

A very rare antique silver William & Mary Tea Bowl made in London
Circa 1690 by Philip Hull.

Sold



Description

The circular tapering body has a flared rim and the lower section is decorated with typical late 17th century concave and convex fluting. The bowl stands on a simple collet foot and the underside is engraved with the contemporary initials AD. This piece is very well marked on the side of the main body with the maker's mark three times. The bowl is in excellent condition, is very well marked and has a very good colour. This maker's mark is shown on page 137 of Jackson's, "Silver & Gold Marks."

The earliest silver teapot is in the Victoria & Albert Museum and is dated 1670. Some years after this the first drinking vessels for tea appeared generally in the form of hemispherical bowls without handles. The style and form were copied from porcelain examples of the Far East but is curious as the silver would be too hot to handle suggesting that the beverage was consumed warm rather than hot. Such bowls continued in fashion until the first stoneware cup with a handle was produced by Johann Bottger in about 1710. It seems that the preference for porcelain over silver for such vessels was so prevalent that there are exceptionally few silver handled tea cups known.

Phillip Hull was a known maker of small bowls, particularly tumbler cups. He became free in 1679 and was making silver until the end of the 17th century and possibly into the early 18th century, but there is no record of his death, so it is hard to be precise about when he stopped working.

Height: 1.5 inches.

Diameter at the rim: 2.25 inches.