal property of the wife. The morning levée was sometimes a semi-public occasion for great persons, and the toilet service might be seen by many people.

The toilet service was described in *Mundus Muliebris*, a satire on fashionable ladies published in 1700 by Mary Evelyn, the daughter of John Evelyn. Although he was by no means an insider at court, Evelyn was able to see the queen's toilet service, and his diary records his admiring comments. In the poem:

A new Scene to us next presents,

The Dressing-Room, and Implements,  
Of Toilet Plate Gilt, and Emboss'd,  
And several other things of Cost:  
The Table Miroir, one Glue Pot,  
One for Pomatum, and what not?  
Of Washes, Unguents, and Cosmeticks,  
A pair of Silver Candlesticks;  
Snuffers, and Snuff-dish, Boxes more,  
For Powders, Patches, Waters store,  
In silver Flasks or Bottles, Cups  
Cover'd, or open to wash Chaps;..



*Detail of Queen Charlotte with her Two Eldest Sons seated by her Toilet Service, Johan Zoffany, 1765.*

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All works shown, unless otherwise indicated, are available to view and purchase  
in our gallery located in 12 Dover Street, London, W1S 4LL

For all enquiries please do not hesitate to call or email on:  
020 7242 7624 / [info@koopman.art](mailto:info@koopman.art)



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12 Dover Street  
W1S 4LL, London  
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 20 7242 7624

Email: [info@koopman.art](mailto:info@koopman.art)

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