Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

# 18th-Century English Blue and White Willow-Pattern Porcelain Sauce Boat, Circa 1770

£75

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REF: 7174

Description

A charming and finely modelled English porcelain sauce boat, decorated in underglaze blue with an early willow-pattern landscape, dating to circa 1770. Elegant in both form and decoration, it is a delightful example of 18th-century English blue and white, when British porcelain factories looked to the enduring appeal of Chinese export wares while developing their own distinctive decorative language.

The gently flared body is shaped to pour neatly from its moulded lip, with a graceful loop handle and a softly rounded foot. Its blue painted decoration presents a romantic riverside landscape of stylised trees, architectural elements, and distant scenery, all rendered with the crisp, fluid brushwork and appealing tonal variation characteristic of the period. The contrast between the luminous porcelain ground and deep cobalt-blue ornament gives the piece a timeless freshness.

Sauce boats such as this were essential elements of a well-laid Georgian dining table, designed to serve gravies and sauces alongside the increasingly elaborate meals of the period. Their practical purpose was matched by their decorative importance: even a small serving piece added colour, refinement, and visual interest to a formal table service.

This example retains a particularly appealing balance of elegant Georgian form and evocative chinoiserie decoration. It would make a wonderful addition to a collection of English porcelain, blue and white ceramics, or antique tableware, and is equally attractive as a standalone display piece.



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