



Dutch Delft Tobacco Jar With Original Brass Lid: Tonka, 18th Century



1 650 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ceramic

Diameter : 24

Height : 34.5

Description

Delft
Second half of the 18th century
Workshop unknown

A genuine blue and white tobacco jar for the storage of tobacco.

The jar is inscribed with the blend of Tonka, and is painted in a floral cartouche. This blend was a mix of snuff tobacco and grated Tonka beans.

In the 18th century, tobacco became an integral part of social life. Initially, in the 16th and 17th century valued for its exotic origins as a medicinal product, it later gained popularity as a stimulant. Tobacco was sold in dedicated shops where shopkeepers stored it in large Dutch Delftware jars. Smaller jars were used for snuff

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tobacco (Rappe), as only small quantities were required. These jars often bore inscriptions identifying the specific blends, such as Kruidnagel (Clove), Bergamot, Rozengeur (rose scent), Tonka (Tonka bean), and Violet. They also indicated the region of origin, including places like Havana, Macuba (Cuba), Martiniek (Martinique), Maryland, Portorico (Puerto Rico), Virginia, St. Vincent, St. Omer, Baltimore, Duinkerken (Dunkirk), Eindhoven, and so on, and broader areas like the USA and Hollandia (Holland)

In addition to inscriptions, the jars were often adorned with decorative images. A common motif was an elaborate floral cartouche topped with a flower basket. Less frequently, jars depicted Native Americans and Moors, symbolizing the exotic roots of tobacco and its connection to slavery and plantations. Even rarer were jars featuring the VOC (Dutch East India Company) logo, an anomaly, as the WIC (West India Company) was responsible for trade with the Americas. The rarest designs included images of buildings, ships, or other unique subjects, likely special commissions.

The jar is in very good condition with the normal small chips and wear of use, according to age. The lid has a crack in the brass on one side of use.