

#65 Demitasse Spoon Holder



Holland Dutch Antique Sterling Silver Spoon Holder RARE Demitasse Spoon Rack Frame Floral Art Nouveau Hallmarks

Description:

Holland Dutch sterling silver spoon holder is an amazing piece. It is a spoon rack holder or frame for a smaller spoon—such as a demitasse spoon. It is 6.5” by 5.25”. Auction does not come with any spoons. It is signed or stamped on the top level with “Holland,” “90” and some hallmarks. I can not make them out. I believe that “90” is the Dutch mark for sterling. This piece is very beautiful and ornate. Very art nouveau. I would date it from 1900s to 1950s. It has captured my attention and curiosity. Needs slight polish—in great condition.

Winning Bid:

\$56.00

Ended: 12/22/05

History: 2 bids

Starting Bid: \$49.99

Winner: Portland, OR

Viewed

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The Story

In the summer of 2005, the cutoff dates for baseball players’ birthdays were rolled back for my son’s league. This was wonderful news for us, because Houston was playing on a team with players who were almost a year older than he was. His birthday is in July and the cutoff was August 1st, so he was always the youngest kid on the team. Definitely not an advantage.

The new cutoff would allow Houston to play with younger kids, and as a consequence he was heavily recruited by nine-year-old teams. Yes, in Southern California, they do recruit nine-year-olds (this probably happens all over the U.S.—baseball is the national pastime, after all). One of Houston’s best buddies, Brett, played for a team of nine-year-olds coached by his dad, Mike Ghelber, and Chris Bash. We were thrilled to join the team.

Houston started practicing in September with his new team, the Aztecs. One of our first tournaments was in December (while this piece was selling) in Chula Vista. We were a pretty green team and no one expected us to do well.

It was thrilling because we got to play against a team that Trevor Hoffman’s sons played on. Hoffman is a closing pitcher for the San Diego Padres. It was a roller coaster of a tournament, but lo and behold, our Aztecs made it to the finals.

In the last inning of the championship game, they brought my son in to pitch. I was standing by the announcers when they said, “Here is Houston Wilson to pitch the final inning.” The guys watching the game next to

me were talking to one another, saying, “He is their closer.” I said, “That’s my son!” and I was so proud.

Houston shut down the Longhorns (9 to 8) and we won our first tournament with his new team. We were all so excited we were jumping up and down!

It’s funny, but this really neat sterling spoon holder was so beautiful that for once, I didn’t think the title alone could do it justice, so I added a sub-title to help it sell better. I rarely use a sub-title because it doubles all the listing fees. I started this piece at \$49.99 because I couldn’t find anything about it in my research and I didn’t want to give it away at \$9.99 the first time at auction.

The word that was important in the sub-title was “demitasse.” “Demitasse” is a French word that means “half cup.” This half cup holds about three ounces and is typically used for serving espresso. The spoons that you use with a demitasse cup are also smaller.

The sub-title seemed to help, because my \$1 investment sold for \$56 on the Thursday after the Aztecs won the Chula Vista tournament.

Now, whenever the boys are having a tough time in a tournament, we scream “Chula Vista!” to remind them of that incredible win! By the way, my son Houston now has a sub-title as well—it is “The Closer.” And the Padres’ closer, Trevor Hoffman, was very nice to my half-size closer, Houston. He posed for pictures, signed baseballs and even commented on how well Houston pitched!

