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The Marital Arms of Cox and Codrington

The arms as engraved upon this Pair of George II English Sterling Silver Strawberry Dishes by Charles Martin hallmarked London 1738 are those of the family of Cox impaling Codrington. These armorial bearings denote the marshalling of a marital coat showing on the dexter (the heraldic right on the left as you view the piece) the arms of the husband and on the sinister (the heraldic left on the right as you view it) the arms of the wife. These arms may be blazoned as follows:

Arms:

(on the dexter) **Argent three cocks gules two and one crowned or on a chief azure a pale argent charged with a rose of the second between two ostrich feathers of the first** (for Cox)

(on the sinister) **Quarterly 1st and 4th Argent a fess embattled counter embattled sable between three lions passant gules¹ (for Codrington) 2nd and 3rd Vert on a bend argent three roses gules seeded or barbed of the first in the sinister chief a dexter hand appaume² of the second** (probably for Bates)

¹ Some authorities have the fess blazoned as 'a fess embattled counter embattled sable fretty gules'.

² Once again, some authorities omit the 'dexter hand appaume'.

These armorial bearings undoubtedly commemorate the marriage of Richard Cox (born 1718 died 1803) and Caroline Codrington (died 1793). Richard and Caroline were married on the 17th June 1747 at Ropsley in the County of Lincolnshire. Richard was the son of Joshua Cox, a lawyer and Mary Greenwood. Whilst Caroline was the eldest daughter of Sir William Codrington, the 1st Baronet of Dodington in the County of Gloucestershire and Elizabeth Bethell. By profession Richard was a successful army agent and in turn a banker, founding Cox's Bank during the mid-18th Century. As a bank, Cox's served army officers primarily due to Richard's experience and this remained the case well into the 20th Century. It became Cox and



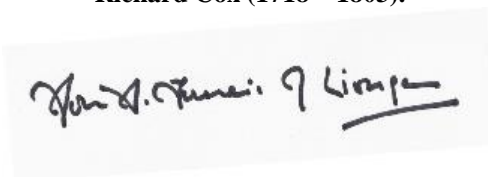
King's Bank in 1922 on the acquisition of King's Bank. It survived thereafter as an independent bank until 1923 when it taken over by Lloyds Bank. During the 1930s, Lloyds sold its Indian interests to Grindlays Bank, who also took the travel and shipping

agencies, which continued to flourish in India. In the 1970s, a change in British banking regulations required Grindlays to sell its non-banking interests, and a partnership between Ajit Kerkar and Anthony Good bought Cox & Kings, which at the time was mainly India-based. Cox & Kings has remained privately owned to this day.

Given the date of the manufacture of these strawberry dishes, they must have either been in the possession of one of the families concerned or alternatively the couple acquired the dishes themselves and caused their arms to be engraved thereon.



Richard Cox (1718 – 1803).



MSc, FSA Scot, Hon FHS, QG

21st March 2018