Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

# Loysel's Patent Coffee Percolator, Circa 1850

£225

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 6599

Height: 48 cm (18.9")

Diameter: 19 cm (7.5")

Description

A highly decorative mid-19th-century Loysel's Patent hydrostatic coffee percolator urn, made in handsome Adams-style Sheffield plate and dating to circa 1850. Both an elegant table ornament and an ingenious early coffee-making device, it is a fine example of the innovation, craftsmanship, and appetite for elaborate domestic display that defined the Victorian era.

The urn is designed in the neoclassical Adams manner, with balanced proportions and finely worked decorative details that give it a grand, architectural presence. Its polished Sheffield-plate surface enhances the sculptural profile, while the tall urn form, domed cover, and tap create an impressive silhouette for the dining table or sideboard.

The name refers to the hydrostatic percolation system devised by Edward Loysel in the mid-19th century. Ground coffee was placed in an internal filter at the base of the urn; boiling water was poured through the central tube using the inverted cover as a funnel. The pressure created by the column of water then forced the infusion through the coffee, producing a clear, concentrated brew that could be drawn from the tap. This was a sophisticated and influential early form of percolator, conceived for producing coffee efficiently and with consistency.

More than a practical serving vessel, a Loysel percolator was a statement of modernity and refinement. Such pieces brought the ritual of coffee service into the Victorian home, club, hotel, or dining room, combining technical ingenuity with the luxurious appearance of silver plate.

A striking collector's piece for those interested in antique coffee equipment, Victorian metalware, Sheffield plate, or the history of domestic design. Equally compelling as a decorative object, it offers a rare marriage of social history, early brewing technology, and 19th-century craftsmanship.



Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com