

An exceptionally rare George II Rococo Tea Caddy made in London in 1759 by Albertus Schurman.

Sold



Description

This important Tea Caddy is broad rectangular in form and stands on four bold Rococo scroll feet, with similar flowing "Onslow" scrolls cascading up each corner. The sides are decorated with very unusual Rococo Chinoiserie scenes, in quite exceptionally crisp condition. The two widest sides depict a Chinaman playing a mandolin in a rural landscape with rocks and plants to one side. The detail, and condition, is quite amazing as it seems as if one could play the strings on the mandolin, the detail is so crisp. The other two sides depict a monument, again, in a detailed rural landscape and contained in a raised scroll frame. The rim of the main body is cast and applied as a separate piece and is engraved with a contemporary Crest. The domed cover is decorated on each side with Chinaman masks, with matted raying Rococo shells above. The cover terminates in a floral finial, most probably a sprig from a tea plant. As with the main body, the cover is profusely decorated with Rococo scrolls in raised relief. The condition of this piece is outstanding, with the decoration displaying nearly all of its original details. The base displays a fine set of hallmarks and the cover is marked with the maker's mark and sterling mark. Alburtus Schurman is a scarce maker, however it would appear that he made some tea caddies. We can only find one other example of this design though, which is contained within the Carnegie Museum of Art and the extract from their online inventory is shown. Schurman entered his first mark on 4th March, 1756 and was working from premises in Bedford Court, Red Lion Street, when this very fine piece was made. The gauge of the silver is quite outstanding.

Height: 6 inches.

Length: 4.25 inches.

Width: 3.75 inches.

Weight: 17oz.