

NEWCASTLE. A very rare George III Drinking Beaker made in Newcastle by John Langlands.

Sold



Description

The Drinking Beaker is of a plain design with a flared rim. This example stands on a spreading foot which is decorated with reeding. The sides are engraved with a contemporary inscription, this being: "Morpeth Common Boundary Plate 1797, Robert Cooper Ben Woodman Bailiffs". The Beaker is in quite excellent condition, with fine interior hammer marks. The beaker displays a very crisp set of hallmarks at the rim. Our research has indicated that the inscription relates to a horse race. In the York Herald of 2nd June, 1894, there is an article about a cup engraved "Morpeth Common Boundary Plate 1825". Bailiffs Mr Ben Woodman and Mr Thomas Swan. The article goes on to describe the race run on the Morpeth Common on St. Mark's Day (April 25th). The ceremony and the race appears to have survived until at least 1835 and was revived in 1906. The article is shown and starts in the column titled "Notes & Queries". Robert Cooper is probably the Robert Cooper of Morpeth, Skinner, whose Will was proved in 1806. Ben Woodman is probably Benjamin Woodman (1765-1825). The rank of Bailiff was a civic rank in the Borough of Morpeth as in 1833 there is a lease from the bailiffs and burgesses of the borough of Morpeth in the Northumberland Record Office. According to the History of Parliament, "The Corporation of Morpeth consisted of two bailiffs, who acted as returning officers, and seven aldermen, one for each of the trading companies, crafts or guilds. New freemen were presented by the companies at the court leet of the manor in batches of 24, the proportion of the various companies being fixed. Height: 3.75 inches, 9.38 cm. Diameter at the rim: 3.25 inches, 8.13 cm. Weight: 6oz.