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Victorian Staffordshire Majolica Frog Mug With "jolly Topers" Tavern Scene, C. 1860s



155 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Ceramic

Width : 17,5 cm

Diameter : 10,5 cm

Height : 10 cm

Description

Charming antique Staffordshire majolica frog mug, "Jolly Topers" scene, c. 1860s  
Victorian This delightful antique majolica frog mug dates to the mid-19th century and is a wonderful example of English decorative pottery from the Victorian period. It is crafted in finely moulded earthenware with a rich majolica glaze, showcasing a vibrant palette of golden ochre, pale green, cobalt blue, and muted cream tones. The exterior is richly decorated in relief with a lively tavern scene, featuring jolly figures in 18th-century costume surrounded by bunches of grapes and vine leaves, symbolising merriment and wine. The charming twin handles are modelled as stylised branches, adding a naturalistic touch typical of Victorian majolica wares. The relief-moulded design is traditionally

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known as "The Jolly Topers." One side depicts a joyful couple indulging in wine, with the man holding a jug and a barrel resting beneath grapevine-laden branches. On the reverse, a figure known as "The Miser" is similarly surrounded by abundant grapevines, continuing the lively tavern narrative. Inside the mug, a beautifully modelled frog sits lifelike at the bottom, poised as if to escape -- a playful surprise for the unsuspecting drinker, typical of antique frog mugs. These novelty mugs originated in Sunderland around 1775 and were later made in Staffordshire, Newcastle, and Worcestershire. They were intended for serving beer, ale, or cider in pub and tavern settings, and are now highly sought after by collectors. The piece is finished with a beautifully glossy majolica glaze, which enhances the vibrant moulded details and colours. It stands as both a decorative item and a fine example of Victorian folk art pottery, ideal for collectors of majolica, English ceramics, and antique novelty wares. It would also make a playful yet elegant addition to a country kitchen or traditional dining room display.

**Historical background** Frog mugs became popular in Britain from the late 18th century onwards. Originally produced in Sunderland, they quickly spread across England, particularly to Staffordshire, where the thriving pottery industry created a variety of humorous and decorative pieces for taverns and public houses. Today, frog mugs are valued for their combination of technical artistry, social history, and playful character.

**Majolica pottery**, popular during the 19th century, is known for its bright lead glazes and intricately moulded forms. English potteries such as Minton, George Jones, and Wedgwood produced a wide variety of majolica pieces for the burgeoning Victorian middle class, including whimsical items like frog mugs, garden seats, and naturalistic serving wares.

**Measurements** Height: 10 cm (3.9´´) Width (handle to handle): 17.5 cm (6.9´´) Top diameter: 10 cm (3.9´´) Base diameter: 10.5 cm (4.1´´) Weight: 460 g Condition Excellent

antique condition. The moulded figures are crisp and the colours remain vivid. Rich glossy glaze throughout. Minor age-related crazing to the glaze, with tiny specks and glaze imperfections typical of 19th-century Staffordshire pottery. No cracks, chips, or repairs. Displays beautifully. Shipping & Packaging Fully tracked and insured delivery. Shipping cost includes professional packaging, handling, and postage. Carefully packed using recycled materials. Customs paperwork provided where necessary for smooth international delivery. Please review all photographs carefully, as they form part of the description, and feel free to ask any questions.