

17th century gaming counter of Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond,
illegitimate son of King Charles II of England

Sold



REF: 8288

Diameter: 1 cm (0.4")

Description

Very striking silver, octagonal, 17th century gaming counter belonging to Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond (1672 - 1723). He was the illegitimate son of King Charles II of England and his mistress, French Breton noblewoman Louise de Penancoet de Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth. Obverse:- The full coat of arms of Charles Lennox, within a royal mantle. Ducal coronet with royal lion above. On a riband below, the Lennox motto:- EN LA ROSE JE FLEURI (I flourish in the rose). Reverse:- Charles Lennox's very intricate monogram within a mantle with ducal coronet above. 1675 - Created Duke of Richmond, Earl of March and Baron Settrington in the Peerage of England. Also, Duke of Lennox, Earl of Darnley and Lord Torbolton in the Peerage of Scotland. 1681 - Invested as a Knight of the Garter. Appointed Lord High Admiral for life but this was only effective between 1701 and 1705 when Lennox resigned all his Scottish lands and offices. 1696 - Master of a masonic Lodge in Chichester - one of the few known Freemasons in the 17th century. He married Lady Anne Brudenell, daughter of Lord Brudenell and granddaughter of the Earl of Cardigan in 1692.

The Duke loved hunting and gambling. He bought the small Jacobean house at Goodwood, near Chichester, West Sussex to use as a hunting lodge. This was extensively enlarged in the 18th century and became the Lennox family seat. It is known as Goodwood House to-day, where the famous Goodwood races take place every summer.