

An extremely rare & important Charles II Chinoiserie Drinking Mug
made in London in 1679, Makers Mark of IH.

Sold



Description

This rare example has a plain bulbous body with cylindrical neck decorated with numerous encircling lines. The handle comprises of a flat ribbon of silver bent into the customary "S" form and is chased with longitudinal lines on the outer side. The base is well marked and is engraved with the initials WC and TC as well as the date 1707, which obviously refers to an event, possibly a marriage or christening. The main body is beautifully engraved with Chinoiserie designs including exotic floral and foliate sprays and swooping tropical birds. This type of decoration is exceptionally rare and was popular for a short time during the last three decades of the seventeenth century.

This type of Mug first appeared during the reign of Charles II, the smaller examples being referred to as "cans" and followed closely the form of similar vessels in pottery, somewhat like the Rhenish stoneware pots so often mounted in silver during the reign of Elizabeth I. The maker is recorded on page 136 of Jackson's "Silver & Gold Marks." This piece is in excellent condition, with crisp marks and a good colour.

Height: 2.1 inches, 5.25 cm.

Diameter, at the widest point: 2.25 inches, 5.63 cm.

Weight: 3oz.