Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

English Creamware Bottle Coaster, Circa 1780

£80

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 7459

Height: 3.5 cm (1.4")

Diameter: 8 cm (3.1")

Description

A finely made English creamware bottle coaster dating from circa 1780, with a delicate pierced gallery designed to hold and steady a wine bottle while protecting the dining table from drips and condensation. The softly rounded form and warm cream-coloured glaze give the piece an understated elegance, while the openwork border adds a light and decorative finish characteristic of refined late 18th-century tableware.

Creamware was one of the great achievements of British ceramics in the 18th century. Developed by Staffordshire potters and brought to international prominence by Josiah Wedgwood, it offered a lighter, smoother, and more fashionable alternative to earlier utilitarian earthenwares. Its pale body and clear lead glaze created an appearance of considerable refinement at a far more accessible price than porcelain.

By the 1760s and 1770s, creamware had become a staple of well-appointed British tables and was widely exported to Europe and North America. Objects such as this bottle coaster reflect the increasing formality of dining and the growing attention paid to every element of the table setting. Practical in purpose yet decorative in execution, it would once have formed part of a fashionable service alongside matching plates, dishes, sauceboats, and other tea or dining wares.

The pierced gallery is particularly appealing, lending the coaster a sense of delicacy and craftsmanship while allowing air to circulate around the bottle. Today, it remains a charming and useful object, equally suited to displaying a wine bottle at the table or as an elegant addition to a collection of early English ceramics.

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