

MARY COOKE ANTIQUES LTD  
Fine Antique Silver

An important George III Thomas Bewick "Hare in the Den" Vinaigrette made in Birmingham in 1809 by Samuel Pemberton.

Sold



## Description

The Vinaigrette we offer for sale is an important George III "Hare in the Den or Reeds" Vinaigrette, the design attributed to the famous engraver Thomas Bewick. This example is of an unusual, large, slender, broad rectangular form. The cover displays a hand engraved oval containing a hare in its den/reeds, designed by Thomas Bewick, surrounded by diamond pattern engraving, the influence taken from the silk weavers designs which were made in Spitalfield during the 18th century. The base is engraved with two prick dot frames. The interior displays very fine gilding and crisp marks. The large grille is pierced and engraved with flower heads in roundels and foliate sprays. Due to its importance, another identical example, of the same date, is shown in "Silver Boxes" by Eric Delieb, Plate 158, page 99.

This is particularly rare as we attribute the design to Thomas Bewick, 1753-1828, the English Engraver and natural history author. He was apprentice to the famous engraver, Ralph Beilby in Newcastle and is best known for his "A History of British Birds" and its wood engravings. He notably illustrated editions of Aesop's Fables throughout his life. Bewick's works are held in the collections of the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum. A painting by James Ramsay, now in the National Portrait Gallery, is attached.

Length: 1.9 inches, 4.75cm.

Width: 1.45 inches, 3.63cm