



PROANTIC
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Thomas Ollivant (oliphant) - Silver Wine Pitcher, London 1791



1 800 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Sterling silver

Description

Thomas Ollivant (Oliphant) - Silver wine decanter, London 1791A George III-period silver wine pitcher, made in London in 1791 and bearing the TO hallmark of Thomas Ollivant--also spelled Oliphant--a silversmith and retailer based in Manchester.Ovoid and slender in shape, the pitcher rests on a circular pedestal. The body, largely plain, is accented at the neck by a frieze of posts. The spout, with its dynamic profile, is embellished at its base with a prominent applied foliage motif. The hinged lid is topped with a spherical knob.The tall, arched handle retains its wicker trim, which lends the piece the characteristic contrast between polished silver and natural material.One of the most interesting features of this pitcher is the vine motif applied to its body. A vine stem winds

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freely and in a deliberately asymmetrical manner, accompanied by vine leaves of varying sizes. These elements, crafted separately and then applied to the body, represent particularly meticulous silversmithing. The irregular arrangement of the leaves, their varying sizes, and the movement of the vine stem give the decoration a natural character that contrasts with the simplicity of the body. This vine motif links the pitcher to a wine service. A medallion intended to hold a coat of arms or a monogram remains unengraved, a notable feature for an English piece of this period. Thomas Ollivant--whose name also appears as Oliphant--holds a special place in late 18th-century English silversmithing. Established as a retailer in Manchester, he registered his TO hallmark in London in 1789. He is notably known for having sold, under his own hallmark, pieces from major London workshops, particularly those of the Bateman family. Documented pieces thus bear Ollivant's TO hallmark overlaid on that of the Batemans. This connection is particularly interesting in the context of this pitcher dated 1791, the year in which Peter and Ann Bateman registered their joint hallmark. While the connection between Ollivant and the Batemans is historically documented, it cannot be definitively stated that this pitcher was made by their workshop in the absence of an identifiable Bateman hallmark beneath the TO mark. Nevertheless, the object attests--through the quality of its craftsmanship and particularly its applied decoration--to the level of goldsmithing found in the pieces marketed by Ollivant. The pitcher weighs 626 grams and stands 29 cm tall. It is preserved in excellent condition, including its wicker trim, which shows only a few small cracks due to age.

Characteristics
Object: wine pitcher
Silversmith / Retailer: Thomas Ollivant (Oliphant)
Hallmark: TO
Origin: London, England
Date: 1791
Period: George III
Material: silver
Decoration: applied vine leaves and stems, asymmetrical composition, foliage decoration,

and a frieze of postsHandle: wicker
trimMedallion: unengraved, without a cipher or
coat of armsHeight: 29 cmWeight: 626
gCondition: very good condition; a few small
cracks in the wicker trimNotable feature: Thomas
Ollivant is known to have sold pieces bearing his
hallmark that were made, in particular, by the
Bateman family; however, no direct attribution to
the Batemans is made here due to the absence of
an identifiable hallmark