

DESIGNED BY J.J. BOILEAU. A highly important George III Egyptian revival hot milk biggin on lampstand made in london in 1809 by benjamin & james smith.

Sold



Description

The Biggin sits on a beautiful cast lamp stand with tri-form base, with incuse sides decorated with an egg and dart border. The leaf capped hoof legs, and winged sphinx supports, hold up the circular jug rest decorated with vertical lobed bands. The central spirit burner is modelled as an "Antique" urn and decorated with foliate spears, in addition to Egyptian Sphinx masks. The burner has a removable cover.

The Jug is of baluster form with an unusual raised band of geometric designs, where it rests on the lampstand, flanked by a beaded frame. The body rises to a slender neck and a frieze of crisp raised Rococo shell, bluebell and rope work garlands, all on a matted ground. This was a design element used by Boileau and is seen on the attached fruit coolers, attributed to him, together with the linear lobing and sphinx supports. The jug has a very pronounced pouring spout and hinged cover terminating in a bud finial. The fruitwood handle is attached to the cover with a very detailed, and beautiful, caryatid head moulding with platted hair tied under the chin. This was another characteristic of Boileau's designs and is rather regarded as a signature to one of his pieces. The top of the head displays a socket of palm leaf mouldings where the wooden section of the handle fits in. The base of the handle, also displays foliate mouldings and a scroll end decorated with a floral rosette.

Both the jug and lampstand are in excellent, crisp, condition and very well marked on the base, spirit burner, stand, burner, cover and jug. The jug cover is also marked with the date letter and sterling mark. Although not engraved, the jug and lampstand, shows no signs of erasure.

Silver attributed to J.J. Boileau is exceptionally rare and desirable. Examples seldom come onto the market today and many are in important public and private collections, including the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Gilbert Collection in London.

Benjamin & James Smith worked in the circle of Paul Storr and enjoyed the patronage of both King George III and George IV, when he was King and Prince of Wales. Their most famous commission was the Jamaica Service of 1803, now in the Royal Collection.

Total Height: 10.75 inches.

Diameter of the stand: 4.5 inches.

Length, handle to spout: 5.5 inches.

Total Weight: 36oz.