Matthew Boulton. A rare George IV Chamber Candlestick, most probably for a child, made in Birmingham in 1825 by Matthew Boulton.

£1,450



REF: 375640

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Description

The Chamberstick is of a smaller size and was probably made for the use of a child. This piece has a circular base with raised rim decorated with a gadrooned band. The plain central candle socket is plain in design and the "pull-off" nozzle is also decorated with an outer gadrooned rim. The side hand has an oval thumb piece, attached to the top, which is engraved with a reeded border and a contemporary Crest. The conical candle extinguisher is attached to the side handle and terminates with a ball finial. The Chamberstick is in excellent condition and is fully marked on the main body and the extinguisher and with the maker's mark, sterling mark and King's Head Duty mark on the nozzle. Matthew Boulton occupies an important position in British history, as can be read below, and pieces from his silver manufactory are very desirable and sought after. This piece is in excellent condition and the smaller size would indicate that it was made for the use of a child.Matthew Boulton was an English businessman, inventor, mechanical engineer, and silversmith. He was a business partner of the Scottish engineer James Watt. In the final quarter of the 18th century, the partnership installed hundreds of Boulton & Watt steam engines, which were a great advance on the state of the art, making possible the mechanisation of factories and mills. Boulton applied modern techniques to the minting of coins, striking millions of pieces for Britain and other countries, and supplying the Royal Mint with up-to-date equipment. Born in Birmingham, he was the son of a Birmingham manufacturer of small metal products who died when Boulton was 31. By then Boulton had managed the business for several years, and thereafter expanded it considerably, consolidating operations at the Soho Manufactory, built by him near Birmingham. At Soho, he adopted the latest techniques, branching into silver plate, ormolu ("gilt bronze") and other decorative arts. He became associated with James Watt when Watt's business partner, John Roebuck was unable to pay a debt to Boulton, who accepted Roebuck's share of Watt's patent as settlement. He then successfully lobbied Parliament extend Watt's patent for an additional 17 years, enabling the firm to market Watt's Steam engine . The firm installed hundreds of Boulton & Watt steam engines in Britain and abroad, initially in mines and then in factories. A painting of Boulton is attached and his importance in British History is reinforced by his image being on a former English £ 50 note.Diameter of the base: 4 inches, 10cm.Height, to the top of the extinguisher: 2.7 inches, 6.75 cm.Weight: 5oz.

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