CROWN & CURIOSITY

WILLIAM HENRY SPARROW

Crystal Knife Rests

Cut glass & silver · London · 1911

On a well-laid Edwardian table, a knife was not left to rest on the cloth. Small bars, called knife rests, stood at each place to keep the blade, and the linen, unstained.

This pair was made in the form of tiny dumbbells: stems of cut crystal, capped at each end in silver. They were hallmarked in London in 1911 by the silversmith William Henry Sparrow.

Each is about 11.5 centimetres long. Together they weigh about 190 grams. The silver ends show the small marks of age; the crystal still catches the light as it did at an Edwardian dinner.

More than a century on, they still do the quiet work they were made for: two little gleaming rests, waiting at the side of a plate.

~ A curiosity, chosen for you ~

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