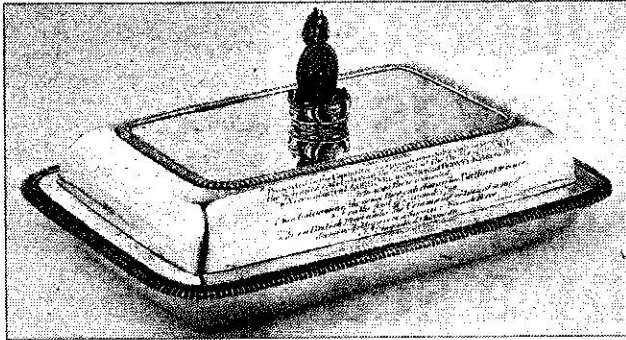


Picture: MYFAMILYSILVER/BNPS



The dish was presented to Nelson after the Battle of the Nile

Nelson's silver dish to serve up £400,000

By Giles Sheldrick

A PIECE from a silver service awarded to Admiral Lord Nelson is expected to sell for £400,000.

The entrée dish was given to the British Naval hero as part of a 22-piece collection to reward him for his victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. At the time it cost £500 – the equivalent of £50,000 today.

After Nelson's death at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 the service was shared between his mistress, Emma Lady Hamilton, and his siblings.

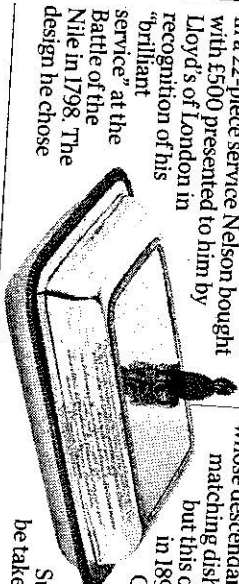
The 12-inch dish was given to his sister Susannah and has not been seen in public since an exhibition in 1891. A descendant has now decided to sell it. Martyn Downer,



Nelson, who died at Trafalgar

director of My Family Silver, who are displaying the item at the Olympia International Art and Antiques Fair in London, said: "It is an important piece of history and it is the rarest and greatest piece of silver Nelson owned."

It is on show at the fair from today.



be taken until August 30.

Every admiral expects his booty: Nelson silver for sale

A silver dish that belonged to Lord Nelson that has not been seen in public for 122 years is to be exhibited then sold with a £400,000 estimate. It is one of four 12in entrée dishes in a 22-piece service Nelson bought with £500 presented to him by Lloyd's of London in recognition of his "brilliant service" at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. The design he chose

includes a star symbolising a diamond given to him by the Sultan of Turkey after the battle. On Nelson's death the service went to his sister, Susannah, whose descendants are selling it. The matching dishes are in museums but this one was last exhibited in 1891. The dish is at Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair in London from today until Sunday week. Bids will

Collecting THE TIMES June 8 2013

Nelson's Battle of the Nile silver service is polished up

Huon Mallieu

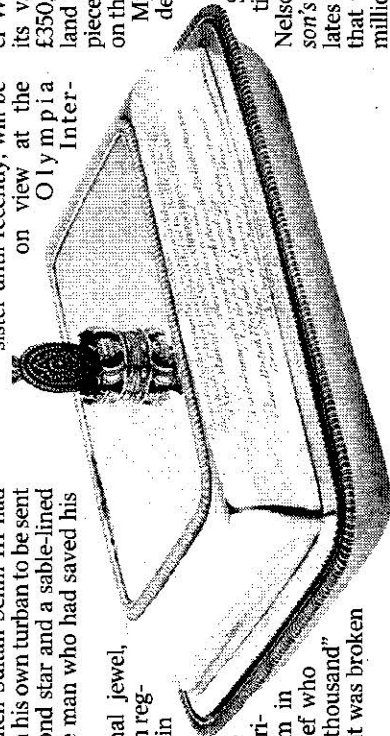
After the Battle of Aboukir Bay in 1798 the committee at Lloyd's Coffee House, charged with raising funds for the wounded and bereaved, awarded the newly minted Admiral Lord Nelson of the Nile £500 to purchase a silver service to commemorate his victory.

Two years later the Paul Storr service of 22 first and second course dishes, each engraved with Nelson's crest, was supplied by the royal goldsmiths Rundell & Bridge. It was dispatched to Nelson, at sea once more, in a "strong iron-bound wainscot chest partitioned and lined in green baize". Being better able to spend than keep money, Nelson had eventually laid out more than £620 on it.

Among the most important pieces were four entrée dishes, suitably inscribed, and with covers topped by models of the diamond aigrette, or chelengk, which Sultan Selim III had plucked from his own turban to be sent with a diamond star and a sable-lined pelisse to the man who had saved his empire.

The original jewel, which Nelson regularly wore in his hat, was stolen from the National Maritime Museum in 1951 by a thief who got a "few thousand" for it before it was broken up.

Three of these entrée dishes have been in the Nelson Collection at Lloyd's since 1910. The last, which descended in the family of Nelson's sister until recently, will be on view at the Olympia International



national Fine Art and Antiques Fair until June 16.

It is being shown by myfamilysilver.com in association with Martyn Downer Works of Art, which has estimated its value at between £250,000 and £350,000. It was last exhibited in England in 1891, and is the final important piece of Nelson silver likely to appear on the market.

Myfamilysilver.com is a website dedicated to matching crested silver to family members, and Martyn Downer, a former director of Sotheby's, has a formidable reputation for identification and selling Nelson relics. He is the author of Nelson's Purse (2004), a book which relates his discovery of a major collection that was auctioned for more than £2 million.